

# English Department Newsletter

STUDENT EDITOR: **Gussie Nafziger '23** | FACULTY EDITOR: **Peter Miller '09**

## Goshen Printmakers Guild, Home of a Centuries-Old Art Form

BY **Phillip Witmer-Rich '25**

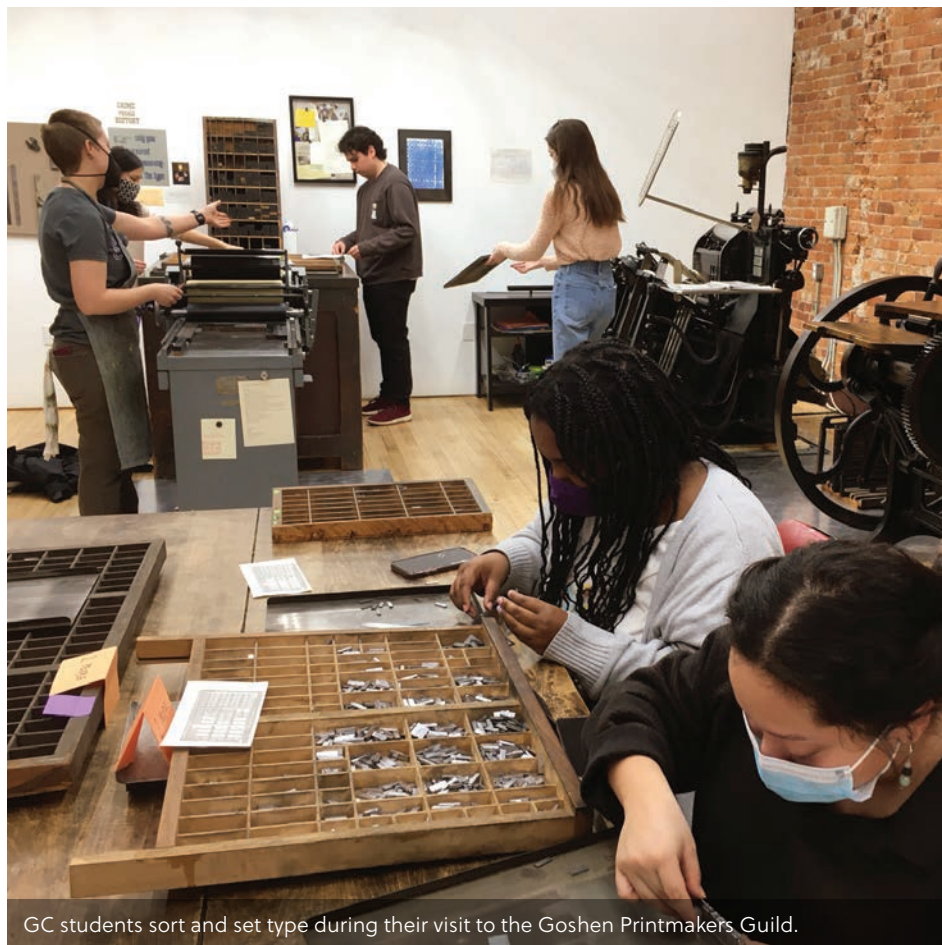
The Goshen Printmakers Guild can be hard to find on a first visit. Tucked in an alleyway between the art store and Fables Books in downtown Goshen, the shop's only sign is a 3x5 index card taped to the inside window of the door.

Inside, the studio is bright and well lit. Brick walls encapsulate numerous presses and tables, with huge workbenches holding sets of letters in different fonts. Upbeat, modern voices like Lauryn Hill and Lil Nas X ring in the air, and Ida Short, the Guild's ever-enthusiastic caretaker, greets visitors wearing her printer's apron.

There are eight or nine presses in total—Short has trouble keeping count. One of them, a Vandercook press, is owned by the Goshen College English Department; another device is actually a perforating machine, which is used to create rows of little holes in paper, such as those on sheets of stamps.

What does Short do with her printing presses? Commercial work such as custom stationery, business cards, wedding invitations, and RSVPs take up about half her time. These jobs are necessary to keep the shop running. Short's true passion, however, is her community work.

"The other 50% of my time I spend organizing community events, working on my own art projects, collaborating with local artists," Short said. "People coming in and using the space has been really cool to see."



GC students sort and set type during their visit to the Goshen Printmakers Guild.

