



# ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER 2014-2015

## Student and Professor Share Writing at Mennonite/s Writing VII Conference in Fresno, California



Photo provided by Ann Hostetler

Kolton Nay ('15) and Prof. Ann Hostetler met with Goshen alumnae Sofia Samatar ('94), Diana Zimmerman ('93), and Jessica Smucker, who all presented at the National Mennonite/s Writers Conference in Fresno, California.

Prof. Ann Hostetler and Kolton Nay ('15), an English writing major and TESOL minor from Dover, OH, attended the Mennonite/s Writing VII Conference at Fresno Pacific University in Fresno, California from March 12-15, 2015.

The conference theme, "Movement, Transformation, and Place," highlighted the ways that Mennonites have moved and adapted to new places. The focus on

place featured writers from the Fresno area.

Keynote speakers included Peter Everwine, an award-winning poet from Fresno; David Masumoto, a Japanese-American organic farmer and writer about sustainability and place; and Robert Zacharias, editor of *After Identity: Mennonite/s Writing in North America*, to be co-published by Penn

State University Press and University of Manitoba Press.

Hostetler presented a paper, "Beyond Despair: Suicide in Recent Mennonite Literature." She encouraged Nay to submit his senior writing project, a memoir entitled *Imbalance*, to the conference, and it was accepted.

As the only undergraduate presenter out of the 73 participants, Nay presented a 13-minute selection from his memoir. Participants commended his powerful stories, and Nay appreciated feedback from experienced academics on how to develop his work.

Hostetler, who was on the planning committee for the conference, hopes to hold the next Mennonite/s Writing Conference in Goshen in 2020 for the thirtieth anniversary of the 1990 conference at Conrad Grebel University. She encourages more college students to participate in the future.

*Next year, Kolton will be working with Mennonite Voluntary Service as an intern for the Mennonite Central Committee office at the United Nations in Manhattan.*



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# Alumna Gathers International Experiences in SST Stories Project



Photo from *The Record*

Kate Stoltzfus ('14) with her students during Study-Service Term (SST) in Peru in the spring of 2013.

By *Kate Stoltzfus*

There's nothing most English majors love more than a good story.

After graduation last spring, I wanted another project that would let me find and share stories after I closed my textbooks. Through conversations with friends and family during the summer, SST kept coming to mind.

I still thought about my own study abroad experiences; many friends were flung across South America; and my uncle, who went on SST more than 25 years ago, said someone should seek out tales from abroad. The program was nearly 50 years old. There had to be thousands of stories from all around the world. It didn't take a

lot of convincing.

The SST Stories Project began last fall in partnership with the International Education office. I informally collected submissions from SST participants in anticipation of an exhibit at the college or a future Pinchpenny book. By March 2015, I had wonderful stories, but was still unsure of how best to share them.

The project will become a blog in June, edited and run by Liz Core ('14), a journalism major, and me with some assistance from Communication and Marketing and the SST office. The initiative will capture the many facets of the program since its beginning in the 1960s. The project will also have a Facebook page with posts correlating with

the blog.

The SST Stories Project will include stories from current students and alumni, host families and group leaders. These stories will look closely at the complicated, joyful, difficult, often unexplainable ways we connect with each other across cultures around the world.

Stories have the power to foster a global outlook so that we may work toward peaceful communities of respect and dignity.

To that end, submit your stories! We are looking for many expressions of storytelling, including prose and essays, poetry and art, photography and multimedia, or any other medium you find meaningful. Tell us about food, dress, communication, family. Tell us your adventures, hardships, embarrassments, regrets, or deepest loves. Stories will be accepted year-round.

To view current stories, follow the blog at: <https://sst-stories.goshen.edu/> or like the Facebook page. Send submissions to [ssstories@gmail.com](mailto:ssstories@gmail.com) or contact Kate directly at [kate.stoltz@hotmail.com](mailto:kate.stoltz@hotmail.com).

*Kate Stoltzfus graduated with degrees in English writing and journalism. She has spent the year in Mennonite voluntary service with Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Religion in Washington, D.C.*

## Fall English Picnic Welcomes Back Students



Photo by Maddie Gerig ('17)

Armarlie Grier ('16), Elizabeth Franks-North ('16), Anna Nafziger ('16) and Grace Weaver ('16) lead an activity at the fall picnic.

This September, English, English writing, and TESOL majors and minors and interested friends joined the English Department faculty for the annual fall picnic at the College Cabin. In holding with tradition, the juniors filled the evening with tamales, ice cream, and word games.

The junior class gave short speeches about each of the English professors, and prof. Kyle Schlabach led fun word games.

Students and professors got to know each other better, as well as meet the new adjunct professor of English and academic CORE professor Micah Towery.



# Helen Frost Leads Writing Workshop and Workshop for Teachers

The 2014-15 annual writing workshop, led by Helen Frost, an award-winning writer for young adults, was held on campus from April 27 - May 1, 2015.

The English department collaborated with the Education department to host an afternoon workshop for local teachers and education students. During the workshop, Frost offered strategies for teaching her latest book, *Salt: The Story of Friendship in a Time of War* (2013, Farrar, Straus and Giroux), a novel in poems about a Miami Indian and a settler child during the War of 1812.

