

# YOUNG CENTER

## *News*

THE YOUNG CENTER FOR  
ANABAPTIST AND PIETIST STUDIES  
AT ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE



## Young Center construction project scheduled to begin in March

Groundbreaking for the construction of an addition to the Young Center building will take place at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 23, at the Young Center. This brief ceremony, which is open to the public, marks the beginning of the project. Construction is scheduled to start in early March.

The additional space includes a new interpretive gallery and front entrance to the building that will face the parking lot. The interpretive gallery will feature permanent and rotating exhibits that explain briefly the origins, characteristics, and spread of Anabaptist and Pietist groups, with a special focus on the Amish. Objects on display will include rare books and clothing items related to Anabaptist and Pietist groups. This gallery will be the new entry point to the Young Center in order to welcome visitors and enhance the interpretive work of the center.

The other major part of the addition includes a reconfigured classroom and additional office and work space. New office space will serve Steve Nolt, senior scholar, Cynthia Nolt, research and editorial associate, and Donald Kraybill, senior fellow emeritus. Two additional offices will provide work space for the Snowden and Kreider fellows and short-term researchers. In addition to office space, plans call for a new project room and more storage space. The expansion will increase the Young Center floor space by about one-third. A garden courtyard will be added near the new front entrance.

To accommodate the new front entry, the parking lot adjoining the Young Center will be reconfigured. The current entrance will be closed and a new entrance off of Campus Road at the end of the parking lot farthest from the Young Center will be created. This



change should increase safety for both drivers and pedestrians in the parking lot.

The project's estimated completion date is spring 2018. After the addition is finished, the college will host a public celebration and dedication for the renovated building. Watch for publicity about the dedication a year from now.

The Young Center staff members have relocated temporarily to a house at 905 College Avenue. The house, owned by the college, is adjacent to the entrance to the Brown parking lot, immediately across from Lake Placida. Guest parking is available directly in front of the ground-level entrance to the building. Young Center staff maintain the same schedule: weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Phone numbers and e-mail addresses remain the same. No objects will be on display at the College Avenue site but visits to the Hess Archives and Special Collec-

tions can be arranged for those who would like to see some of the unique items in the Young Center's collections.

Personnel in the college's facilities management department and volunteers helped to make the move to the temporary location successful. Special thanks go to the facilities workers who moved hundreds of boxes and some furniture from the Young Center to the new office space. Volunteer workers included Larry Etzweiler, Larry Truax, Linda Coble, Jim Miller, and Nick Siegert. Student workers Megan Stoermer and Samantha Kick and Young Center staff member Edsel Burdge helped with packing, and Hillary Daecher managed the entire project.

Visitors, researchers, college students, staff, and faculty are all warmly welcome to the Young Center's temporary location. We look forward to offering continued service as we have in the past.



## From the Director

The new year brings many changes for the Young Center. We moved into a new location at 905 College Avenue on January 9. We received excellent help from college staff and volunteers assisting our own staff. We look forward to a groundbreaking on February 23 for the new addition that will be built onto the current Young Center building. While construction is underway, work will continue to design a new interpretive gallery in the finished building. On January 9 we also welcomed our new Kreider fellow for this semester, Rebecca Janzen. She is writing about Old Colony Mennonites in Mexico, a new topic for one of our fellows to address. In addition, we have received new research materials in recent months, which expand and enrich our research collections. The Carl W. Zeigler award for a student essay on Anabaptist or Pietist topics is back again as an opportunity for Elizabethtown College students.

The Dale Brown Book Award for 2016 and for 2017 will be presented this fall at separate programs. The 2016 award was deferred due to uncertainty about the timing of the Young Center's closure for construction. The winning books for both years will be announced at this year's spring banquet on April 20.

With so many new developments, we are also glad for continuity as we carry out our mission. Our staff is ready to assist visitors, students, and faculty, and we continue to welcome researchers from around the world. We continue our own work of research and interpretation and our book series with Johns Hopkins University Press. Generous donors and supporters continue to share financial gifts, donations of research materials, and words of encouragement and good will.

We will work at our new location until the building project is completed, currently projected to be spring of 2018. As we continue with our mission, we hope that you will stop in to see our new place and join us for our events during the semester. We are grateful for your support in our new ventures.