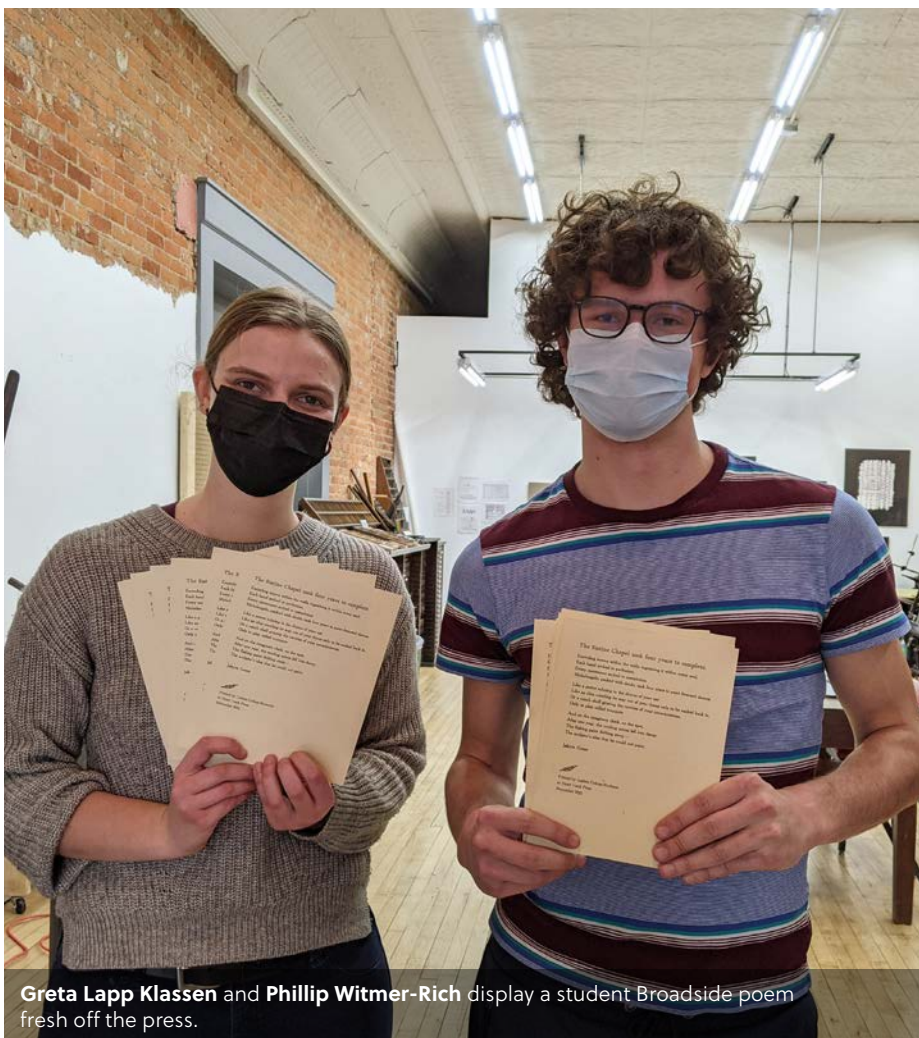
Short graduated from Goshen College with a degree in printmaking. After moving away and joining a printing co-op, she returned to Goshen and acquired her first printing press in 2020.

She wished to establish some type of printing coalition in Goshen, "because print-making has a high barrier to entry depending on what kind you're doing," she explained.

"You need equipment. You need room to store it. You need to maintain it."

In medieval times, the word *guild* was used to describe a coalition of craftspeople working in the same field. It's a good description of Goshen Printmakers: the studio provides space for the artistic, intricate process of printmaking to flourish.

The name *guild* harkens back to an age where manual printing presses were necessary for print media to exist. Nowadays, digital printing and media has rendered old presses somewhat obsolete. Maintaining her



**Greta Lapp Klassen** and **Phillip Witmer-Rich** display a student Broadside poem fresh off the press.

presses has been a difficult, involved endeavor for Short, stretching her skills beyond artistry.

“So much of my time is taken up with maintenance; I feel like I am a part-time mechanic,” Short said. “When you are the only person in the studio and something goes wrong, you have to figure out how to fix it. It’s a category of things that isn’t really on the internet, so you’re blindly calling people.”

In an increasingly digital world, how can printing presses remain relevant? Why should printing press preservation be prioritized?

Short hosts groups for field trips and demonstrations, including numerous GC classes. Jessica Baldanzi, a GC English professor, has greatly appreciated the unique perspective printing provides. Her memoir class visited in spring 2022.