Frost builds her writing on historical research, so she arranged for students to work with material from the Mennonite Church archives as a way of discovering new stories.

Antianna Terrell ('17), an English

writing and art double major, said, "I loved working with Helen. She was very helpful and very uplifting."

Frost gave a public reading with a dessert reception and book signing, which was open to the community.

In the writing workshop, students produced many poems and presented them at their own reading at the conclusion of the workshop on Friday.

The Helen Frost teaching workshop was made possible by gifts in honor of JD Stahl (d. 2010), Goshen College alum ('73) and professor of English at Virginia Tech. He was well-known for his anthology *Crosscurrents of Children's Literature: An Anthology of Texts and Criticism* (2006, Oxford University Press). Stahl was a dedicated teacher and mentor to his students, and received the W.E. Wine Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2008.

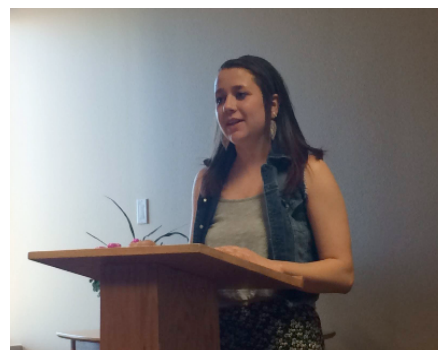


Photo by Ann Hostetler  
Maggie Weaver ('17) shares a poem at the student reading on the last day of the Helen Frost Writing Workshop.

In collaboration with the Education department, the funds from the JD Stahl gift will also be used for a lecture next fall given by Kathy Short ('75), a well-known specialist in multi-cultural children's literature.

## Students Participate in Academic Symposium



Kate Yoder ('15), Grace Weaver ('16), and Joe Kreider ('17) all shared their academic work in the annual Academic Symposium this past March. Not Pictured: Hayley Brooks.

Photo by Ann Hostetler

Four students in the English Department participated in the Academic Research Symposium on March 28, 2015. The annual GC Symposium allows students to formally present their research findings in a public setting for professors and students.

Hayley Brooks and Kate Yoder, senior English writing majors, presented on the creative process of their Pinchpenney Press books. Brooks observed the ways that poetry, writing

and spirituality are embodied.

Yoder reflected on the intersection of visual and verbal arts.

Grace Weaver, a junior English major, presented "The Power of a Portrait: Jane Eyre's Gaze," which explores the power relationships between the characters.

Joe Kreider, a sophomore English major, presented "Englishness in Crisis: Conflicts of Nation and Identity in E.M. Forster's *A Passage to India*," analyzing the way characters illustrate the folly of colonialism.

## Alumni Sponsor Scholarships

Several students were awarded the **Freed Scholarship**, thanks to a gift honoring Goshen College alumna ('67) Sara Ann Freed (d. '03), who became a well-known editor of mystery novels in New York City. This scholarship is designated for students interested in writing, publishing or editing, with priority for women hoping to enter the field. The 2014-15 Freed Scholars were: Hayley Brooks ('15), Dominique Chew ('15), Kate Yoder ('15), Elizabeth Franks-North ('16), Armarlie Grier ('16), and Kayla Riportella ('16).

The **Steider Scholarship** supports students studying to teach English as a second language, named in honor of Goshen College alum ('51) Kenneth Steider (d. 2011), who taught at Hesston College from 1955-66 and believed in the value of international communication and experience. The 2014-15 scholarship was awarded to Brianna Brubaker ('15), Alyssa Rychener ('15), and Abigail Kaiser ('17).

## 2014 Horswell Fellow Reflects on Experience



Photo by Beth Yoder

Kate Yoder ('15), an English writing and art double major from Elkhart, Indiana, will be an editorial intern with *Grist* Magazine in Seattle, Washington, next year through Mennonite Voluntary Service.

By Kate Yoder

Thanks to the Horswell fellowship, I have found new meaning in God's declaration to "be fruitful and multiply." Clearly, this was meant to refer to my email inbox, which has positively flourished over the past two semesters.

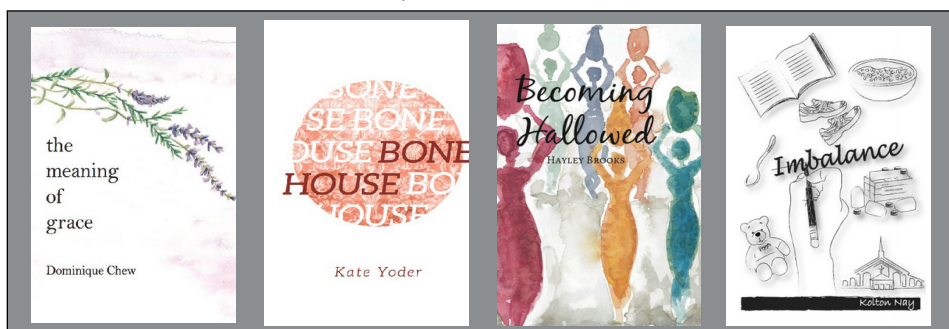
As the Horswell fellow, I managed the day-to-day operations of the English department publications. I supervised the layout, publication, and distribution of six Pinchpenny chapbooks and the Broadside series.

