

YOUNG CENTER

News

THE YOUNG CENTER FOR ANABAPTIST AND PIETIST STUDIES AT ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE



Samuel and Rebecca Dali serve as Center Fellows

Rebecca and Samuel Dali have been dedicated to peacebuilding, advocacy, and humanitarian work in their native Nigeria virtually all of their lives. This semester, as they serve as Snowden Fellow (Rebecca) and Kreider Fellow (Samuel) at the Young Center, they plan to continue that life work.

Samuel, who holds a doctorate in theology from the University of Birmingham (UK), served as president of *Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria* (EYN/Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) from 2011 to 2016, and as academic dean and head of the church history department at the Theological College of Northern Nigeria, pastor of an EYN congregation in Jos, and lecturer and treasurer at Kulp Bible College earlier in his career.

Rebecca holds a PhD in ethics and philosophy from the University of Jos. She is the executive director of the Centre for Caring, Empowerment, and Peace Initiatives, an organization she founded in 1989 to “design programs and methods of supporting victims of violence and terrorism, stimulating citizens’ consciousness on empathy and social justice.” In 2017, Rebecca received the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Foundation award for her work. As a result of the recognition she received from the award, Boko Haram threatened her life and she and Samuel were forced to flee Nigeria. Their son, a US citizen (and now a cardiothoracic surgeon practicing in Iowa), was able to obtain permanent resident status for them in the United States after they left Nigeria in 2017.

“I believe that the 16th century Anabaptist public theology that influenced the 19th- and 20th-century missionaries who established most of the churches in Nigeria requires modification to help the church to purpose-

fully engage more effectively in public life in the inescapable sociopolitical context in Nigeria today,” Samuel said. With that belief, he has begun developing such a modification to help Nigerian Christians “to effectively apply their deeper understanding of God, their faith in Jesus Christ, and their Christian values to issues that matters to everyday life in Nigeria.” “The church could do this,” he continued, “by active and constructive engagement in inter-religious dialogue and active involvement in sociopolitical, economic and environmental issues that present challenges to peaceful coexistence, unity, and meaningful livelihood in contemporary Nigeria.”

As Snowden Fellow, Rebecca will continue her study of Nigerian women during decades of conflict. It’s “an investigation of the extent of women’s suffering in conflicts and the repercussions of the evil of ethnic and religious violence in Nigeria. The research will provide a historical and sociocultural picture of the country that made citizens, particularly women, vulnerable to perennial attacks, massive displacement, and exile, to chronicle examples of the horrific experiences of violence endured by Nigeria’s most vulnerable citizens, under Boko Haram.”

Thirty years of work with her humanitarian organization and her master’s and doctoral research have amassed substantial evidence showing that the effects of protracted violent crises in North Nigeria are more devastating for women than for men. “In a patriarchal society like Nigeria, it is difficult for this marginalized group to own property, to earn income, to buy food, and pay school fees,” Rebecca said. “In addition, women and children are highly susceptible to the trauma of sexual and gender-based violence.



Social stigmatization often creates feelings of shame that perpetuates victimization and vulnerability. Christian and Muslim female victims, alike, are both suffering from the inflicted trauma.”

Her research will address evidence-based data that validates/updates humanitarian processes to build resilience in women and youth in conflict areas of Nigeria and what sustainable strategies can foster long-term resilience development in such communities.

The Dalis begin their time and projects at the Young Center with certainty and hope. “I strongly believe that God cares about every area of human life and its environment,” Samuel said. Rebecca dreams “of returning and continuing my work creating a Nigeria where all people can live in peace and prosperity.”



From the Interim Director

What a year 2020 turned out to be! Challenging in so many ways, but also a time of creativity and resourcefulness here at the Young Center. The Bucher Meetinghouse, for example, served campus as a spacious, socially-distant classroom for a number of in-person Elizabethtown College classes. Student seating was spread out to the far corners of the meetinghouse and points in between.

