

History Department Newsletter

Political Science Professor Retires After 40 Years

By *Elijah Martens*

This year the history department is sad to see the departure of Lee Roy Berry, professor of political science, who is retiring after a historic 40-year teaching career at Goshen College. Berry began teaching in 1969 and has taught courses at Goshen College ranging from political science staples such as Government and Public Policy, to topical history courses such as Latin America in the National Era and African American History.

Born in 1943 to a family of African-American migrant farm-workers, Berry was one of the first in his community to have the opportunity to attend college. At the suggestion of his pastor in Florida, Berry attended Eastern Mennonite College in Harrisonburg, Virginia, where he earned a bachelor's degree in History in 1966. After graduation, Berry met his future wife, Beth Hostetler,

while doing voluntary service. They married in 1969 and moved to Goshen, where Berry began his long career as a professor. While teaching, he continued to broaden his studies earning an M.A. (1969) and Ph.D. (1976) from the University of Notre Dame, and a J.D. from the Indiana University School of Law in 1984.

Berry also opened a law practice in Goshen, where he applied both his legal education and his distinctive background. Having grown up in a setting of limited opportunities and scarce economic resources, Berry brings a deep understanding to the challenges faced by his working class clients. As a lifelong educator, Berry often encourages those he counsels to complete their educational goals and to participate actively in the political process.

Berry was the first African-American professor at Goshen College, and offered an im-

portant voice in the College's History Department.

In addition to his many courses, Berry contributed to the department and college in many other ways, including public lectures on topics such as "The Problem of Assimilation: Mennonites, African-Americans and the U.S.

See *Professor Retires*, next page



Lee Roy Berry greets a student at his reception dinner.

Professor-Student Team Studies the Secret to Peaceful Christian-Muslim Relationships in Ethiopia

By *Elijah Martens*

More often than not, scholars interested in ethnic conflict focus their research on situations in which differing groups clash, rather the circumstances that contribute to peaceful relations. Ashutosh Varshney, a professor at Brown University, has pioneered a different approach towards the study of conflict in his book *Ethnic Conflict and Civic Life: Hindus and Muslims in India*. In the book, Varshney compared peaceful Indian cities to conflict-ridden ones and concluded that the difference between the two types of cities stemmed from the presence of high levels of civic engagement and integration that defused conflict in the former, and the



Jan Shetler and Dawit Kebede

prominent place of tension and rumor in the latter. Inspired by Varshney's work on India, a Goshen College student-professor team Jan Bender Shetler and Dawit Yehualashet Kebede pursued a similar approach in Ethiopia, looking at areas where the nation's Christian and Muslim

populations co-existed peacefully.

Shetler and Kebede began this study in the summer of 2006 as a part of Goshen College's Maple Scholars program, and in the years since they have each spent a summer researching in Ethiopia. They focused their study primarily on the city of Harar, where members of the Meserte Kristos Church and Muslims have maintained peaceful co-existence while nevertheless maintaining strong religious identities. They also examined in detail the Meserete Kristos church in Ethiopia, in particular emphasizing its role

See *Professor-Student Team*, next page

Professor Retires, cont.

Constitution,” and *Record* articles addressing controversial race issues in the 1970s. He and his family also led an SST unit to Costa Rica. All three of Berry’s children have attended Goshen College and both of his daughters, Melinda and Anne, have also taught at Goshen.

On April 22, 2010 nearly one hundred friends and colleagues gathered in the Koinonia Room at College Mennonite Church for a public reception honoring Berry for four decades of service to Goshen College. History Department chair, John D.

Roth, presented Lee Roy with several gifts, including a scrapbook filled with pictures, clippings and numerous letters of appreciation from former students for Berry’s contribution to their lives.

Lee Roy Berry’s inspiring life story and impressive teaching career stand as an inspiring legacy. The department will find it difficult to fill the void created by the departure of his wisdom and experience. We wish Lee Roy a fulfilling and well-deserved retirement.

