



## Etown student assists Kreider Fellow with dissertation project

Doctoral student Rose Fisher arrived at the Young Center in February with a plan: interview at least 30 Pennsylvania Dutch-speaking Old Order Amish and Groffdale Conference Mennonites for her dissertation project, continue writing the literature review, and begin data analysis. By the time her Kreider fellowship ended in early May, Fisher had made progress on the literature review, completed 45 interviews—all she needed for the study—and, with the capable assistance of Etown student Marie Crugnale, begun the analysis.

“Arranging and conducting these interviews in addition to traveling to each participant has been my most important accomplishment during my fellowship,” Fisher said. “However, with Marie’s help, I have also been able to store and organize all the data and have made good progress on beginning the analysis process.”

The focus of Fisher’s dissertation project for her Ph.D. in German Linguistics and Language Science is comparing the ways Amish and Groffdale Conference Mennonites in Lancaster County mark grammatical gender and the ways they use English and Pennsylvania Dutch. (A video recording of Fisher’s presentation of her preliminary findings can be viewed here: [etown.edu/centers/young-center/events-videos.aspx](http://etown.edu/centers/young-center/events-videos.aspx).)

The interviews were lengthy—each began with a background questionnaire and then moved on to two sets of translations, followed by a series of definite article judgments, adjective ending judgments, and pronoun judgments. The sessions wrapped up with final thoughts and debriefing with the participant.

Crugnale’s main task was marking and splicing each interview recording into its different components. “Marie really impressed me with how well she was able to do this given that she does not speak Pennsylvania Dutch (the language used in all the sessions),” Fisher noted. “She used certain cues like ‘OK,’ which

often signaled a move to the next task, and perhaps some other strategies like listening for English loanwords.”

In addition to helping transfer, rename, and organize the output files for the judgment tasks in preparation for analysis, Crugnale did some coding. She also learned to analyze data using Praat, a software package for analyzing sound waves and acoustic properties.

“Marie’s help was vital,” Fisher said. “Her efforts saved me many hours of work! She caught on quickly to each task and required very little guidance.”

Crugnale, a Spanish Education major from Scranton, Pennsylvania, will graduate in May 2026. She then plans to complete a Ph.D. in linguistics and become a linguistics professor.

“I have learned so much from participating in this project, such as how linguistics scholars collect, categorize, and analyze data. I have also become proficient in using the software that I will use in my own graduate linguistics studies,” Crugnale said. “Constantly learning and exploring a new language are the two things I most enjoyed about this project. I am a Spanish speaker, so beginning to understand a language such as Pennsylvania Dutch and the rich culture attached to it was a privilege as well as a valuable learning experience.”

“The most important experience I will take away from this project is working with an extremely competent Ph.D. candidate and researcher,” she continued. “Rose taught me so much about linguistics research, and I am grateful for every bit of knowledge she could share with me. It is because of my partici-

*(continued on page 3)*



*Marie Crugnale uses Adobe Audition to splice, label, and save recorded field sessions from Rose Fisher’s linguistic research on Pennsylvania Dutch.*

## From the Director

This school year marks Elizabethtown College's 125th anniversary, and the Young Center is pleased to join in celebrating a century and a quarter of fulfilling the college's mission: "educate for service."

Since its founding nearly four decades ago in 1986, the Young Center has worked to support and enhance the college's curriculum and scholarly reputation in the wider academy and community. Our programs this fall highlight the school's heritage and current vitality.

In September, Nancy Bieber will speak about her grandmother, Fianna Bucher Meyer, an early Elizabethtown alumna who died much too young, in 1915, from tuberculosis. Bieber will share her grandmother's story and the process by which she uncovered and pieced together that story from letters, memories, and other sources. The resulting narrative of "love, loss, and faith" sheds light on the people and communities that were so important to the college's early years.

Also in September, the Young Center will host a Saturday symposium, "What Does It Mean to Be Church?," which will provide an opportunity for members of Brethren and Mennonite groups to discuss Anabaptist and Pietist perspectives on the idea and practice of being church together.

