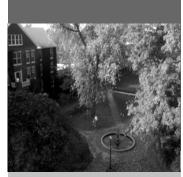
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Student Editor: Paul Shetler Faculty Editor: Steven Nolt



istory Department Newsletter

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David Reimer: From GC to the State Department -

By Paul Shetler

David Reimer graduated from Goshen College in 1984 with a history major and economics minor. Since then, he has gone on to lead an impressive career with the U.S. State Department.

David, who was raised in Ohio, credits his time at Goshen with helping to shape the perspective he brings to his work and his interest in working for the greater good. Study-Service Term (SST) in Belize was David's first international travel. His experience in Belize and at Goshen, with many supportive professors,

helped David to broaden his perspective and career goals. While David admits that the GC motto "Culture for service" has traditionally not meant government service, he believes that his work is helping to make the world a better place. David describes his job as "working to promote economic development, poverty alleviation

and mutually beneficial economic ties between foreign countries and the United States."

After leaving Goshen, David completed graduate studies at the University of Pittsburgh. He then worked with the Department of Agriculture for several years before beginning his

career with the State Department in 1991.

Until recently, David was Economic Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. There he worked with the Haitian government and international financial and aid organizations to promote environmentally-sustainable economic growth that would benefit all levels of society, particularly the poor.

David is currently head of the Refugee and Migration Affairs Office at the U.S. Mission in Geneva, Switzerland. He works with international organizations, such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

(UNHCR) and the International Red Cross, to help provide protection, assistance and sustainable solutions for refugees and the victims of conflict. "The work itself is inspiring," David said, "I am proud that I have a job that makes a positive impact on the lives of some of the most destitute people in the world."

Representing the U.S. government on these issues is also something he is proud of. He noted, for example, that "the U.S. is the largest contributor to UNHCR and the Red Cross and we take in more refugees than all the rest of the

(State Department, continued on page 2)

History, A Foundation for Peace Work ———

By Paul Shetler

Peace work is a critically needed profession in a world fraught with international wars, civil conflict and sectarian strife. One of Goshen College's core values is leading a life of compassionate peacemaking, but what is needed to achieve this?

Peace work is an interdisciplinary field, and it has only recently become an explicit area of study. However, historical awareness and understanding have always been central to compassionate and productive peace work. Joe Liechty, current professor of Peace, Justice and Conflict Studies at Goshen College, believes that history is a good background for peace work for two main reasons: "First, it is a vital avenue for encountering otherness and coming to terms with people who do things differently. And second, with so many of the world's conflicts revolving around issues of ethnicity and religion, it is imperative that peace workers learn how to think in nuanced ways about clashing historical memories."

Joe's career in peace work began with a

history degree from Goshen. When he moved to Ireland in 1980 and became involved in peace work, his first step was to get a Ph.D. in Irish history from the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. "I began with the assumption that I would work at peace issues in Ireland in an academic context and that an understanding of Irish history would be essential," Joe said. "However, even when my work was more practice-based, it was evident that my Ph.D. was one of my two main sources of credibility. The other was the number of years I was there, 24 in all. Both showed that I, and the mission agency that sent me, cared deeply about their culture and history—that we were in this for the long haul."

As a 2008 graduate and history major who has become involved with several peace projects, I have also found having historical perspective to be critically useful in engaging with diverse people and dealing compassionately with conflicting interests. In December of 2007, I participated in a Mennonite Central Commit-

(Peace Work, continued on page 2)

(State Department, continued from page 1) countries of the world combined."

But how has a history major from Goshen helped launch David into this exciting arena of international work? He said that it has helped him in two major ways: "First, studying history taught me to put current issues into perspective. So much of what happens in the world today has its roots in events decades or centuries ago. You can't make informed decisions without knowing the background and context. Second, in the Goshen College history department there was a strong emphasis on writing. Much of my work still involves drafting reporting cables for Washington D.C. and the ability to write quickly, clearly, and succinctly is highly valued."