“The way that [letterpress printing works] forces you to be very efficient with language, to experiment a little,” Baldanzi said.

Learning about printing helps students see “the art of how [writing] goes on the page rather than just printing it,” Baldanzi continued. “It makes you look at the language differently.”

Exhibiting and viewing words in varying physical contexts provides a certain feel for the language of a piece, which is hard to describe unless you try it out.

“I’m not a Luddite; I’m not anti-computer,” Baldanzi said. “I just think it’s important as a writer to work in as many different mediums as you can.” 🌿

Adapted from a March 31, 2022  
Record article



**Pauline Clemens Fisher** and **John Fisher** in their early years at GC.

## New Fisher Terrace Dedicated during Homecoming Weekend

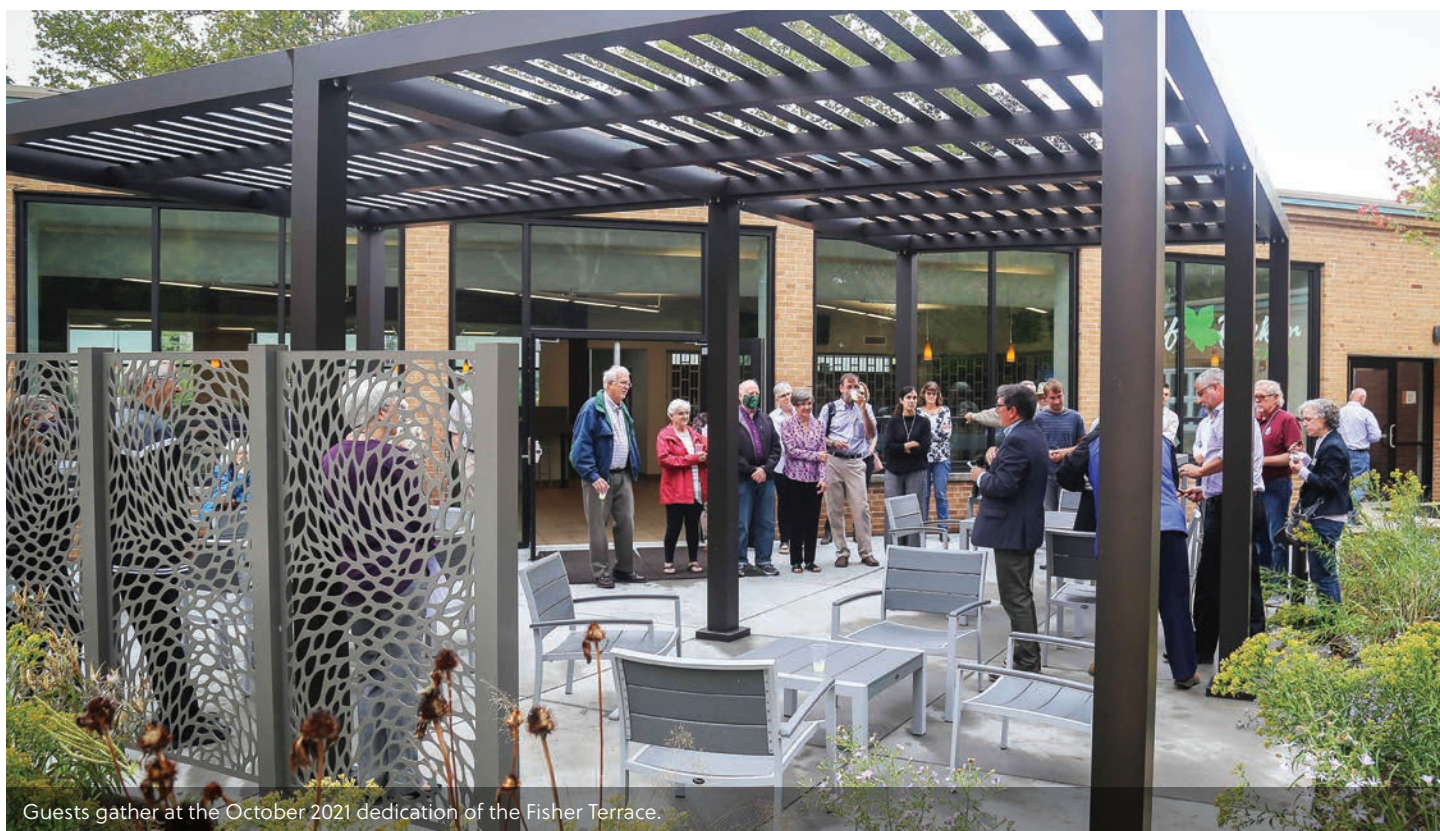
John J. and Pauline Clemens Fisher left a lasting impact on Goshen College. As a longtime professor of English, John’s love of words and connection to Irish poetry are threads that continue to weave through the fabric of campus today.

