

# History Department Newsletter

HEALING THE WORLD  
PEACE BY PEACE

GOSHEN

## Professor Researches Women's History in Tanzania

By David A. Harnish

Jan Bender Shetler spent the fall of 2010 conducting research in the Mara region of Tanzania, a region she has studied since 1995. Over the last decade and a half, she has published a book and several articles on the history of people living in the region.

In the past Jan often conducted oral history interviews with men. When she asked to speak with "someone who knows history," locals would direct her to elderly men, since people assumed that men carried the local memories. Only occasionally was the village expert a woman.

During her most recent time in Tanzania, Jan set out to interview elderly women living along Lake Victoria, since women can offer valuable historical insight into the ethnically diverse Mara region. Jan had discovered that



Above, Jan Bender Shetler with Turfena Miluo Oyaya in Shirati.

men's stories focused on individual ethnic groups, rather than on the interactions between groups – something women have important insight into. Traditionally women moved to join their husband's family at marriage, often moving very far from their parents and friends and being forced to establish new social ties in a new ethnic environment. This

See *Women's History*, page 3.



At right, Jan with the family of Pastor Erasto and Sylvia Nyamusika, in Bumangi

## Goshen College Launches Institute for the Study of Global Anabaptism

Goshen College is excited to announce the establishment of the Institute for the Study of Global Anabaptism. Professor of History John D. Roth is director of the Institute, which aims to nurture a new generation of scholarship and fraternal exchange explicitly oriented to the global Anabaptist church.

The ISGA will serve as a visible point of intersection between Goshen College students, Mennonite Church USA, the worldwide Anabaptist communion, and the rapidly expanding global Christian community.

In recent decades, the most dramatic growth in the Anabaptist-Mennonite family of faith has occurred in countries outside of Europe and North America. Today there are some 1.7 million Anabaptist-Mennonites in the world, representing 227 groups in 83 countries. From the perspective of five centuries of Anabaptist history, this is a phenomenal development that is transforming the character and future of the tradition.

The ISGA will foster scholarship on the changing demographics of the worldwide Anabaptist communion and the implications for doctrine, eth-

ics, organization, worship, spiritual practices and mission within these new contexts.

The ISGA hopes to facilitate a program of visiting scholars and establish partnerships with Anabaptist study centers around the globe. The ISGA is planning a Fall 2012 conference on the "Suffering Church."

The Institute invites donations in support of its initiatives. Contact John Roth about making a gift to the Institute. For more information on the institute, see <http://www.goshen.edu/institutes/anabaptism/>

# Secret Societies on Display: An Internship at the Elkhart County Historical Museum

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By David A. Harnish

After returning to Goshen in June 2010 from a year studying in Japan, history major Jake Martens ('11) was looking for a local internship in public history. He had already completed an internship at an archives and now decided to explore museum work with an internship at the Elkhart County Historical Museum, in Bristol. Jake worked with ECHM director Nicholas Hoffman during July and August and continued working at the museum part time after the school year started.

As an intern Jake was involved with a variety of tasks, including filling out accession forms and categorizing new objects donated to the museum. He enjoyed the accession process, which required closely examining and evaluating every object in an attempt to accurately fill out the reports.

The Elkhart County Historical Museum is in the midst of a major reorganization of its materials, moving objects from loose placement on shelves to professional storage in containers. This process of "containerizing" artifacts was another essential job Jake did for the museum, making sure that boxes were properly stored and balanced. Jake also helped to de-

accession and remove objects that seemed outside the museum's collection aims. This included getting rid of objects such as undocumented bolts of cloth.

A significant part of Jake's work involved helping create a special exhibit on the history of secret societies in Elkhart County, and even building the mounts for several of the artifacts. "I also did a lot of work looking up what the various symbols on the objects meant," said Jake. "There was symbolism all over the place with these objects." The secret societies featured in the exhibit included groups as varied as the Freemasons, the Grange, the Odd Fellows, the Ku Klux Klan, the Woodsmen of America, and others. Although all were defined as secret societies, Jake explained that "Most of the secret societies were essentially just clubs." The exhibit, entitled "Worthy Brothers and Sisters," opened on October 5.

Jake considers his internship a very worthwhile experience. "I really love museums," he said. "But I never had any experience except visiting them until now." Jake considers public history a vocational possibility. But first, he will spend a year in Winnipeg, Manitoba, with Mennonite Voluntary Service.

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## Senior Seminar Theses

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Fifteen history majors participated in the department's senior seminar during spring 2011, completing senior theses based on extensive primary source research — in most cases, continuing projects they had begun as juniors. Thirteen of these students were members of the class of 2011 and participated in commencement on May 1.