Now in his sixth assignment with the State Department, David believes that foreign service is a good option for Goshen College students who are looking to make a difference, travel internationally and work on some of the most important issues facing the world today. His advice to Goshen students who might want to work in international affairs and economic development is to "try to spend at least a little time living in a developing country. SST is a great start. Read as much as you can about current events and question everything you read and hear. Keep an open mind. It is amazing how much living overseas challenges your pre-conceived notions about politics and justice. The answers are not as simple as they appear in the classroom."

Reflecting on his career, David believes that working with the State Department has given him "an unparalleled opportunity to interact globally and, in a small way, try to make a positive impact wherever I go."

(Peace work, continued from page 1)

tee learning tour delegation to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Our group went at a time when tensions between our governments were escalating quickly and the threat of war seemed imminent. We hoped to gain understanding into Iran, its people and the roots of the dangerously escalating international tensions. We also wanted to get to know Iranians and help humanize the relationship between our countries. I found that to understand anything about the current international crisis, it was imperative to look back at least a generation. To relate well to Iranians, I

needed history.

Cross-cultural relationships that can bridge the gap between ideologies, ethnicity, and politics are at the heart of effective peacemaking. However, it is deep historical understanding of both oneself and the other that allows these relationships to take root and grow.

Senior Seminar Theses -

Eleven history majors were members of the class of 2008. As always, senior historians explored a range of subjects through their theses, undertaking extensive primary source research and intensive writing. Congratulations to the Class of 2008!

Jeff M. Hochstetler (Orrville, Ohio), "Responding to Mission, Recreating Identity: The Formation and Development of Teen Haven Youth Center and Maple City Chapel from 1970-1982."

Emily M. Hodges (Goshen, Ind.), "Bringing Christ into the Haitian Context: Reweaving the Fabric of Culture at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Limbe, Haiti, 1958-1988."

Reuben Houser (Phoenix, Ariz.), graduated with the class of 2008, but had completed his history thesis in 2007, which was listed in last year's newsletter.

Randy H. Keener (Lebanon, Pa.), "Conflict, Negotiation, and a Mennonite Identity: Gingrichs Mennonite Church, 1930-1980."

Peter R. Koontz (Elkhart, Ind.), "A Tale of Two Peace Theologies: Camp Landon and Mennonite House During the Civil Rights Movement, 1961-1964."

Jonny A. Meyer (Millersburg, Ind.), "Sending Mixed Messages to Congress: Mennonite Involvement in Proposed National Health Care Reform, 1992-1994."

Jesse D. Rohrer (Harrisonburg, Va.), "Gender and the American Civil War: How Elite Southern Women and Shenandoah Valley Unionist Women Experienced the War in Similar Ways."

J. André Shenk (Lancaster, Pa.), "A Crisis Among Mennonites: Competing Traditions in the Mennonite Church in the Early 1980s."

Kelly Y. Shenk (Goshen, Ind.), "Shifting Attitudes in the Mennonite Church Toward Female Pastoral Leadership: A Process of Dialogue, Consensus, and Dissemination, 1970-1990."

Paul Bender Shetler (Goshen, Ind.), "MCC's People-Centered Development: A Sustained Relationship with Vietnam, 1954-2008."

Nathan Yoder, "Immigration and History Textbooks in Goshen, Indiana: Static Curriculum in a Changing Town."

Three members of the class of 2008 graduated with minors in history: **Michael D. O. Omondi** (Nairobi, Kenya), **Francisco J. R. Carcavallo** (Montevideo, Uruguay) and **Emily J. Stutzman** (Lebanon, Ore.).

History Internship: Reaching Out and Being Stretched -

Lydette Assefa, Compassion International, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

I decided to spend three months in Ethiopia this summer, after SST in Tanzania, to reconnect with my extended family there. This idea soon evolved into taking the opportunity to do my history internship in Ethiopia. My internship is with Compassion International, a world-wide child sponsorship and community development organization that today helps more than 1 million children with programs around the world.