As a testament to their legacy, family, friends, and former students dedicated the new Fisher Terrace, built in the Fishers’ honor, on Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021, during Homecoming Weekend.

Through a charitable donation from the John and Pauline Fisher estate, the outdoor area immediately east of the Leaf Raker Café in the Union Building has been renovated as a dining and gathering space, with a new pergola and seating. The terrace will also soon incorporate poetry displayed around the surrounding garden, including some by Irish poets that John connected with on campus and in classes he led to Ireland.

John and Pauline graduated from Goshen College in 1948, marrying shortly after. John became a professor in the GC English Department in 1953, teaching until his retirement in 1991.





Guests gather at the October 2021 dedication of the Fisher Terrace.

Pauline taught English and foreign languages in secondary schools in Pennsylvania and Indiana.

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

The class lectures, work-study placements, and bicycle trips exposed GC students and colleagues to an assortment of Irish farmers, clergy, scholars, and poets who were personal friends of the Fishers.

John and Pauline's daughters, Susan Fisher Miller '80 and Margaret Aeschliman '87, are also GC alumni, as are four of their grandchildren, including Peter Miller '09, who now carries on the legacy as an assistant professor of English at Goshen College.

John and Pauline were active members of the campus community even after retirement, serving in the advocacy

organization "Seniors for Peace" and working to establish a peace center at College Mennonite Church.

"Both of my parents were immersed throughout their lives and careers in the humanities. They were awakened to that world in part through their studies at Goshen College," said Fisher Miller. "They also devoted themselves, on campus and in public school classrooms, to sharing appreciation for literature, language, and the arts with their students."

In their will, John and Pauline dedicated funds to GC through a charitable estate plan. The John J. and Pauline Clemens Fisher Scholarship Fund will support students in the humanities, and the Fisher Maple Scholars Endowment will support students and faculty working together on summer research projects in the humanities.

"They modeled the importance of nurturing a thing you believe in, helping make a difference for that place with donated time, financial support, and acting as a cheerful ambassador at any opportunity,"

said Aeschliman. "This made a big impression on our family, and motivates us to continue their legacy of 'Culture for Service' in our own lives, and especially as it relates to Goshen College."

To honor their parents' legacy beyond the endowed scholarship, the Fisher family also wanted to enhance a campus common space and promote conversation and fellowship among all members of the campus community. Thus, they dreamt up the idea for the Fisher Terrace.

"When you're grabbing a sandwich on the way to teach class or finish a paper, you can pause on the terrace for poetry and conversation with friends," said Fisher Miller. "It's a nice fusion of culture and service our parents would have appreciated." 🌿

If you wish to honor the memory and life of John and Pauline, you can make a gift to the Fisher Maple Scholar Endowment or the Fisher Scholarship Endowment at [goshen.edu/give/areas-to-support/endowed-funds](https://goshen.edu/give/areas-to-support/endowed-funds)

Adapted from [goshen.edu](https://goshen.edu), October 5, 2021



## Mountain Mirror

*Winner of the Spring 2022 Broadside Poetry Competition*

the chromium throne and the glittering gems  
at the pinnacle of the world of men  
carve canyons which they refuse to mend  
as they break the backs that refuse to bend  
but they watch as the people find reprieve  
in the frivolous joy of a mountain breeze  
and the emerald light under sycamore trees  
which they blame for the peaks of their growing unease  
so they polish the world to a mirror shine  
so it can't reflect what they fear inside  
and the ancient paths become gravel drives  
that shine dull grey under once-green light

—OLIVIA MARTIN

## Broadside Poetry Contest Prompts Submissions with Six Words

Gravel, mirror, sycamore, light, frivolous, and marigold.

Those were the words writers had to choose among to include in their submission to this year's Broadside poetry contest. The winning poem by Olivia Martin, a junior math major, combined the words to create a scene based in Shenandoah National Park.

"I really like to hike, and I really hate capitalists," Martin said. "So I decided to write a poem about the frustration I felt when people go and destroy something so pristine and undeveloped to make more money. I wanted to write a poem about what would happen if people stopped doing that."

The six words were chosen by the Broadside editorial board. Greta Lapp

Klassen, a junior English and art major and the executive secretary for the board, said, "We all just thought of a word and I had everyone email it to me. ... It ended up being pretty funny."

