June 2007 Edition

Student Editor: Laura K.
Neufeld
Faculty Editor: Steve Nolt



story Departmen Newsletter

100 0

Z

W I

IJ

0

History Grads Take Studies to the Next Level

By Laura Neufeld

How do Amish quilts change in value and meaning when appropriated by a consumer culture? What role did religious moderates like Billy Graham play in the Civil Rights movement? How did disciplinary practices of the Dutch Mennonites change as they assimilated into Dutch culture? What did ideas of American freedom and liberty have to do with the ecumenical movement in the 1950s? These are some of the questions that have inspired four Goshen history graduates in their graduate studies during the past several years.

Janneken Smucker ('98) is a Ph.D candidate at the University of Delaware. Her program of study, History of American Civilization and the study of material culture, allows her to pursue her interest in quilts. She has recently begun working on her dissertation, which will explore the construction and meaning of Amish quilts. Of her experience in graduate school she states that it has been "very rewarding to realize my own capacity for learning." Smucker also enjoys returning to Goshen to cultivate relationships with professors such as John D. Roth and Professor emeritus Theron Schlabach whose work in Anabaptist and Mennonite studies continues to influence her own research.

Steven Miller ('99), who recently earned his Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University, credits one of his professors and a course on religion and the civil rights movement for sparking the questions that would develop into his dissertation entitled "The Politics of Decency: Billy Graham, Evangelicalism, and the End of the Solid South, 1950-1980." He is currently turning his dissertation into a book to be published by University of Pennsylvania Press.



Steven P. Miller

Miller taught as an adjunct professor this past year at Webster University in St. Louis. While he says he still has much to learn about teaching, he enjoys the challenge of mentoring students, leading class discussions, and packaging historical information so that students understand its relevance.

In the fall of 2006, Troy Osborne ('95) defended his dissertation on the church discipline of

See Grad students, next page

History Majors Following the Call of Ministry

By Laura Neufeld

Three Goshen graduates have discovered that the study of history and the world of church ministry can connect in meaningful ways. Former history majors Rachel Ringenberg Miller, Phil Bergey, and Doug Kaufman have all found callings within the Mennonite church.

Rachel Ringenberg Miller ('02) recently graduated from Eastern Mennonite Seminary after serving as a youth pastor from 2003 to 2004. Now Miller hopes to find a position as an associate pastor. She described how courses she took at Goshen in Anabaptist and Mennonite history gave her a context for understanding



Rachel Ringenberg Miller graduated from EMS in May

her work within the Mennonite church. Her experience coteaching a baptism class was especially meaningful as she helped young people discuss and process their faith heritage. "I really do love the Mennonite church, even with its flaws," says Miller.

After working in his family business, Phil Bergey ('91) found himself increasingly drawn to leadership within the church. Excited by new possibilities, he returned to Goshen College, earned a history degree, then continued his studies at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary. After serving as Executive Director of the Franconia (Pa.) Mennonite Conference for fourteen years, Bergey looks forward to devoting more time to a program called Design for Ministry in which he works with boards and staff

See Ministry, next page

Grad students, cont.

Amsterdam Mennonites in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and earned his Ph.D from the University of Minnesota. Osborne says, "Many of the ideas and themes of my scholarly work had been churning in the back of my mind since my student days at Goshen College and Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary."

He describes the Fulbright fellowship he received to study for a year in Amsterdam as a "fantastic opportunity." The student lifestyle was not always easy for Osborne and he admits to having many meals of three-minute noodles, but now he enjoys teaching World and European Civilization survey courses and hopes to publish his dissertation in the near future.

Abby Trollinger ('04) finished her first year in a Ph.D program in twentieth century U.S. history at Northwestern University. Her interests include immigration, ethnicity, and religion which inspired the topic of her first year research project on the ecumenical movement of the 1950s and how American political rhetoric affected relationships between Catholics and Protestants. Trollinger traces her current interests to her experiences in Steve Nolt's course on immigra-

tion and ethnicity that convinced her of the importance of giving a voice to immigrants' stories. Trollinger finds managing the graduate school workload challenging, but considers herself lucky to be engaged in courses that encourage her to read interesting books and think creatively. She looks forward to continuing her studies.

Two recent grads will begin doctoral studies in history in fall 2007: Jason B. Kauffman ('05) at the University of New Mexico, and John Eicher ('06) at the University of Iowa.

From studying, to traveling, to researching, to teaching, these Goshen grads are more than surviving. They are thriving.

Ministry, cont.

members of conferences and congregations to reorganize themselves around a clear, missional purpose. He says, "History helped prepare me for seeing patterns in life." Familiarity with these patterns helps Bergey be sensitive to the gradual process of transformation and redemption he hopes to promote among systems and people.

Doug Kaufman ('89) did not need an Anabaptist history course to perk his interest in the church. He had thoughts about becoming a pastor as early as elementary school. Kaufman is currently a co-pastor at Benton (Ind.) Mennonite Church and enjoys the challenge of preaching in ways that engage people's hearts and minds. Of his interest in history Kaufman says, "A good pastor is attentive to stories." Knowing the personal histories and family histories of people in his congregation is important to Kaufman and helps him better understand their needs.