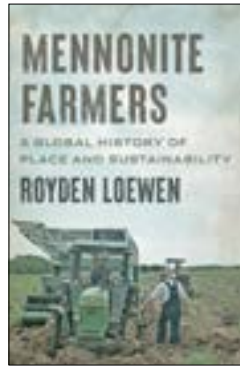
In October, we will partner with the School of Arts and Humanities' Monday Series Concerts to celebrate the music of Ephrata with the Ephrata Cloister Chorus. A Radical Pietist community in northern Lancaster County, Ephrata was home to the first known female composers in America. As a prelude to the concert, Elizabethtown College's archivist, Rachel Grove Rohrbaugh, will share about the rare Ephrata music manuscript books that are housed here in Hess Archives and Special Collections.

You can read more about the Young Center's recent and upcoming events in this newsletter, including the work of gifted undergraduates Marie Crugnale '26 and Kalen Tendo '27, Snowden Fellow Devin Manzullo-Thomas, and graduate student and pastor Naomi Kraenbring, as well as our recent publications, a summer symposium, and next year's conference marking 500 years of Anabaptism.

Please join us as we celebrate the college's past and contribute to its future!

Steve Nolt  
Director

## Brown Book Award recipient named



*Mennonite Farmers: A Global History of Place and Sustainability* by Royden Loewen has received the 2024 Dale Brown Book Award. Published by Johns Hopkins University Press in 2021, the book is based

on a multiyear study of seven geographically distinctive Anabaptist communities located in seven countries—Bolivia, Canada, Indonesia, the Netherlands, Russia, the United States, and Zimbabwe—on five continents. Although they share a common Anabaptist faith, the farmers reside in places and climates that are quite different from one another. In the book, Loewen describes the ways each farmer has dealt with the environmental changes and the global forces of modernization during the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

In his review in *Agricultural History*, Mark Tauger of West Virginia University called it "remarkable" and said it "provides vivid grassroots views of these farmers' experiences in the process of modernization."

In *The Canadian Historical Review*, Linda M. Ambrose of Laurentian University wrote, "This book is sure to delight and

satisfy the appetites of its readers.... Writing global history with attention to local realities is a complex undertaking, but Royden Loewen tackles it with acumen, and the result is exemplary.... Loewen's book will be the subject of discussion for years to come, finding a wide readership among students, scholars, and general readers alike."

The Brown Book Award judges were equally positive. One called it "a masterful read," and "a great work of comparative analysis." Another judge said, "Loewen's monograph is a groundbreaking book that draws from several approaches and sensitivities. A social/cultural historical approach illuminates the concerns and sensitivities of seven communities of farmers from numerous places across the globe. The author is sensitive to the shared experiences of rural life and religious commitments but also the distinctive features of place, climate, and cultural-historical backdrop."

Royden Loewen is professor of history emeritus at the University of Winnipeg. He will present a lecture about *Mennonite Farmers* during the spring 2025 semester.

The Brown Book Award, named for author and theologian Dale W. Brown, is given annually to an outstanding book in Anabaptist and Pietist studies. The deadline for 2025 nominations is December 15, 2024. Visit [etown.edu/centers/young-center/award.aspx](http://etown.edu/centers/young-center/award.aspx) for details.



Left: Workineh Ayele Yami, a pastor and theology teacher from Meserete Kristos Bete Kristian (Mennonite Church in Ethiopia), visited the Young Center in late June. Workineh is completing a master's degree in peace studies at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana.



Right: In early July, Expert Bukene, president of the Church of the Brethren in Burundi, visited the Young Center with Jeff Bach, director emeritus. Bukene was in the United States to attend the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference.



## Summer work in Hess Archives

As Elizabethtown College celebrates its 125th anniversary in 2024-2025, Hess Archives is seeking to better document the stories of students of color, the contributions they made to campus, and the challenges they faced in doing so.

Kalen Tendo '27, a legal studies major, spent the summer months working with the college's archival collections and digitized student newspapers to begin collecting primary sources material to develop a time line of student experience and design a larger oral history project. Tendo worked with archivist Rachel Grove Rohrbaugh under the auspices of the college's Summer Creative Arts and Research Program (SCARP), with support from the Young Center and the college's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Belonging.



## Devin Manzullo-Thomas named Snowden Fellow for 2024

The Young Center is pleased to announce that Devin Manzullo-Thomas has been

named the Snowden Fellow for fall 2024. Manzullo-Thomas is an assistant professor of American religious history at Messiah University, where he also serves as director of the E. Morris and Leone Sider Institute for Anabaptist, Pietist, and Wesleyan Studies and as director of archives.