Broadside is an on-campus publication run by the English Department. It has been a part of Goshen College since 1976, and supports the creative expression of faculty, staff, and students through writing.

"Broadside is traditionally poetry that people subscribe to receive," Lapp Klassen said. A board of faculty and students receive poetry submissions and take them through the process of publication.

Broadside also occasionally holds competitions like the one this year.

The call was put out this spring for anyone in the GC community to submit poems using at least four of the six words provided. Eight poems were submitted, then ranked by the Broadside committee.

First place went to Martin's poem "Mountain Mirror." Poems by Annika Fisher and Oscar Murguia tied for second.

Martin described her submission as "a poem about running away from society and the fear—both my own [fear] and the fear of the people who destroy [wild] places—that someday there won't be a way to escape [society] anymore." 🌿

Adapted from a March 24, 2022 *Record* article by Sarah Miller



## Poet Philip Metres Advocates "Poetry of Peace" in 2021 S.A. Yoder Lecture

Philip Metres, a poet and Guggenheim Fellowship winner, spoke over Zoom to a Goshen College audience on Tuesday, March 9, 2021. He read and spoke about his poetry, and his experience as an advocate and voice for Palestine.

"Poetry that invites us to see the other as kin, poetry that resists injustice and speaks truth to power, poetry that refuses binaries, poetry that invites our curiosity and awe, poetry that imagines new ways of living—that's the poetry of peace," said Metres.

Metres was invited to speak in the S.A. Yoder Lecture series, an annual lecture in honor of Dr. Samuel A. Yoder, who was a Goshen College professor from 1930 to 1970. Each year Goshen College hosts speakers from various backgrounds, from poet Gwendolyn Brooks in 1993 to publisher and science fiction author Bill Campbell in 2018.

Goshen College invited Metres, a poet, translator, professor, and author of *Shrapnel Maps*, to speak virtually, due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Metres began writing poetry around the age of seventeen. "When I finally was lit from within by poetry," Metres reflected, "sometime in my 17th year of life—between the death of a grandparent and falling in love—I knew poetry as something... difficult but powerful, a secret history of the inner life." Metres explained that to him, poetry was, "a silent thing, read and cracked open in my brain."

Metres credits several poets as role models, from Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman to Adrienne Rich and June Jordan.

Goshen College English professor Jessica Baldanzi first met Metres in graduate school, and invited him to speak at Goshen College. He was excited to accept the offer, because he was familiar with the college's history as a peace church and its commitment to advancing transformative justice.

In a lecture titled "The Place Where Peace and Justice Meet in Palestine/Israel," Metres read from essays and poems while sharing anecdotes with



viewers about how he came to study Israel and Palestine.

Metres spoke of his mixed-race background and honoring his roots, saying "they taught me to be proud of our ancestry, but I didn't know much about the politics of the Middle East until my sister came back from a summer learning Arabic." He continued, "What she said shook me to the core. I questioned her at every turn, wondered if she'd been brainwashed, all these stories she was telling me about what Palestinians were going through."

However, it was those stories that led Metres to educate himself about Israel and Palestine. "In graduate school, I met Palestinians and interviewed them," Metres said, "and worked in

activist groups—and listened—as I tried to make sense of two separate but overlapping realities."

Metres concluded the lecture by saying "I hope my poetry helps us step back from the hectic chaos of our lives, to recognize the beauty that's in the world, and the sense of design that also exists alongside the pain, the disorder, and the difficulty. I hope that it speaks truth to power and calls us to repent, reform, and repair."

A video of Metres' lecture can be found on YouTube by searching "Philip Metres Goshen College." 🌿

Adapted from a March 12, 2021  
Record article

Link to the lecture: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=dyjIJC21xE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dyjIJC21xE)

## Alumni News

**Paul Wenger ('58)** filled his GC days with Debate Club and majors in English and speech. After student teaching at Goshen High School and working part-time at WKAM radio at Goshen City Hall, Paul taught English for three years overseas before shifting to Communication Studies. He was a professor for thirty years and department chair for nine. Early retirement in 1992 led to a new career as financial analyst and counselor in Ann Arbor. Paul officially retired nine years ago.

**Verda Hostetler Bialac ('59)** taught English and Spanish at Millersburg High School before earning a degree in Library Science from Indiana University. Verda was a librarian at a high school, a school for people with learning disabilities, and, for thirty years, the Omaha Public Library.

