

## David Harnish Conducts Oral History Interviews

BY TED MAUST

During the spring and summer of 2012 senior David Harnish joined professor Jan Bender Shetler in an oral history project involving older members of the African-American community in Elkhart, Indiana.

The project dove-tailed with Harnish's senior history thesis, which focused on Elkhart's place in the "Great Migration" of black residents from the rural South to the urban North in the early twentieth century. The project not only gave Harnish additional primary source material for his thesis, but also provided him with experience in oral history and culminated in an internship with the Elkhart County Historical Museum in Bristol, Indiana.

Bender Shetler had received a grant from Goshen College's Center for Intercultural Teaching and Learning (CITL) to support work with the Historical Museum's "Coming to Elkhart" project, a project that is seeking to increase the museum's resources on the county's ethnic and racial diversity. She invited Harnish to participate in the project, and together they conducted eighteen in-depth oral history interviews during the spring semester.

Harnish continued working with the project into the summer as a CITL-funded intern at the museum. He transcribed the interviews, created an index of the transcripts and wrote a profile of each interviewee. Using the Library of Congress subject authorities, he tagged each interview and inserted minute markers so that listeners can easily find specific sections of each recording.

Another part of Harnish's work with the museum was to consider how to share this kind of oral history digitally, both for future public exhibits and for other researchers. Online access to these materials should be available in the near future.



Emily Leischner ('10) in her office at the Philadelphia Museum of Art in the American Paintings and Sculptures department.

## History Alumni and Museum Studies

BY TED MAUST

Public history is an arena in which many of today's historians employ their skills. Public historians move beyond traditional classroom walls, and museums are key sites for engaging new and wider audiences.

Emily (Taylor) Leischner ('10) was drawn to museum work as a way to engage a broader community. Leischner currently works at the Philadelphia Museum of Art in the American Paintings and Sculptures department, managing the records of the department's permanent collection and assisting curators. She also does longer-term research projects for future exhibits.

At Goshen, Leischner gained experience with several internships, including working with the Northern Indiana Center for History in South Bend. She and her husband Thomas ('10) had also participated in professor Jan Bender Shetler's May Term course History of the Southwest, which introduced various history methods, including archaeology, oral history, and public history interpretation. Thomas currently works at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

*see History Alumni, p. 3*

## Kauffman Curates Exhibit, Combines Interests in Art and History

BY TED MAUST

Melissa Kauffman, a member of the class of 2012, put her History major and her Art minor to work last fall when she was approached by Art professor Randy Horst about curating a quilt exhibit sponsored by the Mennonite-Amish Museum Committee. Working with professor emeritus Ervin Beck and museum committee member Barb Smucker, Kauffman designed an exhibit and prepared quilts and other artifacts for a show that was on exhibition from March 23 to July 6, 2012 in the Good Library Museum Gallery. Kauffman also worked with Emma Brooks, class of 2013, to design promotional materials.

The exhibit highlighted quilts and related objects from the permanent collection of the Mennonite Historical Library, located on the Goshen College campus. The quilts came from Mennonite, Amish, Hutterite, and Native American communities.

With only one week to actually mount the quilts, Kauffman had to adjust her design to the physical limitations of the space. But with the help of some friends, she was able to pull it off. The experience engaged both Kauffman's artistic side and her interest in history. "It is important," she said, "not only to approach designing an exhibit from an artistic perspective but also with the knowledge of each items' history, so that the design makes artistic and historical sense."

Kauffman received independent study academic credit for her work.

While museum studies are perhaps still in her future, Kauffman plans to serve with Mennonite Voluntary Service next year in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, helping to settle refugees, and may pursue a career in social work.

The Mennonite-Amish Museum Committee has sponsored thirty-four exhibits since its beginning in 1985. Professor emeritus Ervin Beck notes that although student assistants from the History and Art departments have helped with exhibits in the library gallery before, Kauffman was the first student to design and install a show in its entirety. Her success makes him eager to collaborate with students in the future.