**Jesse Bontrager** (Corvallis, Ore.), "Mennonite Relief Workers in Postwar Europe: A Continent of Ideological Dilemmas"

**Minda L. Clemens** (Goshen, Ind.), "The Life and Journey of Rosemarie Freeney Harding"

**Matthew Donat** (Topeka, Ind.), "Topeka, Indiana: How a Midwestern Town Survived the 20th Century"

**Jacob E. Geyer** (Parnell, Iowa), "Renewing a Tradition of Radicalism: The Draft Resistance Movement and Mennonite General Conference, 1969"

**Christa Graber** (Hesston, Kans.), "Dr. Willard Krabill: Ideological Broker for the Mennonite Church"

**Annalisa Klassen Harder** (Bluffton, Ohio), "Goshen College and Bluffton College from 1894-1924: Differences between Two Institutions of Mennonite Higher Education"

**Joshua M. Hertzler** (Lancaster, Pa.), "Go Slow Through Uyo": Relations between Mennonites and African Independent Churches and a New Mentality for Missions"

**David E. Stoltzfus Jost** (Harrisonburg, Va.), "Mennonite Central Committee Thrift Stores in the U.S."

**Jacob P. Martens** (Goshen, Ind.), "The Question of Isolationism in Elkhart County, Indiana, during the 1920s"

**Kelly M. Miller** (Harrisonburg, Va.), "Behind Mennonite Same-Sex Sexuality Debates: Virginia Mennonite Conference, 1998-2002"

**Mallori R. Norris** (Lowville, N.Y.), "Women in Ministry in the Missionary Church, 1873-Present"

**Derek Swartz** (Harrisonburg, Va.), "From Quietism to Quincentenary: The Columbus Anniversary and the Culmination of Forty Years of Mennonite Peace Theology in 1992"

**Jacob S. Swartzentruber** (Albuquerque, N.M.), "A Closely-Knit Partnership: Mennonite Central Committee and the Meserete Kristos Church's Attempt at Preventing Famine in Ethiopia from 1974-1982"

**David J. Wiegner** (Ephrata, Pa.), "A Look at Goshen College's Athletic Department, 1894-1982"

The class of 2011 also included five students with minors in history: Rosanna Kauffmann (Goshen, Ind.), Brian Martin (Lancaster, Pa.), Chloe H. Mathonnet-VanderWell (Pella, Ia.), Michael Ruth (Archbold, Ohio), and Kellyn Yoder (Goshen, Ind.).

## Scholarship Recipients

The 2011-2012 Willard and Verna Smith U.S. History Scholarship recipients are **Hannah Canaviri** (Santa Cruz, Bolivia) and **Ted Maust** (Lancaster, Pa.).

The Oswin and David Gerber Scholarship in Mennonite Studies for 2011-2012 has been awarded to **Daniel H. Penner** (Harper, Kans.).

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.

*Women's History, cont. from page 1.*

allowed them to better describe differences and changes in the area, as well as remember things that men did not.

Initially, she found women saying, "I don't know history." Yet repeatedly she discovered that they knew a great deal, and they provided a fresh perspective that focused on events of families and individual ancestors. An important tradition that surfaced in the interviews was that of young granddaughters going to their grandmother's house to sleep, and then hearing their grandmother's stories as they went to bed. Today, elderly women can still recount those stories, including details of their grandmothers' personal lives, providing a rich source of oral history that goes back well into the nineteenth century.

After conducting 95 interviews with women from the Mara region, Jan's current challenge is to compile the stories and shape a narrative. In order to share her research with Tanzanians, Jan has also undertaken an ambitious project with the help of GC history major Ted Maust ('12) to create a digital library of her more than 15 years of research, making the audio, transcripts, video and photos available to both Tanzanians and scholars in North America. In addition to digitizing her research, Jan also has another book manuscript underway, a history of the Mara Region based on women's historical memory.

## Department Hosts Guest Lecturers on Campus, in Classrooms

On November 4-5 the History Department hosted W. Scott Harrop, a lecturer in political science at the University of Virginia and an expert on contemporary Iran. Along with the Peace, Justice, and Conflict Studies Department, the History Department sponsored a public lecture entitled "The Audacity of Mutual Respect: A Better Path for U.S.-Iran Relations — and Why it Matters." Harrop's assessment of President Obama's Iran Policy had recently been published in *Iranian Review of Foreign Affairs*. While on campus, Professor Harrop spoke in several classes and interacted with students over lunch on Friday.

Other guest speakers enriched history courses this year. In November, Dr. Paola Voci, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand, who was lecturing at Indiana University and the University of Chicago, came to Goshen and shared with students in Modern China her research on the politics of new media in China today. During the spring semester Dr. Paul Schauert, ethnomusicologist from Indiana University-South Bend, lectured in African Politics, and Dr. Mika Roinila, Bethel College (Indiana), spoke in American Immigration and Ethnic History about Finland-Swedes in Canada and the United States. As well, the Anabaptist-Mennonite History class heard from a Mennonite World Conference delegation representing Columbia, Congo and India.