With the campus largely closed to guests, the Young Center’s public programming took a different form. Our three events last fall became virtual gatherings, all livestreamed. Although we dearly missed the conversation and fellowship that come with in-person events and receptions, livestreaming our lectures allowed our audiences to swell beyond southcentral Pennsylvania. Joining us online were not only many local friends, but also participants from western Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Indiana, and Georgia, among other states, not to mention Great Britain! If you missed any of these online events, they are available for viewing on the Young Center’s website under “Videos of Past Events.”

Spring 2021 will continue to feature a schedule modified by pandemic necessity, and our physical center will remain closed to visitors. We are, however, grateful that Drs. Samuel and Rebecca Dali are able to join us as Snowden and Kreider Fellows in residence. Their presentations will be among the slate of livestreamed events this spring and described elsewhere in this newsletter. Dr. Jonathan Strom of Emory University will present his Dale Brown Book Award Lecture and Dr. Nathan Hosler of the Church of the Brethren’s Office of Peacebuilding and Policy in Washington, D.C., will be our 2021 Durnbaugh Lecturer. Finally, in honor of April as national poetry month, we are pleased to cosponsor with the Bowers Writers House an evening on the life and poetry of William Stafford, a Library of Congress Poet Laureate whose work was influenced by his Brethren ties.

We anticipate the day when you can again visit our physical spaces and collections. Until then, please join us via our livestream opportunities. One way or another, we look forward to interacting with you!

Steve Nolt
Interim Director

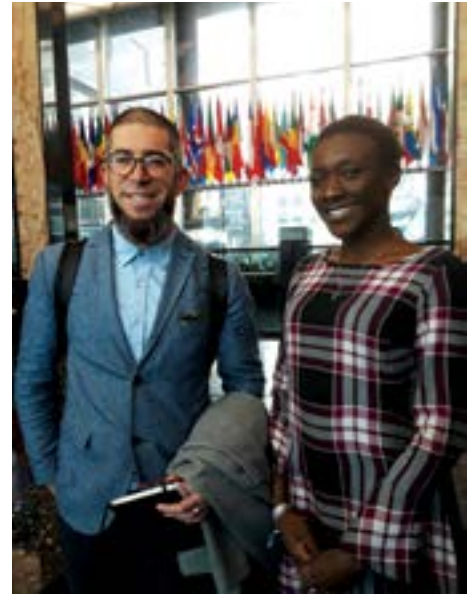
2021 Durnbaugh Lecturer named

The Young Center is pleased to announce that Nathan Hosler will present the Durnbaugh Lecture on Thursday, March 25, via Zoom.

Hosler, who holds a PhD in theological studies from University of the Western Cape, South Africa, is the director of the [Church of the Brethren’s Office of Peacebuilding and Policy](#) based in Washington, DC, and a pastor of the Washington City Church of the Brethren congregation.

Previously, he served as the ecumenical peace coordinator of the National Council of Churches USA, worked with the Peace Programme of Ekklesiyar Yan’uwa a Nigeria (Church of the Brethren in Nigeria), and taught peacebuilding practice and theology at Kulp Bible College in northeast Nigeria. Hosler convenes the DC-based Nigeria Working Group and works on US foreign policy, drone warfare, racial justice, statelessness, environmental issues, and food security.

The Durnbaugh lecture series was established in 1993 to commemorate the scholarship of Don and Hedda Durnbaugh. It brings a noted scholar of Anabaptist or Pietist studies to the Young Center annually.



Hosler with a colleague, Susu Lassa, at the State Department for a meeting.

Remembering Ed Nace



Edward H. Nace, long-time supporter of the Young Center, died on December 31, 2020, at the age of 92. A carpenter and the owner of Edward H. Nace Restoration Company, Nace was instrumental in the design and construction of the Young Center and the Bucher Meetinghouse in 1988-89, and later served on the College’s board of trustees.

“He was especially skilled in building new buildings to appear like they were traditional,” Don Kraybill recalled. “All of the traditional features in the Bucher Meetinghouse were determined by Ed. In fact, he selected the stones from barnyard walls in York County and hired a mason to lay them.... Ed was extremely creative although he didn’t have formal training in architecture or engineering, and he took great pleasure and—I think he would agree—pride in the final construction. We have him to thank for the building.”