For Miller, Bergey, and Kaufman, understandings of the past and present meet as these history grads contribute to the future of the Mennonite Church.

Senior Seminar Theses

Eight history majors were members of the class of 2007. As always, senior historians explored a range of subjects and their theses involved extensive primary source research and intensive writing. Congratulations to the Class of 2007!

Dagan Y. Bontrager (Lancaster, Pa.), "Mennonite Central Committee in El Salvador, 1980-1986: Civil War, Refugees and the Challenge of Apoliticism."

D. Josiah Ditzler (Bellevue, Ia.), "The Diamond Jo Line of Steamers, 1866-1911: A Viable Business Model for the Upper Mississippi River Trade."

Andrew Esch (Bellefontaine, Ohio), "Dividing Lines in Hopiland: Hopi Mission School, 1951-1992."

Cassie Greer (South Bend, Ind.), "All White on Purpose?: An Exploration of Goshen, Indiana as a Sundown Town in the Twentieth Century."

Reuben Houser (Phoenix), "Social Expectations for Undergraduates at Goshen College: A Comparison from 1954-1984."

Laura K. Neufeld (Clovis, Cal.), "Leading a Divided People: An Exploration of the Dissolution of the General Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches (1990-2002)."

Samuel Nicholson (Belize City, Belize), "Mennonites in Belize: Mennonite Contribution to the Belizean Economy, 1957-Present."

Sarah E. Roth (Goshen, Ind.), "Cheyenne and Mennonite: Cultural-Crossing in the Poems of Anna Ruth Ediger Baehr."

Five members of the class of 2007 graduated with minors in history: **Megan E. Blank** (Souderton, Pa.), **Rachel E. Derstine** (Blooming Glen, Pa.), **Lisl K. Hershberger** (Portland, Org.), **Micah P. S. Jost** (Harrisonburg, Va.), **Anna N. Yoder** (Goshen, Ind.)

2007-2008 Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to Scholarship winners for the 2007-2008 School Year!

Willard and Verna Smith U.S. History Scholarship has been awarded to **Peter R. Koontz** (Elkhart, Ind.) and **Jonny Meyer** (Millersburg, Ind.).

Oswin and David Gerber Scholarship in Mennonite Studies has been awarded to **Amanda Beachy** (Kalona, Ia.).

Our thanks to the generosity of the Smith and Gerber families. Goshen College welcomes donations to the Smith and Gerber scholarship endowments.

Congratulations to Horsch Contest Winners!

The Mennonite Church USA Historical Committee has announced the winners of the 2007 John Horsch Mennonite History Essay Contest, and two of the three winners in Class II (undergraduate college and university) were Goshen history students! Elizabeth Miller ('06, history major) received first place for her paper, "Moody, Fundamentalism, and Mennonites: The Struggle for Particularity and Engagement in Illinois Mennonite Churches," and John P. R. Eicher ('06, history minor) received second place for "Suspicious Minds: Fundamentalism and the First Mennonite Church of Berne, Indiana."

History Internship: New Discoveries from California to New York City

When I decided to spend the spring semester of my junior year (2006) as an intern in my home town of Fresno, California, I did not expect many exciting moments of self-discovery. But eight months and two internships later I returned to Goshen College brimming with excitement for the new life-possibilities that had opened to me.

I arranged my first internship with the archivist at the Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies located in the library at Fresno Pacific University. My work in the archives introduced me to the intriguing, mundane, and amusing aspects of raw Mennonite history. I processed eighty years worth of church committee minutes, membership records, and church camp-out pictures. When pieced together, these items reconstructed a picture of one church's complete life-cycle. However, the feeling that I was not stretching myself beyond my comfort zone kept nagging me.

So, for the summer months, I decided to become a pastoral intern at College Community Church MB in Clovis, California. My first day on the job I had to conquer my fear of speaking with strangers via telephone. The rest of the summer zoomed by as I felt myself stretched on a daily basis: visiting the elderly, preparing a sermon, leading book discussions, and tapping people to participate in mediation training. As a naturally reserved person, I felt as if I had finally discovered wings of social confidence.

Both internships provided a wealth of practical experience and numerous opportunities for personal growth. Yet it was the combination of the two that enhanced my understanding of my own needs, hopes, and abilities.

—Laura Neufeld, June 2007 Neufeld graduated with a major in history and a minor in Anabaptist-Mennonite Studies

This summer, I am interning with the Mennonite Central Committee Liaison to the United Nations in New York City. This small staff of two MCC workers and two interns advocates to the United Nations on behalf of international MCC workers in the field. As an intern, much of my time is spent researching international issues, writing reports for the U.N., and attending whatever U.N. meetings or briefings happen to catch my eye. My main assignment thus far has been to write a report on how well Israel is abiding by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (adopted by the U.N. in 1966 and in effect as of 1976) in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, especially those pertaining to torture, inhumane treatment of civilian detainees, and freedom of movement. This "shadow report" will be given to the United Nations Human Rights Committee along with Israel's official report. While I am often discouraged by the immense bureaucracy and seeming ineffectiveness of the U.N., I pray that this work will be a small step on the road to ending human rights abuses worldwide.