His focus while at the Young Center will be on writing a new history of the Brethren in Christ in North America in the twentieth century, tentatively titled *Open to the Spirit: The Brethren in Christ in the Twentieth Century*. This new history will explore the Brethren in Christ experience in the United States and

Canada from approximately 1910 to 2000, interpreting the ways the community grew and developed over the course of the twentieth century.

"The Young Center will provide a quiet space away from Messiah University in which to work," Manzullo-Thomas said. "The bulk of the archival materials upon which I will draw in my research are held at the university where I work; doing archival research and writing in that space would make it difficult to 'unplug' from my routine responsibilities. The space at the Young Center will make it easier for me to concentrate on my work without distraction."

He also anticipates the opportunity to discuss his research with Young Center staff. "Center staff's wealth of knowledge of the Anabaptist/Pietist experience in America will no doubt help me to fill gaps in my own understanding. At the same time...[their] questions and observations will help me to anticipate what my readership will want to know and how well I am addressing those areas of interest, concern, and query."

Manzullo-Thomas will present a talk about his work on Tuesday, November 10, at 7 p.m., in the Bucher Meetinghouse.

The generous gift of Lucille Snowden endowed the Snowden fellowship and lecture. The Young Center invites nominations and applications for its fellows programs. Visit [etown.edu/centers/young-center/fellows.aspx](http://etown.edu/centers/young-center/fellows.aspx) for details.

## New journal issue

The eighth issue of the *Journal of Plain Anabaptist Communities* (JPAC) was released in April. It includes articles about the prevalence of accidents in smaller Amish communities, crime experiences of the Amish, and a community health needs assessment of Plain populations in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Articles on the changing lives of Amish women, public schools for Amish students in a Lancaster County school district from 1953 to 1994, descriptions of two centers for Plain community research, and reviews of four recent books comprise the rest of the issue.

JPAC is a peer-reviewed, open access journal published by Ohio State University Libraries and cosponsored by the Young Center. For access to the journal, including an option to subscribe to the mailing list and information for prospective authors, visit [plainanabaptist-journal.org](http://plainanabaptist-journal.org).



## Etown student assistance (continued from page 1)

pation in the project that I am certain about my future career plans. I quickly learned that, while transcribing noun phrases may be tiresome to some, it is thrilling to me, and therefore the right choice for my future career."

The C. W. Zeigler Fellowship funded Marie Crugnale's work on this project. The fellowship supports undergraduate students working with Young Center-related research projects. It honors Carl W. Zeigler (1910–1987), whose association with Elizabethtown College spanned 32 years and included service as a professor, chaplain, and member of the board of trustees.

# Naomi Kraenbring to serve as doctoral fellow this fall

The Young Center is pleased to announce that Naomi Kraenbring, one of the pastors at Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren and an adjunct professor of religious studies at Elizabethtown College, will be a doctoral fellow during the fall 2024 semester.

Kraenbring is a Ph.D. candidate in Conflict Analysis and Resolution at the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution of George Mason University. The primary questions her dissertation project seeks to answer is this: How does

religious identity influence perspectives on refugees and support for refugee welcome, resettlement, and integration in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania?

The Church of the Brethren (CoB) has played a significant role in refugee resettlement, and Kraenbring's focus is on the experiences of current Lancaster County residents connected with the denomination. She has interviewed CoB-connected persons with three types of lived experience: those actively involved in resettlement activity, those aware of the activity but not personally involved, and those who have lived the experience as resettled refugees themselves. Each was asked to reflect on their experiences with refugee resettlement through the lens of their connections with the Church of the Brethren.

"I anticipate my time at the Young Center this fall will include transcription of interviews, analysis of the data uncovered, and some dissertation writing," Kraenbring said. "The Young Center staff and resources will be a valuable source of support, ideas, shared interest, and possible contacts."

"I hope that this work will be of interest and value to the Church of the Brethren in this region and to other Anabaptist-Pietist church communities," she continued, "as well as contribute to the breadth of scholarly study supported by the Young Center."

## Gathering of formerly Old Order people who pursued higher education

On Saturday, June 8, nearly two dozen people who had been reared in Amish or Old Order Mennonite homes and later pursued higher education gathered at the Young Center for a symposium titled "How Our Amish Heritage Influences Our Education and Career."

The event, which featured storytelling and discussion, was planned by Saloma Furlong, who was a Young Center short-term fellow in 2006 while a student at Smith College. Over the years, Furlong has developed

a network of contacts with people who, like her, found "their way to college from a humble eighth-grade education."