As the Horswell fellow, my task involved communicating revision suggestions from the publication boards to the Broadside and Pinchpenny authors. Throughout the year, I learned to provide thorough, tactful advice to authors to ensure that the strongest version of their work was published.

During the fall semester, I enjoyed organizing the Broadside flash fiction contest, for which students submitted a variety of short stories on the theme "glass." The creativity of my peers never ceased to surprise me. Part of the joy of this fellowship was witnessing creative writing become a physical reality at the end of the publishing process. I experienced this reward from both sides when I released my own Pinchpenny book, *Bonehouse*, alongside the other Pinchpenny books.

Over the past year, I gained valuable experience in communication, organization, and the editorial process. I'm grateful for the many publishing opportunities at Goshen College and the ways I have grown as a writer and editor.

## Pinchpenny Publications 2015



Four senior student chapbooks were published this year through Pinchpenny Press.

English major Dominique Chew wrote *The Meaning of Grace*, which features poetry and prose centering around themes of race and her experiences on Study-Service Term in Senegal in 2014.

English writing major Kate Yoder's book, *Bonehouse*, is a collection of poetry and prose that focus on wordplay, memory, and the creative process.

"It's about making sense of my experiences and questioning assumptions about what it means to exist as part of our society," Yoder said.

English writing major Hayley Brooks wrote *Becoming Hallowed*, a collection of poems claiming a lesbian feminist spiritual heritage and voice.

"The book is an exploration of where I come from and where I stand today in the context of the church, my sexual identity and my identity as a woman," said Brooks. "I place those stories and narratives within the context of the stories of women who came before me."

English writing major Kolton Nay wrote *Imbalance*, a short memoir focusing on family, identity and faith. "Writing was an introspective and spiritual experience for me," Nay said. "It forced me to confront part of my life that I had left behind and to acknowledge exactly where I was right now on my journey to healing and balance, even if that place wasn't very far along."

To purchase Pinchpenny books, email the English department at: [english@goshen.edu](mailto:english@goshen.edu).



Photo by Maddie Gerig

Dominique Chew ('15) and Elizabeth Derstine ('16) sign copies of their books.

## Next Year's Horswell Fellow

Maddie Gerig ('17), an art major and writing minor, will be the Horswell Fellow for the 2015-2016 school year. She has been published with both *Red Cents* and *Broadside* and brings experience with writing and design.

Gerig will collaborate with the Broadside and Pinchpenny Boards, serving as secretary, designer and marketer for the publications.

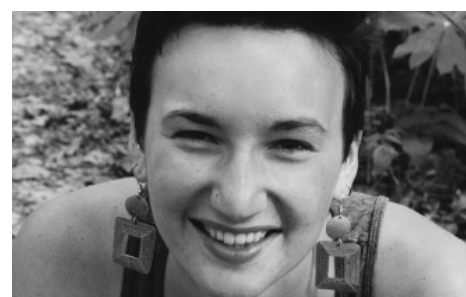


Photo provided by Maddie Gerig



## Goshen Students Win Awards at Annual Indiana Collegiate Press Association



Photo by Ann Hostetler

Katerina Polanska, Armarlie Grier ('16) and Luis Perez Lerchundi ('16) attended the Indiana Collegiate Press Association with Prof. Ann Hostetler on April 11, 2015, in Indianapolis.

Competing against many larger schools, the 2014 edition of *Red Cents*, an annual literary and arts journal edited and published by Goshen College students since 2005, won four student awards at the Indiana Collegiate Press Association (ICPA).

The ICPA is a group of more than 40 member publications. Goshen competed with schools such as Ball State, Purdue, and Notre Dame universities.

Kate Stoltzfus ('14), an English writing and journalism graduate, received third place for Best Short Story with "This is How You Leave Us."

Emma Gerig ('14), an interdisciplinary studies graduate,

received second place for Best Cover Design for the 2014 *Red Cents* issue.

Lauren Treiber ('14), a peace justice, and conflict studies major and writing minor graduate, received third place for Best Free Verse poem with "The Crown, the Diamond House."

Kate Yoder ('15), an art and English writing major, received third place for Best Hand-Drawn Illustration for "Algebraic Owl."

Stoltzfus and Yoder served as student editors for the magazine, with professors Ann Hostetler and Jessica Baldanzi as advisors.

*Adapted from The Record on April 14, 2015.*

## Broadside Flash Fiction Contest

This fall, the Broadside Board held a flash fiction contest. Students submitted stories of under 500 words with the theme of glass.

Jacob Martin ('15) won first place with "The Glass Wall" and Dona Park ('16) took second place with "All is Calm, All is Well." Peter Meyer Reimer ('16) received an honorable mention for his piece "Technophobia." All three pieces were published as Broadside.

Other 2014-15 Broadside included work by guest visitors Tony Macaulay and Jeff Gundy. Adjunct professor Micah

Towery published "On the Refrain Taken from an Old Hymn," while student Broadside included Anya Slabaugh ('17) with "Minor Dyslexia" and Armarlie Grier ('16) with "Unlit."

The 2014-15 Broadside board included Kolton Nay ('15), Armarlie Grier ('16), Kayla Riportella ('16), and Lexa Magnuson ('17), advised by professors Jessica Baldanzi and Micah Towery. Visit the English department website to view the Broadside archives at: <https://www.goshen.edu/academics/english/publishing/broadside/>

## Pinchpenny Press Anthologies

Along with the release of four student publications and a new edition of *Red Cents*, Pinchpenny Press released *Flash*, an anthology of brief creative nonfiction essays.