*Members of Steve Nolt's Modern China class enjoy a Sichuan meal on November 13. The meal was prepared with the help of several class members under the direction of Jim Graves, a Goshen High School teacher who lived in China as a language exchange teacher and, while there, took a special interest in regional cooking. Above, Michael Ruth and Daniel Penner; right, SaeJin Lee and Lauren Stoltzfus.*



## Faculty Activities

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**John D. Roth** continued as director of the Mennonite Historical Library and editor of *Mennonite Quarterly Review*, in addition to teaching. His courses this year included his popular colloquium Human Stories and his class on Anabaptist-Mennonite History. Last fall John published *Teaching That Transforms* (Herald Press, 2010), an exploration of Anabaptist-Mennonite pedagogy. He also began a term of service on the Faith and Life Commission of Mennonite World Conference. Trips to Kenya, Taiwan, and Guatemala during the year allowed John to connect with global Mennonite leaders. One of John's major projects was launching the Institute for the Study of Global Anabaptism. See page 1 for more details.

Having returned from sabbatical, **Steven Nolt** taught a full slate of U.S. history courses, junior and senior seminars, and a course on Modern China. He published several journal articles and a book chapter this year. In addition, he coauthored *Amish Grace: Patient Faith in a Perilous World* (Jossey-Bass, 2010), a book examining Old Order Amish spirituality. During the 2010

-2011 school year he also served as chair of GC faculty and led the college's Academic Affairs Committee.

**Jennifer A. Hart** taught a wide range of world and African history courses this year, including History of Colonial Encounters, African Politics, and History of Ethnic Conflict. Alongside these courses, Jennifer also completed her dissertation through Indiana University. Congratulations! Her dissertation focuses on Ghana, and Jennifer presented her research at several professional gatherings this year, including the African Studies Association annual conference.

This fall Jennifer will join the history department at Wayne State University in Detroit, where she has been hired as assistant professor of African History. We thank Jennifer for her dedicated service to Goshen College and wish her all the best as she launches her career at Wayne State.

**Jan Bender Shetler** was on sabbatical during the 2010-2011 school year. See page 1 for more on her research project and activities.

**N. Gerald Shenk** taught political science during the fall semester. Gerald has extensive international experience, especially in the Balkans where he lived and taught for many years. He was a professor at Eastern Mennonite Seminary before moving to Goshen in 2010. He will teach International Politics in fall 2011.

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## Geography Teacher, Students Meet Again

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When Tim Lehman, social studies teacher at Bethany Christian Middle School, agreed to serve as an adjunct professor at Goshen College during spring semester 2011, he didn't realize he would be teaching some familiar faces. But sitting in his World Regional Geography class that first day were four students whom he taught in middle school—and a fifth who attended Bethany, but did not have Lehman as a teacher.

For most of these students it was just happenstance that the course they needed was being taught by Lehman, who is filling in this semester for a professor on sabbatical leave. But for Corine Alvarez, a first-year student at Goshen College, it was intentional. "Tim was one of my favorite middle school teachers, and I have fond memories of his classes. ... So, when I found out that he would be teaching this course, which counts towards a history major, I thought, 'why not take the class now?'—and see what it would be like to have him as a teacher again."

An award-winning teacher, Lehman was Indiana Geography Teacher of the Year in 2005 and has served as a national education consultant and workshop presenter.

Article excerpted from <http://www.bethanycs.net/>

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## Student Publications and Prizes

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Paul Shetler Fast ('08) published "Carrying a Weight Beyond Its Numbers: Fifty-Five Years of People-Centered Development in Vietnam," in the Winter 2011 issue of the journal *Conrad Grebel Review*. The article is a revised and expanded version of his history senior seminar thesis.

Anna R. Showalter ('10) received first place in the 2010 John Horsch Mennonite History Essay Contest sponsored by the Mennonite Church USA Historical Committee. A condensed version of her essay appeared in the January 2011 issue of the *Mennonite Historical Bulletin*. A full-length version of Showalter's research, which grew out of her history senior seminar project, was published in the April 2011 issue of *Mennonite Quarterly Review* as "The Mennonite Young People's Conference Movement, 1919-1923: The Legacy of a (Failed?) Vision."

David Jost's ('11) essay "Mennonite Central Committee Thrift Stories in the United States," received first place in the 2011 Anabaptist Research Contest sponsored by the Sider Institute for Anabaptist, Pietist and Wesleyan Studies of Messiah College.