Attendees came from eight states and included young adults, mid-career professionals, and retirees, all eager to share with others who understood their unique journey. Their careers ranged from nursing and orthopedic surgery to public school teaching, social work, victim advocacy, and more. Two participants had earned Ph.D.s in English, and several are currently enrolled in undergraduate or graduate degree programs. Their educational pursuits had taken them to Ashland University, Goshen College, Penn State University, Trinity International University, Sattler College, University of Colorado Medical School, University of Missouri, and other institutions.

The day included panel discussions, individual presentations, and breakout sessions, all with an emphasis on storytelling. Participants shared life experiences focused on how their Plain community background shaped their educational and professional pursuits. Many cited a work ethic and patient persistence as strengths of their background, while also candidly noting the many practical barriers they had to overcome. A common theme was the challenge of navigating college without the advice or support of family and a sense of loneliness as campus peers rarely understood where they were coming from.

The symposium was the first in-person gathering of the group. Participants expressed a desire to keep in contact and meet again.



Naomi Kramer Yoder, left, and Saloma Furlong chat during a break in the symposium. Yoder, who grew up in Missouri and is now a nurse in Indiana, cofounded the Amish Descendant Scholarship Fund, which aids individuals like herself, first-generation college students of Old Order background.

## New book in series

*Dancing on the Devil's Playground: The Amish Negotiate with Modernity*, the latest book in the Young Center's series published by Johns Hopkins University Press, was released in July.

Written by James A. Cates, a board-certified clinical psychologist and licensed addiction counselor with more than 30 years of experience working with Amish people,

the book applies Donald Kraybill's model of negotiation with modernity to a discussion about the balance the Amish maintain between tradition and accommodation to change as they live in the modern world.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

All events are free and open to the public.

## LECTURE

Discovering Fianna Bucher Meyer

**NANCY L. BIEBER**

Thursday, September 19, 7 p.m.

Bucher Meetinghouse



Who was Fianna Bucher Meyer? She was an Elizabethtown College student (1907–1908) from a family of Brethren leaders, a young mother, and a victim of tuberculosis. She was also grandmother to Nancy L. Bieber ('67), who discovered her grandmother when she unearthed boxes of letters in the attic a century after Fianna's death. Bieber will talk about this discovery and how her research uncovered more about Fianna's life.

Nancy L. Bieber is a spiritual director, writer, and retired psychologist. She is the author of *Decision Making and Spiritual Discernment: The Sacred Art of Finding Your Way* (SkyLight Paths, 2010) and *Fianna's Story: A True Story of Love, Grief, and Faith* (Masthof Press, 2020). Copies of *Fianna's Story* will be available for sale and signing after the lecture.

## SYMPOSIUM

What Does It Mean to Be Church? Anabaptist and Pietist Perspectives

Saturday, September 21, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bucher Meetinghouse

This event will provide a setting for members of various Brethren and Mennonite groups of Plain or mainline identity to discuss their concepts of church and the similarities or differences they notice among various groups. The symposium leaders—Tony Walsh, director of the Centre for the Study of Irish Protestantism at Maynooth University, Ireland, and the Young Center's 2018 Kreider Fellow; Sam Funkhouser, director of the Brethren & Mennonite Heritage Center in Harrisonburg, Virginia; and Jeff Bach, director of the Young Center emeritus—will add comments about the contributions from the Anabaptist and Pietist movements in shaping past and present views on church.

Registration is *not* required for the symposium, and lunch will be provided. Church of the Brethren ministers who would like CEUs should contact the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center (SVMC) at [SVMC@SVMCcob.org](mailto:SVMC@SVMCcob.org) or 717-361-1450.

## CONCERT

Celebrating the Music of Ephrata with Ephrata Cloister Chorus

Monday, October 21, 7 p.m.

Leffler Chapel and Performance Center

For this concert, Ephrata Cloister Chorus will perform four pieces composed at Ephrata and found in the Ephrata Cloister's 1739 hymnal, *Zionitischer Weyrauchs-Hügel*. The program will also include music composed at the Lititz Moravian community; selections from the Shaker community of Mt. Lebanon, New York; music of William Billings; African American Spiritual hymnody; and several contemporary sacred anthems.