Through my work with Compassion, I have been introduced firsthand to development work in a third world country. My job has primarily consisted of interviewing university students who have been sponsored through Compassion's Child Development through Sponsorship program. Compassion helps connect some of the country's poorest children with sponsors who are willing to contribute money every month to send the child to school and assist the family with food. Compassion also provides tutorial help outside of class and a small library and recreation area for participating children. When the sponsored children graduate from high school, those with leadership potential are eligible for Compassion's Leader-



ship Development Program where they are connected with another sponsor who agrees to fund their four years of college. These university students are the people I interviewed to learn about their life stories and the impact of Compassion on their lives. I then wrote their stories for publication in Compassion's various magazines and bulletins to encourage more sponsorship.

I have learned a lot during this internship. Working with the sponsored university students has given me valuable perspective on the impact development organizations can have. For many of these students, the work of Compassion has meant the difference between a life struggling just to get by and the opportunity to have a university education, get a professional job, and give back to their country. While humanitarian issues can be overwhelming, I have realized that with some networking and redistribution of resources, there is the possibility to dramatically alter a child's life and not only keep them out of poverty but equip them to become agents.

As a result of my work, I have had to rethink my assumption that the most efficient method of bringing change is advocacy for policy-wide change. While I had hoped to pursue international law and human rights, my experience here at Compassion has encouraged me to think about the value of working directly with the people and communities I wish to impact. Compassion International Ethiopia is a small organization that relies solely on donations, and yet, with the few staff and resources available, they make significant changes in the lives of thousands of children in central and southern Ethiopia. While Compassion Ethiopia has recently expanded to include an advocacy department, the main thrust of its work is to organize and coordinate child sponsorship throughout Ethiopia. Through my work I have seen the amazing changes this approach can have on the lives of young people in Ethiopia.

—Lydette Assefa, June 2008. Assefa, a history and English double major, will be a senior this fall.

Kelly Shenk, Maple Scholars, Goshen, Ind.

This summer I am completing my history internship by participating in the Maple Scholars program at Goshen College. I will be working on two different Maple Scholars projects; one with Jeanne Liechty, professor of Social Work, and the other with Robert Reyes, research director at the Center for Intercultural Teaching and Learning (CITL). For the project with Jeanne Liechty I will be working with another student (Erin Boers) to do a preliminary needs and feasibility assessment for a proposed ecumenical peace and justice center in Elkhart County. The proposed center would provide conflict mediation and legal advocacy services for people in Elkhart County with limited financial resources. My work on this project will consist of data gathering through phone interviews, compiling and analyzing this data, and drafting a final report of the findings. The project with Robert Reyes will focus on developing a demographic study of Latinos in Elkhart County for the CITL. With fellow student Ben Noll, I will be analyzing census data and other secondary source information and writing a report that will identify population trends, socioeconomic needs, and other characteristics of the Hispanic population in the Goshen/Elkhart area.



After focusing primarily on improving my historical research skills for the past four years, these sociological projects will be a bit of an adjustment. However, I am looking forward to using some of the research methods I have learned as well as developing some new sociological research skills. After completing the Maple Scholars projects at the end of July, I will be heading to New York City to participate in the Mennonite Voluntary Service program there with Mennonite Mission Network. I will be working at the World Vision office in New York City and will report to the World Vision policy adviser. Part of my work will include basic administrative tasks in the office. However, I will also work on various research projects for World Vision, such as generating humanitarian briefing notes based on attendance at various U.N. meetings and seminars. I will also assist the peace building policy adviser in researching for World Vision policy papers and maintaining World Vision's country files. This opportunity will put the research and writing skills from my history major to good use! I also hope to get a better idea about what kinds of work I would like to do in the future and figure out where life will take me next.

— Kelly Shenk, June 2008. Shenk, a history major, graduated with the class of 2008.

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Faculty News

Jan Bender Shetler

During the spring 2008 semester Jan led an SST group in Tanzania—the first SST unit in that country. In October 2007 she had attended the African Studies Association annual meeting, where she presented a paper, with history graduate Dawit Yehualashet ('07), entitled "Muslim-Christian Relations in Harar, Ethiopia: The Role of Inter-communal Associations in Maintaining Peace." She also published book reviews in Mennonite Quarterly Review and African Studies Review. Jan is the recipient of a Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Grant to fund further research on ethnic identity, communal interaction, and peace. Under the grant, she spent the summer of 2007 in Tanzania; the second portion of the grant will allow her to spend the summer of 2009 researching in Ethiopia.