Left to right: Marian Hostetler, Lee Roy and his wife, Beth



Professor-Student Team, cont.

as an institution that fostered inter-religious peacemaking. Kebede and Shetler concluded that it was strong civic and inter-religious relationships, nurtured over hundreds of years, that kept conflict from erupting in Harar. The kind of events that resulted in conflict and violence in other areas where Christians and Muslims co-existed were defused by grassroots civic and religious groups in Harar, who took an active role in resolving conflicts without bloodshed and preventing harmful rumors from generating antagonism between the two groups. Both Shetler and Kebede were convinced of the importance and significance of the story of a peaceful Harar. "This story is one we think is really important," said Shetler. "The typical story of Africa is one where things have gone badly, and this is one where people have a culture of peace that's long lasting and that comes out of grassroots organizations of people together."

The team received the annual C. Henry Smith peace award, a grant set up by a former history professor who taught at both Bluffton (Ohio) University and Goshen College. Each year the grant is awarded to a professor from one of the Mennonite colleges, who uses the funds to research a topic related to peacebuilding. Shetler and Kebede presented their findings in a series of lectures at Bluffton and Goshen during the spring of 2010.

Senior Seminar Theses

The class of 2010 included ten history majors. Each completed a major thesis assignment exploring a topic for which they had done primary source research. Congratulations to the Class of 2010!

Karrie Goelz (New Paris, Ind.), "Teaching World War II: How to Integrate Empathy and Moral Development into the Learning Process through Primary Source Materials."

David B. Horst (Goshen, Ind.), "Common Ground: Potawatomi and Europeans on the Elkhart Prairie."

Thomas Leischner (Harrisonburg, Va.), "Where have they put our hero?: The African National Congress's Shifting Use of the Memory of Steve Biko."

Elijah J. Martens (South Bend, Ind.), "'True Log Cabiners': The 1840 Presidential Campaign in Elkhart County's Political Newspapers."

Mark Massey (Columbus, Ohio), "Nurturing Adolescent Faith: Cross-Cultural Conventions within the Mennonite Church and their Implications for Integrating Youth into Faith."

Whitney Shepherd (Goshen, Ind.), "Three Generations of Women on Goshen College Campus: The Story of My Family and the Changes in Social Expectations for Women at Goshen College (1960-2010)."

Anna R. Showalter (Waynesboro, Pa.), "The Mennonite Young People's Conference Movement 1919-1923; Beyond The Tragedy of its Failure to the Legacy of its Vision."

Derek Swartz (Harrisonburg, Va.), "Terrible Silence: Native American Portrayal in American History Textbooks."

Emily J. Taylor (South Bend, Ind.), "Defining and Defying the Women's Movement: A Case Study of the Home Economics Program at Goshen College, 1916-1987."

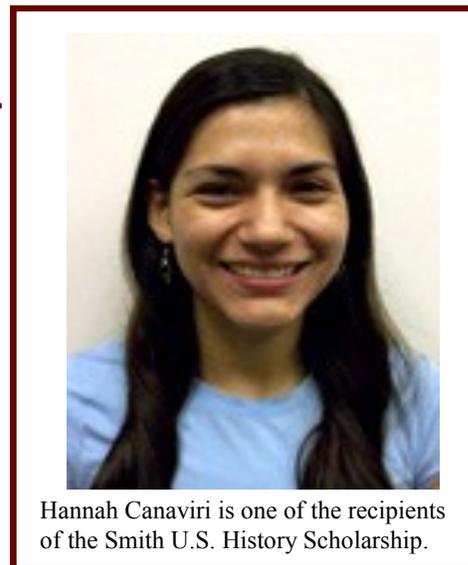
2010-2011 Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to scholarship winners for the 2010-2011 school year.

The “Willard and Verna Smith U.S. History” Scholarship has been awarded to **Hannah Canaviri** (Santa Cruz, Bolivia) and **Ted Maust** (Lancaster, PA).