Jeff Bach  
Director

## New donations enhance collections

Several donors have enriched the Young Center's special collections since last fall. Nancy Meyer Bieber donated a large collection of papers and some plain clothing and artifacts related to her extended family, which includes the Meyer, Bucher, and Wenger families of Lebanon and Lancaster Counties. The items date to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Sermon and ministry notes related to her father, Ammon Bucher Meyer, and her grandfather Samuel Gible Meyer, both Brethren ministers, are in the collection, as is correspondence from Bucher and Wenger relatives. The materials will be known as the Bucher, Meyer, and Wenger Collection. They provide information about families connected to Elizabethtown College and the Church of the Brethren.

Lucille Oberholtzer donated five boxes of memorabilia, several books, and two scrapbooks from her late husband, Henry Oberholtzer. Henry was born in China to Brethren missionaries Isaiah and Elizabeth Oberholtzer, and was a student at Elizabethtown College.

Mark Flory Steury donated a painted glass screen brought back to the U.S. in the 1930s by his late wife's grandparents, Byron and Nora Flory, who were also Brethren missionaries in China. These items will be useful in a class about the Brethren missionaries and twentieth-century China being team taught by Young Center director Jeff Bach and Asian history professor David Kenley this semester.

The Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren donated several historic photos from their earliest years just before the twentieth centu-

ry. Also in their donation are records of their inner-city ministry in Harrisburg and sermon notes by some of their ministers, including C. Wayne Zunkel, Roger Eberly, and Murray Wagner. A unique item from the congregation is an interlinear Bible published in 1620, containing the Hebrew and Greek texts with the Latin Vulgate text printed under the lines of the original languages.

Dee Ann Daniels donated photos of the Lake Ridge Church of the Brethren in King Ferry, New York, which will be added to existing archival material from the congregation. The family of Roger Sappington donated several more boxes of books and periodicals to add to the Sappington Collection. David Fuchs donated a rare German book on the doctrine of universalism, printed in Halle, Germany, in 1770. This copy has additional importance because of annotations written in the margins of many pages.

We are grateful to these and other donors who have added to the research collections of the Young Center during the past year.

## Carl W. Zeigler Award for student research paper

The Carl W. Zeigler Award, a prize of \$250 for the best student research paper related to historical or current aspects of Anabaptist or Pietist studies, is back. Any full-time or part-time student enrolled in the current academic year at Elizabethtown College is eligible to enter the competition. Papers should be from 12 to 25 pages long (double-spaced; one-inch margins). Students wishing to submit a paper are encouraged to consult with Young Center director Jeff Bach about their topic and must notify him of their intention to submit a paper by March 1. Submissions are due by April 1, and the winner will be announced at the Young Center banquet on April 20, 2017.

The papers will be evaluated by a panel consisting of the director and two other judges. The criteria are (1) scholarship and substance, (2) research methodology, and (3) clarity of writing, organization, and documentation.

The award is named in honor of Carl W. Zeigler, a long-time religion professor at Elizabethtown College and an active leader in the Church of the Brethren in Pennsylvania.



College archivist Rachel Grove Rohrbaugh and Nancy Meyer Bieber examine plain clothing worn by Bieber's family members.

# Heritage Festival

Theresa Eshbach looks on as Anna Mae Belser, quilting group coordinator for the Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren, demonstrates her fine quilt stitching at the Brethren Heritage Festival held during Elizabethtown College's Homecoming on October 15.

Children created arts and crafts projects using paint, homemade play dough, beads, and other materials. Adults learned about the Alumni Peace Fellowship's work and viewed a display about college classes in the past. Refreshments included popcorn, homemade apple butter, and ice cream churned by stationary bicycle power.



## Upcoming special events

Five significant events related to Anabaptist and Pietist groups are scheduled at various locations in 2017.

Bridgewater College will host "Anabaptist Nonresistance in the Age of Terror," on March 16 and 17. The symposium opens at 7:30 p.m. on March 16 with a presentation by Andrew Loomis, a violence-prevention worker in the State Department, and Elizabeth Ferris, a Georgetown University professor who works with refugee problems. It continues on March 17 with a panel featuring Young Center senior fellow emeritus Donald Kraybill, former Young Center fellow Musa Mambula, Kroc Center fellow emeritus Robert Johansen (also a former trustee of Elizabethtown College), and Andrew Murray, former director of the Baker Peace Institute at Juniata College, along with Elizabeth Ferris and Andrew Loomis. The Thursday event is free; the Friday event costs \$20, which includes lunch. To RSVP contact Robert Andersen (randerse@bridgewater.edu) or Steve Longenecker (slongene@bridgewater.edu). The symposium is sponsored by the Kline-Bowman Institute for Creative Peacebuilding and the Forum for Brethren Studies, both at Bridgewater College.