Second issue of academic journal to be released



The second issue of the *Journal of Plain Anabaptist Communities (JPAC)*, an Open Access journal published by the Ohio State University Libraries, will be released in February. A peer-

reviewed journal jointly sponsored by the Young Center and the Amish & Mennonite Heritage Center, *JPAC* publishes empirical and theoretical work related to Plain Anabaptist communities.

The Winter 2021 issue contains articles on media responses to the Amish and COVID-19, population growth and fertility patterns in the Amish settlement in Geauga County, Ohio, and Amish dairy farming in Wisconsin, among others.

Access to the journal, including an option to subscribe to the mailing list and detailed information for prospective authors, is available at <https://plainanabaptistjournal.org>.

New signs recognize alternative service

Last fall Elizabethtown College installed two new parking signs near the side entrance of the Young Center, designating parking and recognizing campus visitors who performed alternative service when drafted. Throughout much of the twentieth century, the Selective Service System allowed conscientious objectors to complete civilian service work of national importance in lieu of military assignments. While never limited to members of the Historic Peace Churches (Brethren, Mennonites, Quakers, and related groups), alternative service was common in these denominations. Senior Fellow Emeritus Donald Kraybill, shown here, completed two years of alternative service in the late 1960s.



Donation of items from Prices Church of the Brethren

Prices Church of the Brethren in southern Franklin County was one of seven original congregations in the Southern District. According to the entry titled “Antietam (Prices) Church of the Brethren, PA” in *Brethren Encyclopedia*, the church was organized in 1752 with members worshiping in homes until the first meetinghouse was built in 1795.

History of the Church of the Brethren in Southern District of Pennsylvania (Quincy Orphanage Press, 1941) devotes an exten-

sive chapter to the church, beginning with this: “Antietam Congregation, according to the best information obtainable, existed as a mission of the churches of Eastern Pennsylvania and of York County some years before its organization in 1752. It was then known as the Conococheague District. In 1752, John Price moved to Antietam District from near Philadelphia. About this same time Bishop Abraham Stouffer of Conewago or Germantown, who had been ordained by Peter Beck-

er, moved into this community and effected a church organization.”

Later, “at a place convenient to a little spring on a gentle grade, sloping towards the sunrise, the Brethren wanted to build a meeting house, and have a permanent place in which to worship God as they saw wise.... Accordingly, they secured from Brother John Price, for 10£, one acre of land for a church property.” The caption accompanying a photo of the building says, “Prices Church—Antietam Congregation. First Church of the Brethren built west of the Susquehanna River. Built 1795.”

Joanne Rice Wingert of Waynesboro, Pa., recently donated items from this historic church, primarily love feast utensils from the early twentieth century.

Wingert noted that her grandmother, Ivy Pearl Hartman Rice, was a third generation member of Prices Church and her father, J. Fred Rice, was a fourth generation member. He served the church as treasurer and deacon. She herself attended until around the age of sixteen and has “many fond memories of the people who attended there.”

The donated items supplement those currently in the love feast exhibit in the Bowers Interpretive Gallery, and gives the Young Center a full range of items to display or rotate that originated from a single church community.



Some of the items used to prepare and serve love feast at Prices Church of the Brethren in the early and mid-twentieth century, recently donated by Joanne Rice Wingert.

Student assistant Caitlin Rossiter

Aspiring museum educator Caitlin Rossiter didn't need to look far for a senior project. About two years ago, the Elizabethtown College student stepped into her "office" in the Young Center workroom to find a large cardboard box filled with file folders and a brief handwritten note from director Jeff Bach asking her to "please inventory, scan, and copy."

The box contained the correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, and notebooks of two Brethren missionaries who were sent to China in 1938, relocated to the Philippines as violence grew in China, and imprisoned by the Japanese military in December 1941, along with other Americans.

"Paging through the letters, I was introduced to Lloyd and Ellen Cunningham," Rossiter recalled. "When I was just supposed to be reading the date, the person to whom the letter was addressed, and the location from which the letter was sent, I found myself lost in the world of the Cunninghams and their adventures around the world." This fascination led the history and French double major to use the contents of the file folders as the basis of her capstone project.