The 2014-15 Pinchpenny Press Board consisted of English students Elizabeth Derstine ('16), Grace Weaver ('16), Dominique Chew ('15) and faculty advisors Ann Hostetler and Kyle Schlabach.

*Flash* is the 16th annual Horswell anthology. The Horswell Anthology series is supported by gifts from Sushil and Christine Horswell ('62) Jain of Windsor, Ontario. Elizabeth Derstine ('16), an English writing and Communications double major, edited the anthology.

"The stories feature themes like identity, growing up and vulnerability," said Derstine. *Flash* will be used as a text in future creative writing classes.

*Red Cents* 2015, edited by Hayley Brooks and Kate Yoder, is the tenth issue of the annual creative arts magazine that showcases student writing, visual art and graphic design.

Since its founding in 1969, Pinchpenny Press has published 188 titles.

To view all previous Pinchpenny titles, visit the English department website at: <https://www.goshen.edu/academics/english/publishing/pinchpenny-press/>. To order titles, contact the English department at: [english.goshen.edu](mailto:english.goshen.edu)

*A version of this story also appeared on the English department website on April 1, 2015.*



# Remembering Professor Emeritus John J. Fisher



Photo by Margaret Aeschliman  
Former professor emeritus John J. Fisher and his wife, Pauline.

John J. Fisher ('48), professor emeritus of English, who taught at Goshen College for 39 years, died July 28, 2014.

Fisher was born in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Goshen College with a degree in English. He earned a master's degree in English from the University of Pennsylvania before returning to Goshen College to teach English from 1953 to 1992.

In 1971, Fisher began leading a course in Ireland on poetry and peace. He continued teaching this class frequently until 2001. Fisher was instrumental in bringing a number of important Irish writers to the GC campus, including Nobel Prize winner Seamus Heaney, Paul Muldoon and Peter Fallon.

After his retirement in 1992, Fisher was fully engaged in Seniors for Peace and in giving leadership to the JustPeace Seminar series, and continued to be an active participant in Mennonite writing conferences and local continuing education lectures.

Fisher is survived by his wife, Pauline Clemens Fisher ('48) and daughters Susan Fisher Miller ('79) and Margaret Fisher Aeschliman ('87). Susan and her husband Lee Miller ('80) have three sons, Peter (English major '09), Chris, and John (Writing minor '14). Margaret and her husband Jeff Aeschliman ('87) have sons Spencer ('19) and Stuart.

*Adapted from the English department website on July 29, 2014.*

## A Tribute to John Fisher

*By Ervin Beck ('59), Professor Emeritus*

I first met John when I was an incoming freshman at Goshen College in 1955. Sunday evening a small group of us were invited to the home of John and Pauline for dessert. During the proceedings, John said, "I understand that one of you wants to be an English major." I cautiously raised my hand, not foreseeing what would follow in the next 59 years.

At first, I wasn't sure what to make of John. Was he a Mennonite? He was certainly different from most of the ones I knew.

He was cool and self-assured. Brilliant. Subtle. He preferred understatement, indirection and irony and paradox to overt statement and enthusiasm. He was sophisticated and cosmopolitan. A gentleman.

Eventually, from him I learned for the first time the term Christian Humanist, which he frequently used – at a time in Mennonite history when it could not be spoken too loudly. John was a Christian Humanist. He was pleased that Conrad Grebel was also one.

John expressed his Christian faith not in overtly pious ways. His was a thoughtful, deeply held faith that was expressed in his commitment to Civilian Public Service and many peace-making projects.

I'm sure his colleagues would agree that John was a constant fountainhead of ideas for new projects and new ways of doing things. All were highly imaginative, some were clearly impossible, others could be done—if we had had the time and energy. John equally appreciated others' special ideas and interests and encouraged us to pursue them with departmental support. For me, that was the study of folklore.

In my last conversations with John, frail though he was, he came up with even more creative ideas of things to do.

John's greatest achievement was in developing off-campus, experiential educational programs.

His truly special off-campus innovation was the three-week summer course in Ireland. Bicycling in the rain in the countryside, sleeping in barns, performing plays in historic buildings, meeting prominent Irish writers. In the classroom, John was casual, witty and preferred open-ended discussion to big pronouncements. He had a knack for accepting and turning any student comment into gold. Outside the classroom, he established warm relationships with his students, especially those who accompanied him to Stratford and Ireland.

He once told me, "Ervin, never



Photo provided by Goshen College

give up on a student." And he didn't. Deadlines could be extended. Alternative assignments could be arranged. A drop-out could finish his course at home. When I was his student, he expressed ideas for my future that I thought impossible to attain.

His curiosity, empathy and genuine interest in other people made him able to turn strangers into friends. I think that accounts for his great success in Ireland, with students and with prominent poets, including Seamus Heaney, the Irish poet who won the Nobel Prize for Literature and remained a friend of John and his family until his death in 2013.