Lee Roy Berry, Jr.

Lee Roy continued to teach half-time while also maintaining a community-minded law practice in Goshen. In November 2007 Lee Roy delivered a campus convocation address, "Stories from my Vocational Journey." In April and May he participated in a five-week study seminar "Our Mexican Neighbors: Historical, Cultural, Political, and Economic Contexts," which included a full week in Mexico. Lee Roy received a Center for Intercultural Teaching and

Learning grant to support his travel to Mexico.

Steven P. Miller

Steven, a 1999 GC grad who earned his Ph.D. at Vanderbilt, was a Visiting Assistant Professor of History during spring semester and May term. In addition to his teaching, Steven completed work on his book The Politics of Decency: Billy Graham, Evangelicalism, and the End of the Solid South, which will be published by University of Pennsylvania Press in 2009. Steven presented papers at two conferences during the spring semester: "Dilemmas of the Neo-evangelical Project: Billy Graham, Richard Nixon, and the 1960 Election" at the Policy History Conference, and "Philanthropy, Evangelicalism, and Anti-Liberalism in the Post-WWII United States" at the Organization of American Historians.

Steven M. Nolt

Steve was on a leave from teaching in the fall, back in the classroom in the spring, and enrolled in an intensive Chinese class during May in preparation for leading the China SST unit in Nanchong during fall 2008. Steve coauthored two books that appeared in fall 2007, *Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy* (Jossey-Bass) and *Mennonites*,

Amish, and the American Civil War (Johns Hopkins). He also authored a chapter in the book *The Amish and the Media* (Johns Hopkins, 2008). Steve served as department chair and continues as book review editor for *Mennonite Quarterly Review* and series editor for Studies in Anabaptist and Mennonite History. In January he presented a paper "Globalizing a Separate People: World Christianity and American Mennonites," at the American Historical Association annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

John D. Roth

In addition to teaching, directing the Mennonite Historical Library and editing Mennonite Quarterly Review, John continued his engagement with many churchly audiences, both Mennonite and ecumenical. He participated in ongoing Lutheran-Mennonite dialogues (in both Indiana and France), and published "Forgiveness and the Healing of Memories: An Anabaptist-Mennonite Perspective," in Journal of Ecumenical Studies (Fall 2007). In November 2007 he delivered the annual Friesen Lectures at Canadian Mennonite University, Winnipeg, and throughout the year spoke at a dozen different Mennonite churches, camps, and regional conferences. He spent May 2008 in archival research in Germany.

2008-2009 Scholarship Recipients -

Congratulations to Scholarship winners for the 2008-2009 School Year!

- Willard and Verna Smith U.S. History Scholarship: Thomas Leischner (Harrisonburg, Va.).
- Oswin and David Gerber Scholarship in Mennonite Studies: **Lane Miller** (Danvers, Ill.) and **Anna Showalter** (Waynesboro, Pa.). Goshen College welcomes donations to the Smith and Gerber scholarship endowments.

Publications by Recent Graduates ———

During 2007-2008 several journals published articles based on the senior thesis work of recent Goshen College history graduates:

- Jason B. Kauffman ('05), "Faith Amidst Prosperity: Business, Wealth and the Mennonite Church in Fulton County, Ohio, 1930-2005," in Mennonite Quarterly Review, October 2007, 599-621.
- Elizabeth M. Miller ('06), "Moody, Fundamentalism and Mennonites: The Struggle for Particularity and Engagement in Illinois Mennonite Churches, 1900-1955," in *Illinois Mennonite Heritage Quarterly*, Winter 2007, 96-101, and Spring 2008, 1-8.
- Laura K. Neufeld ('07), "Leading a Divided People: The Dissolution of the General Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches (1990-2002)," in *Mennonite Quarterly Review*, October 2007, 485-514.
- Joshua R. Weaver ('06), "Five Degrees of Separation: The Azusa Street Revival, Nelson Litwiller, and the Mennonite Charismatic Movement," in *Mennonite Historical Bulletin*, July 2007, 10-15.