"What Young Historians are Thinking," a symposium featuring young historians researching topics related to peace churches, will be held on June 5 at Ridgeview Mennonite Church, Gordonville, Pennsylvania. The event, which is free and open to the public,

is jointly sponsored by the Young Center, Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, and the Sider Institute for Anabaptist, Pietist, and Wesleyan Studies at Messiah College. Paper proposals are due by April 14. Visit [http://www.messiah.edu/info/20266/conferences\\_and\\_events/](http://www.messiah.edu/info/20266/conferences_and_events/) for details.

On September 9, the Alexander Mack Museum in Schwarzenau, Germany, will celebrate its 25th anniversary. A lecture on religious tolerance under the counts of Wittgenstein by Ulf Lückel will begin the day. Interpretations of the Brethren beginnings in Schwarzenau in 1708 and other Pietist groups in the area will be included. For more information, contact Jeff Bach (717-361-1467; bachj@etown.edu).

On September 15-17, the 18th Believers' Church Conference will be held at Goshen College in Goshen, Indiana. The theme is "Word, Spirit and the Renewal of the Church: Believers' Church, Ecumenical and Global Perspectives." The conference will feature perspectives on scripture and renewal from Believers' Church perspectives, in light of the 500th anniversary of the beginning of Martin Luther's reform. Paper proposals are due April 1. Visit <https://www.goshen.edu/believers-church/> for details.

"Remembering Muted Voices: Conscience, Dissent, Resistance, and Civil Liberties in World War I through Today" is the theme of a major interdisciplinary conference on October 19-22 sponsored by the Na-

tional World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri. The focus of the conference is on pacifists, peace churches, labor activists, women, and others who advocated a negotiated peace rather than armed engagement by the United States in WWI. A special memorial service for two Hutterite men who died from extreme treatment as prisoners at Fort Leavenworth will be included in the events. For more information, visit [www.theworldwar/learn/remembering-muted-voices](http://www.theworldwar/learn/remembering-muted-voices) or contact Jeff Bach (717-361-1467; bachj@etown.edu).

## Latest Young Center series book

*Pennsylvania Germans: An Interpretive Encyclopedia* is the most recent title in the Young Center series published by Johns Hopkins University Press. Edited by Simon Bronner and Joshua R. Brown, the book is a collection of nineteen essays by distinguished scholars describing the history and culture of Pennsylvania Germans.



# Simon Bronner named Durnbaugh Lecturer for 2017

The Young Center is pleased to announce that Simon J. Bronner will deliver the Durnbaugh lecture on Thursday, April 20.

Bronner is distinguished professor of American studies and folklore, and director of the Center for Pennsylvania Culture Studies at Penn State Harrisburg. He has also taught at Harvard University, Dickinson College, Leiden University (Netherlands), and Osaka University (Japan). He is the author or editor of over thirty-five books including *Encyclopedia of American Folklife*, *Popular-*

*izing Pennsylvania*, and *Explaining Traditions: Folk Behavior in Modern Culture*. His most recent book, *Pennsylvania Germans: An Interpretive Encyclopedia*, coedited with Joshua R. Brown, was published this month by Johns Hopkins University Press.

Bronner served as editor of the Pennsylvania German History and Culture Series for Penn State University Press and received the Pennsylvania German Society's Award of Merit for lifetime contributions to Pennsylvania German studies.

Established in 1993 to commemorate the scholarship of Don and Hedda Durnbaugh, the Durnbaugh lecture series brings a noted scholar of Anabaptist or Pietist studies to campus annually. The April 20 lecture will follow the Young Center banquet in the Susquehanna Room of Myer Hall. The Durnbaugh seminar, a discussion about Pennsylvania German culture led by Joshua R. Brown, will be held on Friday, April 21, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., in Hoover 110.