*Ervin Beck serves as editor of the Journal of the Center for Mennonite Writing and president of Michiana Anabaptist Historians. Last year, he published "Metafolklore and Identity in the Suggs Family Freedom Festival" and "Mennonite Transgressive Literature."*



## In Memory of Jack Dueck, Former Professor of English

Former professor of English Jacob “Jack” Dueck passed away on November 21, 2014. Dueck studied theology and music at Mennonite Brethren Bible College in Winnipeg, Canada, then went on to complete his MA in literature from the University of Western Washington.

He held a variety of jobs before teaching English at Goshen College from 1966-1978. His students enjoyed the pranks he played in the pursuit of educational goals. He and his wife Eleanor led student groups in Ireland and Germany. Later, he earned his PhD in literature from Notre Dame University. Following his time at the college,

Dueck developed a farmers market, several restaurants and a consulting company in Waterloo, Ontario. He also crafted storytelling programs, sermons, motivational talks and humorous and serious performances. As a writer for the MB Herald, he received four Canadian Christian Writing Awards from The Word Guild in 2010.

Dueck is survived by his wife Eleanor Toews Dueck ('72) and their children: Evelyn Dueck ('81) and her husband Don Davis and daughters Annette and Rebecca; Carolyn Dueck Clement ('85) and her husband Chris Clement and daughters Isabelle and Alexandra; and son Lorne

Dueck ('87) and his wife Shannon Dueck.  
*Adapted from the MB Herald on March 1, 2015.*



Photo by Carolyn Clement

### Jack Dueck: Tale of a Teacher



Photos from *Mennonite Brethren Herald* and Carolyn Clement. Jack Dueck, Professor Emeritus.

*By Wilbur Birky ('63), Professor Emeritus*

Jack Dueck. Storyteller. A bit of a classroom maverick. Committed to creative thinking and impatient with classroom “dryness.” A special mentor to the sometimes marginal or rebel student. Organizer of campus events beyond our already lively English department—think “Festival of the Spirit.” Parties in his home for English faculty and others, for music, for young families.

He was a noteworthy teacher in our English Department from 1966-1978—a kind of spark plug of ideas among other notables such as author Rudy Wiebe, wild man poet Nick Lindsay, and no-nonsense

and high energy Sarah Hartzler—along with more “measured” profs like John Fisher, Dan Hess, Vernon Schertz, Ervin Beck ('59) and me.

One time Jack was assigned to co-teach a large upper level general education class with me—“Books and Ideas.” I had the primary teaching responsibility, while Jack was given one hour of teaching load to assist with the occasional lecture—but he was always present. Jack would occasionally “heckle” me—to keep things “stirred up” and interesting, a role both of us understood and enjoyed. But one time a loyal student implored Jack to stop “picking on me.” He didn’t, but in private we enjoyed a good laugh! In his own class, he one time burned a set of student papers in a garbage can to dramatize the point that learning is a matter of creative mind and spirit, not the more tangible tests and papers. Another time he threw students’ completed “blue book” exams out an east window of Assembly Hall—where they got caught in the air conditioner fans below. Jack’s point was that learning was a matter of mind and spirit, not of paperwork.

The most famous of Dueck’s educational antics came while we were teaching Alexander Solzhenitsyn’s *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*—a novel of excruciating torture endured by

prisoners in the sub-zero Russian gulag. In the midst of Jack’s teaching one day, the Goshen police barged into his classroom, handcuffed him, and hauled him away—all prearranged by Jack, of course. I was serving as department chair, and our department secretary, who witnessed the arrest, rushed into my office to report. His students and I were temporarily taken in by the drama. But Jack’s students (and the campus) never forgot Solzhenitsyn’s struggling prisoners—or at least they never forgot Jack Dueck.

Jack nurtured his restless and creative spirit throughout life, beyond the classroom and into opening or operating restaurants. He thought of food, of story, and of the gathered community as the sustaining “stuff of life.” He brought this gift to Goshen College and continued his storytelling wherever he went: in churches, in restaurants, and at colleges and universities throughout the U.S. and Canada—most often but not limited to stories of the Russian Mennonite struggles, especially in Russia and Canada. Jack Dueck—GC English professor, entrepreneur, and storyteller par excellence—rest in peace.

*Wilbur Birky co-directs the Elkhart County Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) with his wife, Fanni Birky. They offer two terms of short courses for seniors and a writing lecture series.*

# Jeff Gundy Visits Goshen College to Inspire Students with Creative Doubt in S. A. Yoder Lecture

By Jacob Martin

On October 21, 2014, Jeff Gundy ('75) gave the 44th annual S. A. Yoder Memorial Lecture.

Prof. Ann Hostetler introduced Jeff Gundy as the Mennonite version of Walt Whitman, William Blake, or Allen Ginsberg. I found this a fair comparison, and his ideas equally interesting. Gundy's lecture explored in mysteries of the world, thought, and the human soul, which Gundy referred to as God. He proposed that doubt can be strengthening and proceeded to question common understandings of God through theo-poetics, combining poetic analysis and narrative theology.