Preceding the concert, Archivist Rachel Grove Rohrbaugh will describe extensive conservation work completed in 2023 on two rare Ephrata music manuscript books housed in Elizabethtown College's Hess Archives and Special Collections. Both books were created by hand at the Cloister in the mid-eighteenth century and contain beautiful examples of Pennsylvania German Fraktur.

Ephrata Cloister Chorus is an educational arm of the Ephrata Cloister Associates and the historic site. The group is under the direction of Rev. Mark V. Herr and accompanied by Juliet Mitton. This event is part of the School of Arts and Humanities' Monday Series Concerts and is cosponsored by the Young Center.

## SNOWDEN LECTURE

Open to the Spirit: On Writing a New History of the Brethren in Christ Church in the Twentieth Century

**DEVIN MANZULLO-THOMAS**

Tuesday, November 19, 7 p.m.

Bucher Meetinghouse



For nearly 50 years, the standard history of the Brethren in Christ Church has been Carlton O. Wittlinger's *Quest for Piety and Obedience* (published in 1978). Like much scholarship produced by Anabaptist historians in this generation, Wittlinger's study emphasized institutional developments and theological change. Since the 1970s, the arrival of social and cultural analysis has transformed the historiographical scene, but to date no major study of the Brethren in Christ has incorporated these trends. In this talk, Devin Manzullo-Thomas will discuss his forthcoming book, *Open to the Spirit*, and the opportunities provided by centering women, racial and ethnic minorities, politics, economics, and related matters in telling a richer and more robust story of the Brethren in Christ community in the United States and Canada.

Devin Manzullo-Thomas is an assistant professor of American religious history, director of the E. Morris and Leone Sider Institute for Anabaptist, Pietist, and Wesleyan Studies, and director of archives at Messiah University.





# THE YOUNG CENTER FOR ANABAPTIST AND PIETIST STUDIES

ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE

One Alpha Drive  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022-2298

[etown.edu/youngctr](http://etown.edu/youngctr)

## Anabaptism conference scheduled

“EARLY ANABAPTISM IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE” SET FOR JULY 2025

“Early Anabaptism in Global Perspective,” a conference marking the 500th anniversary of the birth of Anabaptism, will be hosted by the Young Center on the Elizabethtown College campus July 22–24, 2025. The conference will give special attention to the global context in which Anabaptism emerged and spread. Presentations will also consider the global reception of Anabaptist history today, particularly in light of the diffusion of Anabaptist traditions around the world. Early Anabaptist history has figured prominently as a resource for global churchly identity through scholarship, teaching, and preaching.

Reformation historian Nicholas Terpstra from the University of Toronto will be the conference keynote speaker. Other plenary speakers are Kat Hill, a British historian whose works include *Baptism, Brotherhood, and Belief: Anabaptism and Lutheranism, 1525-1585*; Danang Kristiawan, an Indone-

sian Mennonite pastor who teaches Anabaptist history and theology at Wiyata Wacana Theological Seminary in Pati, Indonesia; and Elizabeth Miller, director of the Institute for the Study of Global Anabaptism at Goshen (IN) College.

The conference will feature a variety of concurrent sessions, with three dozen research papers, seminars, and roundtable panels on the preliminary schedule. Presenters are set to attend from not only the United States and Canada, but Ethiopia, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, the Netherlands, and the UK. The conference seeks to advance understanding as well as foster networking among scholars, teachers, church leaders, and others interested in Anabaptism through the informal conversations and connections that conference gatherings afford.

For more information, see the conference website, [etown.edu/anabaptism2025](http://etown.edu/anabaptism2025). Registration opens in early 2025.

FALL 2024

YOUNG  
CENTER  
*News*

DIRECTOR & SENIOR SCHOLAR  
Steve Nolt

DIRECTOR EMERITUS  
Jeff Bach

SENIOR FELLOW EMERITUS  
Donald Kraybill

RESEARCH STAFF  
Edsel Burdge Jr.  
Cynthia Nolt

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
Kay Wolf

ARCHIVIST  
HESS ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS  
([etown.edu/library/archives](http://etown.edu/library/archives))  
Rachel Grove Rohrbaugh

*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 email notification and a link to each new issue, send a message to [youngctr@etown.edu](mailto:youngctr@etown.edu).

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

Phone: 717-361-1470  
E-mail: [youngctr@etown.edu](mailto:youngctr@etown.edu)  
Website: [etown.edu/youngctr](http://etown.edu/youngctr)

*Young Center News* editor: Cynthia Nolt