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## Student assistant's work with H. Willard Good Collection

*Erin Krause '16 worked in the Hess Archives and Special Collections as a student assistant from January 2015 through May 2016. There, she helped with a variety of projects including the processing of H. Willard Good's papers, a collection transferred to the archives from the Young Center. She wrote the following post about the collection for High Library's blog in January 2016:*

"The college archive has uncovered a plethora of information hidden within its depths—hundreds of letters from the time of World War II. Willard Good, a member of the Waynesboro Church of the Brethren, wrote and received these letters during his time as a passive objector from 1944 to 1946. The letters not only give us insight into the everyday life of this time, but also detail the conditions of the civilian public service camps where Willard Good spent much of his time during the war.

Many of the letters were kept in excellent condition over the years by Willard himself. Most are from his friends and family. They express concerns for Willard and tell him of everything happening in the world while he is working at the Civilian Public Service (CPS) camp. Many of the letters contain newspaper clippings about the war and the Church of the Brethren, giving the readers of these letters an understanding of what exactly was occurring in the 1940s. Not only do the letters contain newspaper clippings, but a few also enclose documents from the time such as food stamps, train tickets, life insurance papers, and tax forms.

The true gold mine, however, is the correspondence between Willard Good and his

wife, Pauline McKenzie. The letters that Willard sent Pauline are filled with intricate details of his time traveling and his time working at CPS camps. Readers are able to read a firsthand account of the food they ate, the religions the workers practiced, the struggles the workers experienced, and the conditions of the camps. Readers are also able to learn about the love story between Willard and Pauline, which is intermixed among all the facts. The letters start out when the two were courting and continue through their marriage. The letters tell of her concern for him, their disagreements over everyday matters such as money and taxes, and ultimately their love.

These letters offer us an incredible insight into what life was like during World War II. Because Elizabethtown College has strong connections to the Church of the Brethren, it is important to understand the church's history. Willard Good was a dedicated member of the Church of the Brethren, and reading about his struggles and life during World War II is important for us to understand another side of history. This collection of letters is a wonderful addition to the Hess Archives, and one that will continue to help researchers and students learn throughout the years to come."

*Kraus, who was a double major in English Professional Writing and Political Philosophy Legal Studies with a minor in business administration, currently works as a proposal associate for a management, strategy, and IT consulting firm in Washington, D.C. While working on the H. Willard Good Collection,*



*Erin Krause '16 at work in the Hess Archives*

*she recalls, "I really enjoyed learning about Good's life. Reading the letters gave me a different insight into the everyday life of a conscientious objector. The letters did not just cover the major topics you learn about in history class, but they also covered the work that he did, his family, and his everyday struggles with expenses and food stamps. It was great to read about the smaller details from his perspective."*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## A Glimpse of Life in the *Dawdihaus*

CLAIRE MARIE MENSACK

Thursday, February 23, 7:30 p.m.

~~Hoover 110~~ moved to Hoover 212

In collectivist cultures such as the Amish, aging family members often remain at home or near the main family dwelling in what is known as the *Dawdihaus*. The desire to move into the *Dawdihaus* and the assumption of greater household roles by the adult children is not a forced concept but one that is proliferated by a sense of yielding referred to as *Gelassenheit*. This talk, an assessment of the *Dawdihaus* experience from the perspective of the older family members and their adult children, is based on Claire Marie Mensack's case study among the Amish and other Plain people of Pennsylvania and Delaware.

Mensack, last year's Kreider Fellow, completed her Ph.D. at the University of South Carolina. She is an assistant adjunct professor at Newberry College in South Carolina.

## KREIDER LECTURE Encountering Low German Mennonite Women in Mexican Archives

REBECCA JANZEN

Thursday, March 30, 7:30 p.m.

Hoover 110



Rebecca Janzen will introduce Low German Mennonites in Mexico, and describe their largest church groups, land use patterns, and language. Her lecture will focus on the presence of Low German Mennonite women in Mexican archival documents that deal with land redistribution and related conflict with indigenous people. Janzen argues that in spite of the women's less powerful religious position, their presence in these documents shows that they are important in keeping the Low German Mennonite community together.

Rebecca Janzen, the Young Center's 2017 Kreider Fellow, received her Ph.D. from the University of Toronto and is an assistant professor of Spanish at Bluffton University.

## PANEL DISCUSSION Got Schnitz? Pennsylvania German Material Culture

Wednesday, April 19, 7:30 p.m.