Gundy also spoke in convocation the next day, discussing his time as a Goshen College student. He talked about the 60's, Bob Dylan, and J. Lawrence Burkholder ('39), the former Goshen College President from 1971-84, whom Gundy referred to as JLB. He read one of his poems called "The Black Father" and discussed JLB's controversial dissertation, *The Problem of Social Responsibility from the Perspective of the*



Photo by Brian Yoder Schlabach ('07)

*Mennonite Church.*

At one point, he proposed that instead of listening to his lecture, "we all go out and walk around in the woods, or listen to some sad guitar music." Through poetry and reflection, he led us to explore the mysterious. His visit was inspiring, deeply puzzling, and overall

very enjoyable.

*Jacob Martin ('15) is a history major and writing minor. He recently completed his senior history thesis entitled "Torchbearers and Boy Scouts: Mennonite Masculinity and Pacifism" about Mennonite scouting.*

## Faculty News

Last summer, **Jessica Baldanzi** received a Miner grant to take an online Fiction Writing course from the New School based in New York. Her bi-weekly comics blog, *Commons Comics*, moved from Goshen Commons to the *Elkhart Truth*. In April, Baldanzi traveled to Gainesville, Florida, for the University of Florida Comics Conference, and presented a paper on *Ms. Marvel*, "Shape-Shifting to Fit the Body Politic."

**Ann Hostetler** traveled to Oaxaca, Mexico, in October (with the help of a Miner Grant) to attend the US Poets in Mexico Workshop.

Teaching highlights included developing the new Banned Books course and taking the senior seminar students on field trips to Notre Dame

and Ball State Universities.

In August, Hostetler edited an issue of the *Journal of Center for Mennonite Writing* on songwriting and published guest-edited issues on Sports, Hymn Writing and Travel. Her essay "Resurrecting the Dead Girl: Modernism and the Problem of History in Beloved, Jazz and Paradise," appeared in *Toni Morrison: Memory and Meaning* (2014, University Press of Mississippi).

**Kyle Schlabach** enjoyed teaching first-year writing and the history of the English language during the 2014-15 academic year. He also served as the *Record* advisor, working with many great students from the communication and English departments, such as the editors-in-chief of the *Record*, Elizabeth Franks-North ('16) and Kayla Riportella ('16),

both English education majors. He is looking forward to doing more writing this summer on topics ranging from Harry Potter to Irish literary politics.

**Beth Martin Birky** has enjoyed reconnecting with students after her year-long sabbatical.

She enjoyed teaching The Novel, a genre course, and British novels such as *Jane Eyre* and *Little Bee*.

In November, Birky attended the National Women's Studies Conference in Puerto Rico, where she coordinated a panel about gender issues in religious colleges and universities. In March, she collaborated with Mennonite Women USA to host Sister Care, a faith and identity workshop adapted for college-aged women. Birky has served on the Mennonite Women Board since 2011.



## Barnett Experiences Semi-sabbatical

By Skip Barnett

This academic year I've been on a semi-sabbatical, or, as Paul Keim, one of the Wyse Wits has dubbed it, a "stay-batical." I've continued as the International Student Advisor and taught a couple courses but have had release time spread over the whole academic year. Some of my time last summer was spent implementing a new health insurance plan for GC's international students. I also helped with the paperwork to get new international students to the US.

In the fall, I began my primary sabbatical activity, studying the Goshen School's K-12 ESL program. Goshen Community Schools' student population has about 50 percent non-native English speaking students. I have visited several elementary schools, the middle school and the high school ESL programs to observe classes and interview teachers.

Another part of my project was talking with the special ESL Parent Liasons at each of those schools to find out more about their work. The purpose for my study is two-fold: on the one hand, to research the current ESL issues and approaches. On the other hand, as a long-term resident of this community, to offer my professional advice to the school corporation as they serve their ESL students.

When the academic year is over, I will report on my conclusions and questions and submit them to the Goshen School's ESL director and

the superintendents for corporation's consideration. My hope is that my observations will support the Goshen Schools in serving students in our diverse community.

I also took an online course from Azusa Pacific University on "Technology in TESOL." I was the oldest person in the class by about 30 years, so I was several steps behind my digital-age classmates, but I hope to incorporate in future versions of the TESOL Methods course. (New approaches like language teaching apps for phones, etc.)

Finally, I attended an international TESOL conference in Toronto in March. Among other things, I attended numerous sessions on new technologies in language teaching as well as a fascinating session on an innovative outreach program in Atlanta for ESL parents. My learnings from that session and others will have a place in the report I write for the Goshen K-12 ESL program and inspire my future teaching of GC TESOL students.

Beyond all of the above, I have benefited from a bit of physical and psychological rest from the normal academic pace. I am very grateful for my colleagues in the English department who have picked up the duties that I usually perform in the department this year. It has been a refreshing and invigorating year.



Prof. Skip Barnett talks at the Fall English Picnic.

Photo by Micah Towery

## Towery Reflects on First Year at Goshen



Photo provided by Micah Towery

By Micah Towery

It's not my first time amongst Mennonites! Before Goshen, I taught at Trinity Western—just outside Vancouver, BC. Though not officially affiliated, Mennonites comprised a large portion of students and faculty. Goshen felt very familiar. One senior English student told me recently, "You aren't Mennonite, but you seem to fit in at Goshen." I feel the same way!

The English program is small but packs unique punch. I'm pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to the publishing program and participate in discussions about an online professional writing program. We've even brainstormed about some digital humanities projects.