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## Penner Creates Film for Kansas Museum

During the summer of 2011 Daniel Penne ('12) completed his history internship at the Kauffman Museum in North Newton, Kansas. Although Penner worked on a variety of tasks during his internship, his primary project was the creation of a new introductory video for the museum. The project drew on both his history major and his minor in multimedia communication. "I was able to experiment with Motion [animation software] and troubleshoot encoding issues with Final Cut Pro, Compressor, iMovie and iDVD," he reported. The seven-and-a-half-minute film, entitled "Of Land and People," is being shown at the museum and is also available on YouTube (search for "Kauffman Museum Intro Video").

## Seniors Complete History Theses on Varied Topics

Twelve history majors completed the department's senior seminar during spring 2012, writing senior theses based on extensive primary source research and continuing projects they had begun as juniors.

**Christopher W. Ballge** (Goshen, Ind.), "Five Medals: An Alternative Perspective on Native American Conflict in the Early Republic"

**Hannah E. Canaviri** (Santa Cruz, Bolivia), "'Noble Sisterhood': The 1874 Woman's Temperance Crusade in Elkhart County"

**Sean M. Fredinburg** (Colorado Springs, Colo.), "Depression in the Beginning of the Twentieth Century"

**William D. Funk** (Gallup, N.M.), "Benevolent Paternalism: Managing the Mennonite Publishing House, 1943 to 1971"

**David A. Harnish** (Flanagan, Ill.), "Respectability and Reciprocity: How African Americans Formed a Community in Elkhart, Indiana (1918-1948)"

**Melissa J. Kauffman** (Goshen, Ind.), "Amy Sudermann Enss, 1878-1975: A Woman's Reflection on a Multicultural Life Story"

**Zachary L. Kyle** (Goshen, Ind.), "Reforms of Vatican II and Reactions of Traditional Roman Catholics at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church: Where Past and Present Meet"

**Theodore J. Maust** (Lititz, Pa.), "Imagining a Mennonite Peoplehood Amidst 'Modern Babel': John F. Funk and the Herald of Truth, 1857-1875"

**Daniel H. Penner** (Harper, Kans.), "From Capital to Capitalism: MEDA's Unique Role in the Economic Development of Paraguayan Indigenous Groups, 1965 to 1977"

**Sarah N. Tapia** (Plymouth, Ind.), "Working for Acceptance of Women's Ordination: Mennonite Church Committees for Women in Leadership, 1975-present"

**Austin D. Yoder** (Wellman, Iowa), "Navigating the Complex Market Economy: Exploring the Roots of Elkhart County's Unique Agricultural Demographics"

**Matilda K. Yoder** (London, Ohio), "Developing 'The Club Habit': How Women's Literary Clubs Built a Sense of Citizenship in Elkhart County, Indiana, 1880-1920"

The class of 2012 also included five students with minors in history: **Ben W. Baumgartner** (Hesston, Kans.), **Andrea L. Birky** (Colorado Springs, Colo.), **Jan Dohnal** (Hluk, Czech Republic), **John Klassen Harder** (Bluffton, Ohio), and **Logan Simensen** (Harrisonburg, Va.).

*continued from pg. 1*

When she graduated, Emily had hoped to qualify immediately for a job like the one she has now, but found that she had to start by working an early morning shift at Starbucks and volunteering at museums in the Philadelphia area. Volunteering allowed her to get to know museum staff and “gain some great experience” along the way. Though the economy delayed Emily’s ambitions—it was six months until she found employment at the museum and another year until she landed her current job—she discovered that the time pushed her to clarify her goals and future plans.

Despite a tough job market, Emily encourages GC graduates to “stick with it!” Emily plans to pursue a master’s degree in anthropology in a couple years in order to work at repatriating sacred artifacts to Native American people.