Rossiter began working at the Young Center in January 2018, the beginning of her second semester at Etown. The previous fall, she took Conrad Kanagy's Introduction to Sociology course, in which the students read a number of works by Don Kraybill. "Dr. Kanagy is the one who recommended that I apply to work at the Young Center," she said.



For the remainder of her college career, Rossiter spent several hours each week helping with tasks as diverse as data collection for Amish population reports, organization of books and periodicals, inventory of various collections and donations, and setup of the interpretive gallery. She also worked at the Young Center full time in the summer of 2018 and helped to staff the Amish conference in June 2019.

"Caitlin carried out her work assignments with the precision and skill of an emerging scholar, as well as a great spirit of friendliness. I very much enjoyed working with her," Jeff Bach said. "Caitlin's greatest achievement at the Young Center was working carefully through the papers of Ellen and Lloyd Cunningham, organizing them for future research."

Rossiter credits the museum studies course she took with Bach and Susan Asbury as well as David Kenley's digital humanities course with usefulness in some of the Young Center projects and her work with the Cunningham papers.

She served as president of the Honors Council and as a tutor on campus. She participated in Lancaster History's summer internship program in 2019 as a museum education intern. Last summer, she returned to Lancaster History under a summer fellowship to assist in running the internship program.

Having completed the requirements for graduation in December 2019, Rossiter awaits responses to her graduate school applications. "I'm hoping to study public history or museum studies, looking into micro-history. I think my goal is a historic house museum. I think they're fascinating. And I just love diving into someone's life and learning everything there is to know about them. I really think that that's where I could see myself in the future."

Updates to websites

Visit the new page on the Young Center website—[Videos of Past Events](#)—to view the Fall 2020 presentations by Karen Johnson-Weiner, Andrew Kloes, and Caitlin Rossiter. In the coming months, we plan to add next semester's events and other content to this web page.

The statistics on the Amish Studies website were updated last year and a table show-

Don Kraybill busy in retirement

Picture Don Kraybill sleeping in, drinking decaf coffee, idly passing time during retirement. Can't imagine it? Kraybill can't either. Since retiring several years ago, he's maintained a rigorous schedule of writing, presenting, and responding to media requests.

In 2019, for example, Kraybill delivered the Schrag Lecture at the Sider Institute at Messiah College, presented "Banking with Our Amish Neighbors: An Overview of Amish Culture and Business Practices" at Barley Snyder's lending forum, and gave the keynote address at Translational Medicine in Plain Populations, a conference for medical professionals and Anabaptist leaders. That year, Kraybill also wrote the foreword to the Clinic for Special Children's anniversary book, served as an expert witness on behalf of Amish people in several legal proceedings, and had extended discussions with a class of theater studies students at Yale University who were writing a musical about the Amish.

Although March 2020 brought format changes, Kraybill continued to give presentations, but on Zoom rather than in person. In addition, he wrote the foreword to another book and completed a short book of his own, *What the Amish Teach Us: Plain Living in a Busy World*, which will be published in 2021. He also responded to more media requests, consulted with authors about manuscript development, and increased his teaching of faith formation classes at Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren.

One 2020 project in particular stands out. During the pandemic's early months, Kraybill transcribed his mother's and father's early diaries covering the years 1939 to 1943, an endeavor that whetted his appetite for more family history work in 2021—in addition to a myriad of other projects, as always.

ing population by state, county, and settlement was added. Visit <https://groups.etown.edu/amishstudies/> and select the Statistics tab.

When each new issue of *Young Center News* is mailed, a pdf of it is placed on the Center's website. If you currently receive the print version, but would like to switch to e-mail notification and a link to the pdf, send an e-mail message to youngctr@etown.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

All events will be presented via Zoom and will include opportunity for audience questions. See the [upcoming events page](#) of the Young Center's website for access instructions.

BROWN BOOK AWARD LECTURE The Complicated Spirituality of Pietist Conversion

JONATHAN STROM

Thursday, February 18, 7 p.m.