Teaching this year has been a highlight as well. It's been a pleasure to put my own spin on the Goshen Seminar classes that Kyle and Ann have developed. Writing about Home is a uncommon spin on the literature class, and Word and Image has given me fantastic material in the online format.

And, of course, downtown Goshen has been fun to explore. We've heard that Venturi makes "life changing pizza," but we're also from the East Coast...so we're skeptical.

*Adjunct professor Micah Towery completed his MFA in Writing at Hunter College and now teaches English and CORE class at Goshen College.*

## Practicum: Real World Learning



Drea Mast ('15), works with Parkside Elementary students.

Photo By: Skip Barnett

### An Unexpected Passion

By Drea Mast ('15)

I didn't declare a TESOL minor until my sophomore year, when I decided that it would be not only interesting, but also practical. In the TESOL Methods class, I discovered that I really enjoyed teaching English and building relationships with the students. I worked with high school students at Bethany Christian and Goshen high schools last year and wanted to try different age groups this year for my longer practicum.

During spring semester, I split my time between Parkside Elementary and Elkhart Community Schools' adult English class at College Mennonite Church. I appreciated the variation in behavior and learning styles of children and adults.

From the practicum, I discovered a new passion for teaching and exploring the relationship between language and culture.

*Next year, Drea will be working with the Discipleship Year program in Washington, DC, as a volunteer in Offender Aid and Restoration.*

### Confirming A Dream

By Alyssa Rychener ('15)

I chose to minor in TESOL as a way to use my interest in language and my desire to work with people in a career.

My practicum was at Chamberlain Elementary School where nearly 50 percent of the student population is classified as English Language Learners. I worked with a variety of age levels and students with varying levels of English

proficiency. A few students had just moved to the United States, so were at a very different place in their language learning in relation to their peers.

The most challenging part of the experience was the irregularity of the schedule. Class schedules were frequently interrupted with assessments, field trips, or snow days and delays. This made it challenging to plan lessons that built on each other, especially with only twenty-minute time periods. Despite the challenges, I was able to get to know some great students and see the priceless look of understanding flash across their faces.

I was also able to help teach English during my Study-Service Term in Nicaragua during the summer of 2014, and the experience reinforced my passion for TESOL. The practicum experience, along with my TESOL-related classes, helped to confirm my desire to teach English Language Learners, be it here in the United States or abroad.

*Alyssa Rychener, an Elementary Education major and TESOL minor from Hesston, Kansas.*



Photo provided by Alyssa Rychener

## My Experience Teaching English and Spanish

By Nina Fox ('15)

For three months last fall, I spent most of my time teaching, encouraging, and challenging first and second year high schoolers in English and Spanish classrooms at GHS. More important, they spent three months last fall teaching, encouraging, challenging (frustrating, infuriating, inspiring) me.

I realized while I was student teaching that I love Goshen, Indiana. I like walking to work in the morning, waving to my neighbors who sit on their porch with a cup of coffee and wave to "kids" like me.

I also love working with students who come from diverse backgrounds and our community's unique intersection of white and hispanic. (*Pintadito*, they would call it in some of the Latin countries I've studied in). I love the energy and vivacity they bring to my classroom. I love that nobody drinks coffee from anywhere but The Brew, and that I'm not self-conscious about the red Goshen button pinned to the lapel on my black peacoat. I realized, ultimately, that at least for now, I want to be here.

While I didn't find a position at Goshen High School, I accepted a job at Bethany Christian High School. Though much will be different, I have been well prepared by Goshen College, my family, and by my students at the high school. Without their teaching, encouraging, challenging (frustrating, infuriating, inspiring), I wouldn't be where I am.

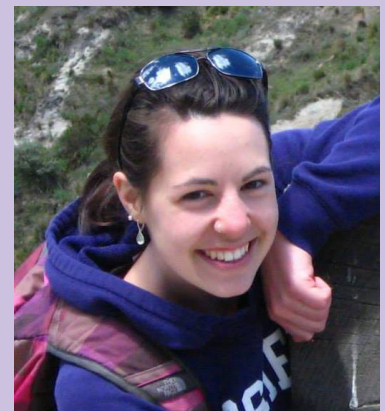


Photo provided by Nina Fox

*Nina Fox is a Spanish and English Secondary Education major from Grand Rapids, Michigan.*



**Dorothy Yoder Nyce ('60)** published "Glimpses of Mennonite Engagement with Hindu Thought and Practice" in *Anabaptist Witness*.

**Wes and Sue Richard ('62)** have been working with Mennonite Mission Network's SOOP program. Wes has also self-published *Life's Template: Memoirs of a Tentmaker* (2014).

**Sarah Eby-Ebersson ('71)** has retired, but continues to pursue special writing projects and travel with her husband, Dan.

**Said Samatar ('73) (d. 15)** was a history major at Goshen College but was equally interested in English. Born in Somalia, reared on camel milk, and immersed in the oral performance of history and epic poetry of Somali traditional culture, he sat with rapt attention in my early offering of the International Literature course, reading for the first time literary depictions of African experience. He went on to become a Professor of African studies at Rutgers University, authored several books, and edited the *Horn of Africa* journal. Among his many legacies is his daughter **Sophia ('94)**, whose experience in International Literature class also helped lead her into African studies.