Dr. Janneken Smucker (’98), now an assistant professor of history at West Chester (PA) University, has been deeply involved in public history and museum work since her undergraduate days at GC. Smucker completed a museum studies internship while at Goshen and now works as a content specialist for various museums, designing interactive content for websites and exhibitions.

Fascinated by Amish and Mennonite quilts, Smucker pursued graduate studies in material culture and history, completing a master’s degree at the University of Nebraska and a doctorate at the University of Delaware. Drawn to museums by the artifacts, Smucker found “the field of public history to be less of an internal dialogue among academics and to be more relevant to members of society outside academia.” And, she adds, “museums again are one of the places where this can happen most readily.” At West Chester University, Smucker teaches courses on incorporating digital technologies into the practice and sharing of history, helping prepare the next generation of public historians.

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## Public History and Goshen College

Public historians take history beyond classroom walls and communicate with new audiences in new ways. Public history vocations include local historical society staff, cultural resources managers, museum professionals, historic preservationists, archivists, film and media producers, and policy advisors.

This issue of the History Department Newsletter highlights some of the ways GC students and alumni have been involved in public history, from working at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Elkhart County Historical Society to curating an exhibit for Goshen College Library Gallery and producing a film for the Kauffman Museum in North Newton, Kansas.

We expect to introduce a new course in public history in 2013, building on relationships with area museums, local historical societies, and the Mennonite Church USA Archives.

- *Steven M. Nolt, Professor of History*

## History Repeats Itself: Department Victorious in Second Battle for Wyse 3rd

BY TED MAUST



Historians celebrate gridiron glory. Front row: Ben Sutter, Hannah Canaviri, Mara Weaver; back row: Sean Fredinburg, John Roth, Steve Nolt, Billy Funk, Ted Maust, Daniel Penner, David Harnish, Matthew Amstutz. Photo credit: Becca Kraybill

Now there will be two footballs on the third floor of Wyse Hall, the academic home to the History Department, Bible, Religion & Philosophy Department, and Peace, Justice & Conflict Studies Department.

Last year an old deflated football, which sat above the cabinets in the kitchen and had the words “The Battle for Wyse 3” written on it, caught the attention of several history majors. They learned from professors that it was a trophy of sorts, commemorating a football game back in 2005 between the History Department and the combined forces of the BRP and PJCS departments. The ball symbolized bragging rights since the History Department had been victorious by a wide margin, winning 63-21.

Led by Daniel Penner (’12), this year’s history majors discussed bringing back the game. Amid a groundswell of enthusiasm at the History Department spring social gathering, history students formally issued a challenge to the BRP and PJCS students and faculty to meet them on April 20 on the field in front of Yoder Residence Hall. The day saw rain, but both teams had a good turnout. Highlights include the antics of Ben Baumgartner, BRP major and History minor, who played for BRP squad while using a cane since he was recovering from a broken femur, yet succeeded in receiving a kick-off, swatting away a pass on defense, and scoring a touchdown.

Despite Baumgartner’s heroic efforts for the BRP/PJCS team, the History Department won, 35-28. “The Battle for Wyse 3rd turned out as expected—History went in the clear favorite, and left the clear victor,” reflected Penner. The new football has joined the old one on Wyse 3 and a tradition may be reignited. There is already talk of making it an annual event. If that happens, Penner thinks that “the future for History looks pretty bright, even if PJCS professor Joe Liechty brings his cleats.”



## Student & Recent Alumni Prizes, Publications, and Presentations

**Mallori Norris ('11)** received first prize (undergraduate division) in the 2011 John Horsch Mennonite History Essay Contest, sponsored by the Historical Committee of Mennonite Church USA. Norris had submitted her history senior thesis, an excerpt of which was then published as "Preach in Your Womanly Way," *Mennonite Historical Bulletin*, October 2011, 7-13. **Jonny Gerig Meyer ('08)** received first place in the graduate category of the Horsch Contest. He graduated from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in 2011.