The “Oswin and David Gerber Scholarship in Mennonite Studies” has been awarded to **Jacob Swartzentruber** (Albuquerque, NM).

The generosity of the Smith and Gerber families has been very helpful to many students at Goshen College. The college welcomes donations to the Smith and Gerber scholarship endowments.



Hannah Canaviri is one of the recipients of the Smith U.S. History Scholarship.

Student Publications and Awards

GC history majors took two of the three prizes in the undergraduate category of the annual Horsch Essay Contest sponsored by the Mennonite Church USA Historical Committee. The winners, announced in September 2009, were **Lydette Assefa** (tied for first place) and **Matt Y. Harms** (second place). Assefa’s entry was “Identity in the Midst of Instability: An Analysis of the Oppositional Relationship Between the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and the Meserete Kristos Church in the 1960s-1980s.” Harms wrote on “Short-Term Work for Long-Term Change: An Early History of SWAP, DOOR and Group Venture.”

Steve Nolt Uses Sabbatical Period to Write, Read and Travel

Professor of history Steve Nolt was on sabbatical during the 2009-2010 school year, and moved with his family to eastern Pennsylvania where he worked on a number of research and writing projects. “During the fall semester I was a Center Fellow at the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown (Pa.) College,” Nolt reported, “and in the spring I worked from an office at our temporary home here in Pennsylvania.” He completed a major revision of the book *Through Fire and Water: An Overview of Mennonite History*, which was published by Herald Press in June 2010. With Donald Kraybill (Elizabethtown College) and David Weaver-Zercher (Messiah College), he wrote a book on Old Order spirituality, *The Amish Way: Patient Faith in a Perilous World*, which will be published by Jossey-Bass in September. He also worked on the Global Mennonite History Project and on a project documenting Amish life across North America.

“Being on the east coast, we did some traveling as a family, visiting local sites and museums, and also made multi-day trips to Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia.” Steve and his wife Rachel also spent a week in France in September 2009, in conjunction with a conference at which he was presenting several invited lectures. “One thing I especially enjoyed this year was time to read—read things that were not necessarily work-related, just books I felt like reading! We also have been able to spend time with extended family who live in the Lancaster, Pennsylvania area.”

Nolt returns to Goshen in mid-summer and will resume teaching and acting as the History Department chair. During the 2010-2011 school year he will teach U.S. Immigration and Ethnic History, Modern China, American history survey courses, and the junior and senior seminars for history majors.



Alumni News

Rick Stiffney (1973)

I've completed a decade as CEO of Mennonite Health Services Alliance. We serve 75 institutions across the U.S. and I consult with a wide range of boards and CEOs in the health care field. I just completed my PhD at Andrews University.

F. Jay Shetler (1974)

I work with a major senior living provider in Glendale, Arizona, with a particular focus on legislative reform. I'm also working with the former mayor of Phoenix on a new senior housing project in West Phoenix for low income seniors.

Steve Reschly (1976)

I'm finishing up a three-year term as chair of the History Department at Truman State University (Missouri). I have a sabbatical in 2010-2011 and my spouse, Lynn Rose, received a Fulbright Scholarship to Rostock, Germany. So we will be living in northern Germany. I will be working on a book manuscript, along with Katherine Jellison, on rural consumer culture and gender in Lancaster County in the 1930s.

Keith Swartzendruber (1977)

I am operations director for an organization called Churches for Middle East Peace.

David Leaman (1985)

I was recently re-elected as chair of the Department of Political Science at Northeastern Illinois University.

Richard Beyler (1987)

I'm associate professor of history at Portland State University, and currently chair of the university's Graduate Council, the committee

that oversees graduate programs across the university.

Rene Harder Horst (1989)

I am an associate professor of Latin American history at Appalachian State University. I've published two books: *The Stroessner Regime and Indigenous Resistance in Paraguay* and *War, Protest and Identity: Indigenous and Afro-Latin Americans in the Liberal Period*.