*-Ervin Beck, Professor Emeritus*

**Sanna Yoder ('83)** serves as the Senior Director of Content Strategy and Behavior Design at RedBrick Health in Minneapolis, MN, and is completing her master's degree in Human Development.

**Jennifer Halteman Schrock ('83)** worked with Mennonite Creation Care Network

(MCCN) on an adult Christian education curriculum, "Every Creature Singing: Embracing the Good News for Planet Earth."

**Laurie Virgil Gray ('86)** lives in Fort Wayne, IN. She co-authored *The ABC's of Sexual Assault: Anatomy, "Bunk" and the Courtroom* (Socratic Parenting LLC, April 2015).

**Marta Brunner ('87)** was named head librarian of Skidmore College's Lucy Scribner Library in Saratoga Springs, NY.

**Cynthia Hockman-Chupp ('90)** currently works as a K-5 math education consultant and coach at The Gervais School District in Portland, Oregon.

**Kelly Hartzler ('97)** lives in Mishawaka, IN, with her husband, Manoel Couder. An equity partner Barnes & Thornburg, LLP, she focuses on environmental litigation. In her spare time, she writes a blog called The Bachelor News Update.

**Angela Link Stoltzfus ('97)** has taught English and reading remediation at Goshen Middle School since graduation.

**Lucas Landis ('98)** is the Executive Director of Sales and Marketing at ATC Trailers in Nappanee, IN.

**Jacob Sider Jost ('02)** teaches at Dickinson College and recently published his first book, *Prose Immortality, 1711-1819* through University of Virginia Press.

**Jesse Conrad ('03)** graduated in May from Northern Illinois University with an M.A. in British and American Literature. He works as a copy editor for *aha! Process*, a publishing and consulting firm founded by **Ruby Krabill Payne ('73)**.

**Tim Nafziger ('03)** founded the web development company Congruity Works

in Ojai valley, CA, and blogs for *The Mennonite*.

**Jessica Iverson ('06)** is writing a graphic novel for her MFA project in Children's Literature through Hollins University, Roanoke, Virginia, while working at Evanston Public Library, Illinois.

**Lindsay Glick ('08)** lives in Albuquerque, NM, and works as the Interpreter Services Program Coordinator for Presbyterian Healthcare Services. This summer, she will be volunteer teaching an ESL class for immigrants.

**Tyler Falk ('09)** joined *Current Magazine* as a journalist, covering trends and developments in public radio after working as a freelance journalist and an editorial assistant for *Grist Magazine*.

**Emily Huffman ('09)** will receive her MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults from Vermont College of Fine Arts.

**Peter Miller ('09)** is pursuing a PhD in English literature at the University of Virginia and will be a Rare Book School Fellow for the 2015-16 school year. He won the Thomas J. Griffis prize for his essay "Faulkner's Gramophone: The Disembodied Sounds of *As I Lay Dying*."

**Hans Hess ('13)** accepted an ESL teaching position at Goshen High School.

**Mary C. Roth ('13)** is working as a copy editor for Wipf and Stock publishers in Oregon.

**Grace Parker ('13)** is getting her M.A. in teaching at George Washington University and teaches at Briya Public Charter School in Washington, D.C.

**Stephanie Swartzendruber ('14)** finished one year as Resident Director at Hesston College of a two-year commitment.



## Senior Seminar Visits Notre Dame

On April 13, 2015, seven of the English Senior Seminar students traveled to Notre Dame University to learn about graduate school programs. They spoke with several students in the English PhD and MFA programs, toured the newly renovated library, visited the digital humanities center, visited a special collections library, and talked with an English professor who gave insight on applying to graduate school. The group finished their trip by dining at Fiddler's Hearth, an Irish public house in South Bend. The students had an enjoyable time learning about options for the future.

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“Like” the Goshen College English  
Department Facebook page to  
follow news updates and view  
photos!

The English Department graduated eight students this year. English majors included Dominique Chew, a Bible and religion and women’s and gender studies minor; Nina Fox, a Spanish and secondary education major; Drea Mast, piano pedagogy and TESOL minors; and Briana Schrock, a secondary education major. English writing majors included Sara Albaba; Hayley Brooks, a women and gender studies minor; Kolton Nay, a Spanish and TESOL minors; and Kate Yoder, an art major. Graduating minors included Jacob Martin, a history major and English minor; Brianna Brubaker, an American Sign Language (ASL) major and TESOL minor; and Mia Engle, an ASL major with a minor in English writing.

On March 18, 2015, the Senior Seminar class hosted the annual Senior Supper for all English/TESOL students and interested students. Later that month, English professors and Senior Seminar students enjoyed a dinner at Prof. Beth Martin Birky’s house. At the graduation reception for students and their families on April 25, 2015, students displayed the electronic portfolios.

## Farewell to the Class of 2015



Photo by Micah Towery

**Back row (left to right):** Prof. Jessica Baldanzi, Prof. Kyle Schlabach, Kate Yoder, Prof. Beth Martin Birky, Kolton Nay, Briana Shrock, Dominique Chew. **First row:** Armalie Grier ('16), Drea Mast, Sara Albaba, Nina Fox, Hayley Brooks, Prof. Ann Hostetler. **Not pictured:** Jacob Martin, Brianna Brubaker and Mia Engle.