It quickly became clear to me that this internship benefits me much more than it will benefit the MCC office. While I am working hard, each day I am reminded how much I do not know about the United Nations, international politics and current events. I am thankful for this opportunity to volunteer for a Mennonite organization and learn so much about international politics and how Mennonites interact with the work of the United Nations.

—Jonny Meyer, June 2007 Meyer, a history and Bible & religion double-major, will be a senior this fall

JUNE 2007 EDITION Page 3

Faculty News

John D. Roth

After being on sabbatical during 2005-2006, John returned to the classroom this past school year. During May Term 2007 he led 25 students on the popular on-location course Anabaptist History in Europe. John published two books, Stories: How Mennonite Came to Be (Herald Press, 2006), which provides an accessible narrative of Anabaptism for those both new to and familiar with the tradition; and A Companion to Anabaptism and Spiritualism, 1521-1700 (Brill, 2007), co-edited with James M. Stayer. In June, he traveled to Strasbourg, France, as part of a series of ecumenical conversations between Mennonite World Conference and Lutheran World Federation. He continues to edit Mennonite Quarterly Review and answer many invitations from Mennonite churches to speak on historical and contemporary topics.

Jan Bender Shetler

In May Ohio University Press released Jan's book, *Imagining Serengeti: A History of Landscape Memory in Tanzania from Earliest Times to the Present.* The book was also the subject of an Afternoon Sabbatical presentation she made to the wider Goshen community in May. Jan again taught the history department's first year colloquium this year. She put considerable energy into the work of the

campus Multicultural Affairs Committee, and chaired the 2006 faculty retreat organized around "Global Citizenship in Our Own Backyard: Living and Learning with the Local Latino Community." This year Jan was promotion to professor and received a Fulbright-Hays Grant (see below).

Steve Nolt

Steve directed history senior seminar again this spring, chaired the campus Martin Luther King Study Day planning, and served on the Intellectual Property Task Force. In May, The John Hopkins University Press published his book Plain Diversity: Amish Cultures and Identities (co-authored with Tom Meyers). He also presented several conference papers and spoke to Mennonite historical organizations in Indiana, Kansas, and Ohio. He continues as book review editor for the Mennonite Quarterly Review and was promoted to professor.

Lee Roy Berry

Lee Roy continues to teach and maintain an active law practice. This year he taught two political science courses, as well as Latin American history and African American history. The July 2006 issue of *Mennonite Quarterly Review* includes his essay "Mennonites, African-Americans, the U.S. Constitution and the Problem of Assimilation."

Professor receives Fulbright-Hayes Fellowship

Jan Bender Shetler recently received a Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Fellowship to travel to Tanzania in summer 2007 and to Ethiopia in 2008. She will research inter-communal relationships between Muslims and Christians in Ethiopia and the peaceful coexistence of small ethnic groups in Tanzania. She hopes to uncover the local foundations for peace within these two countries. Inspiration for this project developed when Shetler led a study-service term in Ethiopia in the spring of 2005.

Recent Alumni News

Rebecca Allen ('04) has finished a volunteer term as a human rights accompanier in Guatemala.

Bradley Bergey ('98) works as an educational consultant in the Chicago area.

Allen L. Bohnert ('98) is a law clerk to the Hon. Daniel A. Polster, U.S. District Judge, N.D. Ohio.

Steve Eigsti ('05) is a physical education paraprofessional in Goshen.

Emily Hershberger ('04) recently completed work as a caregiver for disabled adults in Portland's L'Arche community.

Matthew Hochstetler ('06) is studying at the University of Toledo College of Law.

Tim Kennel ('00) works at the U.S. Census Bureau as a mathematical statistician.

André King ('99) is a medical student at George Washington University School of Medicine.

Andrew Krabill ('06) is a social studies teacher at Elkhart Central High School.

Aaron D. Lehman ('04) completed his studies at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in 2007.

Barnabas Martin ('02) is an English teacher in a Japanese kindergarten in Chiba, Japan.

Krissy Moehling ('02) is a graduate student at the U. of Pittsburgh in the school of public health.

Kirsten Peterson ('03) is an office coordinator/development assistant at Academy of Hope in Maryland.

Michael Sargent ('01) is assistant principal at Bon Air Middle School, Kokomo Ind.

Amanda Schmidt ('03) is a medical student at Indiana University School of Medicine.

Stephanie Short ('03) is a social studies teacher in Elkhart, Ind.

Ashley Sider ('05) is a client services/event coordinator with a business leadership coaching firm in Oregon.

Philip Stoltzfus ('87) recently published *Theology* as *Performance: Music, Aesthetics, and God in Western Thought* (T & T Clark, 2006).

Karl Stutzman ('03) is a library technician at Goshen College.

Josh Weaver ('06) is beginning an MCC term in Jordan in August 2007.

Landon Yoder ('04) is working with Peace Corps in Integrated Community Development in Saint Lucia, the Caribbean.

Krista Zimmerman ('97) is a legislative associate in the MCC Washington, D.C., office.

Page 4