Emily Willems (1992)

I am currently teaching "Advanced Placement United States History," "College Prep United States History," and "World Environments: Non-Western Cultures" at Ox Bow High School in Bradford, Vermont.

Allen L. Bohnert (1998)

I am an Assistant Federal Public Defender for the Southern District of Ohio (Columbus). I work as an attorney in the Capital Habeas Unit of the office, representing persons on Ohio's Death Row in their federal habeas litigation and any subsequent clemency proceedings. I am also heavily involved in the litigation over Ohio's lethal injection protocol. Ohio became the first state to change its execution protocol from a three-drug cocktail to a single drug method.

Andre King (1999)

I am a senior resident in urologic surgery at University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Jay Strickland (2001)

I am the principal at Tuttle Middle School in Crawfordville, Indiana. My wife (Kristi Miller, 2004 GC graduate) and I have a daughter, Ally, age two. I am in my first year as principal and was the assistant prin-

icipal for one year. I also taught social studies grades 6-8 for seven years.

Karl Stutzman (2003)

In 2009 I graduated with a MLS degree from Indiana University. I am Access and Digital Services Librarian at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana.

Landon Yoder (2004)

I've been accepted for graduate school at Indiana University, Johns Hopkins, and The New School. Indiana is probably the most likely destination, but I have another few weeks to deliberate. It also looks as though I'll be able to work out an arrangement with the Environmental Law Institute to continue working with them full time or part time and go to school part time or full time for this next year.

Rebecca Allen (2004)

In October 2009 I left my job as an immigrant rights advocate at a Latino-based nonprofit to start my own business as a birth doula. I especially enjoy supporting Spanish-speaking mothers who are often far from family and familiarity as they welcome their babies.

Saulo Padilla (2005)

I am Director for the Office on Immigration Education for Mennonite Central Committee. Serving in this position allows me provide educational opportunities and resources on immigration issues for the Mennonite constituency in the US. An exciting part of my job is the connection that I keep with my Latin American roots as I study root causes of Latin American migrations, but also apply research skills and historical knowledge to provide current information and educate our constituency.

Martha Miller Ruggles (2005)

I live in Chicago with my husband Adam. In June, we will have been married for five years. I work as a nurse at Rush University Medical Center on the mother/baby unit. Right now, I am reading about Italian Renaissance history in preparation for a trip to Italy the last half of May!

Alex Lake (2009)

I work at a non-traditional community center (Union Project) in Pittsburgh as Systems & Technology Coordinator, mostly doing marketing and digital and web design. I'm working there through Pittsburgh Urban Leadership Service Experience, a one year voluntary service program.

Retired Professor Publishes Hershberger Biography

Theron F. Schlabach, Goshen College professor emeritus of history, has authored a major biography of prominent Mennonite historian and ethicist Guy F. Hershberger. Hershberger also taught at Goshen, from the 1920s-1960s. The new book, *War, Peace, and Social Consciousness: Guy F. Hershberger and Mennonite Ethics* (Herald Press), examines Hershberger's role as a Mennonite scholar and peace advocate. It deals with Hershberger's role in the creation of an alternative service program during World War II, his efforts on behalf of Mennonite community life and mutual aid, labor-management relations, and civil rights. Schlabach knew Hershberger personally, has always had a deep respect for him, and long planned to study Hershberger's thought more carefully. "Sometime in the 1980s, I started doing some research," Schlabach notes. "By the early 1990s I was very seriously into the research. I decided to make it a project in my retirement, and not go out and try to solicit a lot of financial support, which was a good decision in some ways, but it also slowed my work down." Schlabach's book has been well-received critically, receiving endorsements from the likes of Duke Divinity School's Stanley Hauerwas. In January, the college hosted a reception and book signing celebrating Schlabach's publication.

Schlabach (left) at the book signing