Why did conversion, one of the most talked about themes of German Pietism, become so problematic for insiders to describe and outsiders to interpret? In this talk, Jonathan Strom explores how the desire to determine “true conversion” distorted the understanding of conversion experiences and worked at cross purposes to the spirituality Pietists hoped to instill.

Jonathan Strom is senior associate dean of faculty and academic affairs and professor of church history at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, in Atlanta, Georgia. His recent book, *German Pietism and the Problem of Conversion* (Pennsylvania State University Press, 2018), received the 2019 Dale W. Brown Book Award.

KREIDER AND SNOWDEN LECTURES Responding with Compassion to the Crisis in Northeastern Nigeria

SAMUEL DALI AND REBECCA DALI

Thursday, March 4, 7 p.m.

Kreider Fellow Samuel Dali and Snowden Fellow Rebecca Dali will share stories of pain and hope from the Boko Haram crisis and the church's response. Samuel Dali will offer an update on the situation of the [Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria/Church of the Brethren in Nigeria](#) in the context of ongoing violence in northeastern Nigeria and reflect on the church's constructive engagement around sociopolitical, economic, and environmental issues that contribute to the possibility of peace in the region. Rebecca Dali will review the recent humanitarian work of the [Centre for Caring, Empowerment, and Peace Initiatives](#) and discuss the suffering and resilience of women in situations of war and related trauma as refugees and internally displaced persons.

Samuel Dali led Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria, during the years of greatest insurgency violence in northeastern Nigeria. He works at peacebuilding and advocacy with ecumenical, interfaith, and political entities in northeastern Nigeria. Rebecca Dali is the founder and executive director of the Centre for Caring, Empowerment, and Peace Initiatives.

DURNBAUGH LECTURE Weapons Transfers as Foreign Policy: Theological Ethics, Economics, and Strategy

NATHAN HOSLER

Thursday, March 25, 7 p.m.



The church has always contended that matters of killing must be subject to theological ethics. Though many traditions have not rejected all use of deadly force, all have made judgments on when, how, and by whom this can be done. One of the “tools” within US foreign policy is the selling or giving of weapons and related systems. This practice is used to strengthen diplomatic relations, further national interests, and bring economic benefit to the US arms industry. This lecture will describe how this process is seen within the strategic planning of Washington, challenge underlying assumptions, and argue that such transfers cannot be separated from war-making and must be subject to ethical reasoning.

Nathan Hosler is the director of the [Church of the Brethren's Office of Peacebuilding and Policy](#) based in Washington, DC, and a pastor at the Washington City Church of the Brethren. He holds an MA in international relations focusing on religion and peacebuilding and a PhD in theological studies focusing on peacemaking.

PRESENTATION Travelling through the National Dark: Poet and Pacifist William Stafford

FRED MARCHANT

Tuesday, April 13, 7 p.m.



The Young Center and Elizabethtown College's Bowers Writers House welcome poet Fred Marchant for an evening celebrating William Stafford (1914–1993), a Library of Congress Poet Laureate with significant ties to the Church of the Brethren. Marchant and Jesse Waters, director of the Bowers Writers House, will discuss Stafford's life and legacy and read some of his poems. Young Center Interim Director Steve Nolt will review the World War II context in which Stafford declared his conscientious objection to war and the Civilian Public Service program in which he served for four years.

Fred Marchant is the author of several books of poetry, including his most recent, *Said Not Said* (Graywolf, 2017), which was named an Honored Book by the Massachusetts Book Awards. He is the editor of *Another World Instead: The Early Poems of William Stafford* (Graywolf, 2008) and Professor Emeritus of English at Suffolk University in Boston.



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Donation from Ephrata COB

The Young Center recently received historical items from the Ephrata Church of the Brethren, including pocket-size hymnals from 1893 and 1912, “share” certificates showing the church’s early investment in Camp Swatara, and photographs, including the one below of church women processing corn.

Southern Pennsylvania and Atlantic Northeast District congregations are encouraged to contact the Elizabethtown College archivist, Rachel Grove Rohrbaugh (grover@etown.edu or 717-361-1506), to discuss stewardship of their records.



SPRING 2021

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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, send a message to youngctr@etown.edu.

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