Susquehanna Room, Myer Hall



Joshua R. Brown and two panelists will introduce Pennsylvania German culture and discuss specific details that characterize the Pennsylvania Germans. Brown received his Ph.D. in German and linguistics from the Pennsylvania State University and is an associate professor of German at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

## YOUNG CENTER BANQUET

Thursday, April 20, 6:00 p.m. (Reception at 5:30)

Susquehanna Room, Myer Hall

The annual dinner gives faculty, staff, and friends of the Young Center an opportunity to socialize and learn about the center's activities and programs.

Cost for the banquet is \$23, and reservations are required by April 6. Call the Young Center at 717-361-1470 or register online via the events page of the Young Center website.

## DURNBAUGH LECTURE New Directions in Pennsylvania German Studies

SIMON J. BRONNER

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

Susquehanna Room, Myer Hall



Simon J. Bronner will examine the changing understandings of Pennsylvania Germans and their culture in light of his recent book, *Pennsylvania Germans: An Interpretive Encyclopedia*, which uses multiple cultural approaches to understand the Pennsylvania Germans. Bronner will explore changes from past studies of the Pennsylvania Germans that focused on their shrinking rural identity to an interpretation based on ethnic studies. He will explain how his research integrates a variety of approaches such as architecture, agriculture, folk art, furniture, food, textiles, religion, and language in order to understand Pennsylvania Germans in the fullness of their culture and lived experience. In the process, he will also explore the role that religious communities such as the Mennonites and Amish have played in shaping Pennsylvania German culture. By tracing changes in understanding "Dutchiness," Bronner will also raise questions about the continuing persistence of Pennsylvania German culture.

Bronner is distinguished professor of American studies and folklore and director of the Center for Pennsylvania Culture Studies at Penn State Harrisburg.

## DURNBAUGH SEMINAR Object Lessons: The Meanings of Pennsylvania German Life and Culture

Friday, April 21, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Hoover 110

Joshua R. Brown, associate professor of German at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, and several panelists will discuss Pennsylvania German culture, especially how their academic backgrounds inform Pennsylvania German research.

Cost for the seminar, which includes lunch, is \$10, and reservations are required by April 6. To register, call the Young Center at 717-361-1470 or register online via the events page of the Young Center website.



# THE YOUNG CENTER FOR ANABAPTIST AND PIETIST STUDIES

ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE

One Alpha Drive  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022-2298

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## Rebecca Janzen named Kreider Fellow for 2017

Rebecca Janzen, assistant professor of Spanish at Bluffton University, has been named the Young Center's 2017 Kreider Fellow. Janzen received her Ph.D. from the University of Toronto in 2013, and her first book, *The National Body in Mexican Literature: Collective Challenges to Biopolitical Control*, was published in 2015 by Palgrave Macmillan.

Janzen's research and teaching focus on issues relating to power and the body, and are situated in the frameworks of gender, disability, and religious studies in Mexico and Latin America. She was awarded a Plett Foundation grant and the C. Henry Smith Peace Scholarship to begin her second manuscript, "Liminal Sovereignty: Mennonites and Mormons in Mexican Popular Culture."

During her semester as the Kreider Fellow, Janzen will finish the manuscript, complete a chapter on how Canadian and U.S. Mennonites understand Low German Mennonites in Bolivia for an edited collection,

and write a short article about the relationship between Mennonite and indigenous people in Mexico for the publication *Preservings*. She also plans to begin research on an article about the relationship between Low German Mennonite and Amish people in Zacatecas, in central Mexico, and Campeche, in southern Mexico.

In addition to having time away from teaching, advising, and committee work, Janzen views her semester at the Young Center as an opportunity to "put my work within the broader context of Anabaptist studies. I plan to use the center's expertise on Pietism/holiness. This strain of thought (although not from Church of the Brethren) has influenced many Low German Mennonites in Mexico."

The Kreider fellowship and lecture are named for Ken and Carroll Kreider, 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.

SPRING 2017

YOUNG  
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*News*

DIRECTOR  
Jeff Bach, Ph.D.

SENIOR SCHOLAR  
Steve Nolt, Ph.D.

SENIOR FELLOW EMERITUS  
Donald Kraybill, Ph.D.

RESEARCH STAFF  
Edsel Burdge Jr.  
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. For e-mail notification and a link to each new issue of *Young Center News*, send an e-mail message to [youngctr@etown.edu](mailto:youngctr@etown.edu).

Please direct comments and suggestions to:  
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: [www.etown.edu/youngctr](http://www.etown.edu/youngctr)