**Ben Sutter ('13)** won third prize in the 2012 Anabaptist Research Paper Competition, sponsored by Sider Institute for Anabaptist, Pietist, and Wesleyan Studies at Messiah College, for his paper "Sharing Church Leadership: The Toba Indians and the Holy Spirit."

Six history majors and one minor—Ben Baumgartner, Hannah Canaviri, David Harnish, Melissa Kauffman, Ted Maust, Daniel Penner, and Matilda Yoder—presented papers at the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Goshen College Student Academic Symposium, March 31, 2012. The department had one of the best representations at the Symposium. Canaviri, Harnish, and Maust also presented papers at the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Chicago-land Christian College History Conference, on April 14.

**Austin Yoder ('12)** wrote the lead article for the Spring 2012 issue of *A Sense of Place*, the newsletter of the Elkhart County Historical Society. Yoder's article, "Technology, Markets, and Culture: Changes in Elkhart County Agriculture," drew on his senior thesis and his internship at the Elkhart County Historical Museum.

**Elizabeth Miller ('06)** published "Migrants Learn Mission in Latin America: Colombian Mennonites and Mennonite Brethren in a Context of Rapid Urbanization, 1957-1980," *Mission Focus: Annual Review* 19 (2011), 9-18. Miller is on assignment with Mennonite Central Committee in Bogotá, Colombia.

**Sarah Roth-Mullet ('07)** coauthored, with GC professor of English Ann Hostetler, "The Southern Cheyenne in the Poetry of Anna Ruth Ediger Baehr," *Mennonite Quarterly Review* 85 (July 2011), 413-40. The article drew on Roth-Mullet's history senior seminar paper. Roth-Mullet is living in Hesston, Kansas and recently began a master of information science program through the University of Illinois.

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## Some Recent History Alumni Activities

**Dominique Burgunder-Johnson ('06)** is Online Advocacy and Outreach Manager at the National Wildlife Federation.

**Matthew R. Hochstetler ('06)** is a lawyer in practice with Critchfield, Critchfield & Johnston, Wooster, Ohio.

**Jason Kauffman ('05)** spent the 2011-2012 academic year in South America as part of his history Ph.D. program at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill.

**David Horst Lehman ('10)** is beginning doctoral study in history at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

**Andrew Krabill ('06)** teaches geography and world history at Elkhart (Ind.) Central High School.

**Abby Nafziger ('06)** is employed at NPower Northwest providing tech training for poverty-alleviation nonprofits in the Seattle area.

**Laura Neufeld ('07)** is pastor of First Mennonite Church of Christian, Moundridge, Kansas.

**Saulo Padilla ('05)** is Director of the Office on Immigration Education for Mennonite Central Committee U.S.

**Laura Reinheimer ('05)** is enrolled at University of Denver College of Law with a full Chancellor's Scholarship.

**Peter ('08)** and **Kelly ('08) Shenk Koontz** are serving in Afghanistan with Mennonite Central Committee.

**Amanda Schmidt ('03)** is a medical doctor with Goshen Family Physicians.

**Paul Shetler Fast ('08)** is a Program Manager at VA Butler Healthcare, near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

**Anna Showatler ('10)** is a student at Duke Divinity School, Durham, N.C.

**Isaac Smith ('09)** is a student at the University of Iowa College of Law.

**Abigail Trollinger ('04)** is completing her dissertation in U.S. urban history at Northwestern University.

**Don Williams ('06)** teaches social studies at Westview Junior High, Topeka, Indiana.

**Nathan Yoder ('08)** teaches at Laurel Ridge Middle School in Sherwood, Oregon.

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## Scholarship Recipients

The 2012-2013 Willard and Verna Smith U.S. History Scholarship recipient is **Jackson Beck** (Archbold, Ohio).

The Oswin and David Gerber Scholarship in Mennonite Studies for 2011-2012 has been awarded to **Ben Sutter** (South Bend, Ind.).

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