**Ervin Beck ('59)**, professor emeritus of English (1967-2003), has enjoyed retirement, including teaching twice at LCC International University in Lithuania. Otherwise, Ervin is writing, editing, publishing, gardening, biking, curating exhibits, fiddling, teaching Lifelong Learning courses, great-grandparenting, and enjoying his wife's (Phyllis '59) cooking.

**Arnold C. Roth ('59)** still finds his English major useful at 90 as he prepares for Bible studies or for teaching Sunday school.

**Dorothy Yoder Nyce ('60)** has written numerous books and articles, which can be found on her website: dorotheynyce.com. Living in India led Dorothy to a DMin degree in Interreligious Dialogue, and she welcomes messages from those with similar interests (dyodnyce@bnin.net).

**Rhoda Schrag ('63)** has been a teacher since 1963 in several states (IN, KS, IA) and in Africa (MCC Zambia). Rhoda earned a master's degree in special education from Drake University and spent 14 years in Des Moines, Iowa, where she was hired in 1976 to orally teach teenage non-readers who were learning-disabled. Iowa was the first state in the country to mandate public education for these students.

**Carol Lehman ('66)**, after years of doing mostly clinical writing for her psychology practice, found an interesting project in reviewing the recently completed historical fiction trilogy by Evie Yoder Miller (another '66 grad) for the March 25, 2022 issue of *Anabaptist World*.

**Judy Gerber ('67)** completed master's degrees in art and art history and taught at Emerson College, University of Vermont, and Chinese University of Hong Kong, before earning a PhD in clinical psychology. Judy retired as Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Ob/Gyn at the University of Vermont School of Medicine in 2015, but continues to work there two days a week.

**Arlene Holdeman ('67)** completed an MA and further graduate work at the University of Minnesota before teaching English for twenty-six years at Inver Hills Community College in Inver Grove Heights, a suburb of St. Paul, Minnesota. He is now retired.

**Becky Schenck ('70)** taught high school English in Trenton, New Jersey for one year after graduating. She returned to Oregon and continued teaching English, eventually pursuing a master's degree in special education and serving as a consultant for her district. Since fully retiring, Becky has remained an active volunteer, most recently working with Afghan refugees in the Eugene community.

**Gloria Yoder Nussbaum ('72)** celebrates twenty years and counting of helping people record their life stories for their families and future generations through her business Real to Reel (real-to-reel.org).

**Don Yost ('72)** works half-time at Maple City Health Care Center as the storyteller. In his free time he is working on a novel for young readers and on short stories for adults. Don is involved in Hispanic ministries at College Mennonite Church.

**Rohn Thomas ('73)** continues to teach Acting for the Camera at Kent State University. He is playing Doc in *West Side Story* in summer 2022 and was recently cast in a LeBron James biopic.

**Bill Clemens ('75)** retired as a senior computer programmer/analyst for Blick Art Materials in November 2020. He found his training in clear written expression at GC extremely useful as he thoroughly documented numerous major programming projects over the decades.

**Lois Bare ('79)** has lived in Goshen since returning to the US in 2007, and moved to Greencroft's Whispering Pines neighborhood in 2020. She continues to volunteer at Ten Thousand Villages and Goshen Hospice, and has fond memories of hosting a GC student from Colombia for a year.

**Susan Fisher Miller ('79)** retired as Senior Associate Director of Foundation Relations at Northwestern University, where she earned a PhD in English literature in 1986. She coached faculty across the university in writing proposals to secure private foundation funding.

**Dale Bowman ('80)** reached the twenty-five-year mark as the outdoors columnist for the *Chicago Sun-Times*. He lives in the far south suburbs with his wife Karyn and the youngest of their four kids.

**Kevin Miller ('81)** taught English as a second language (1981-83), attended law school (1983-86), and worked in the private practice of law until April 2021, when he retired. Kevin is now the assistant tennis coach at Morton High School (Morton, Illinois) and volunteers weekly at Illinois CancerCare.

**Steve Kreider Yoder ('81)**, an editor at *The Wall Street Journal*, took last summer off to cycle across America on a tandem bike with **Karen Kreider Yoder ('78)**, and they lived to write about it. (Search online for "We Rode 3,800 Miles Across America on a Tandem Bike.")

**Michael Sherer ('82)** published his first book, *One Disease: Redox Imbalance. How Stress Becomes Disease*, last June. He is working on a follow-up book called *Resilience: The Key to Lifelong Health*, which is scheduled for release in 2022.

**Laurie Virgil Gray ('86)** was hired by the Young Scholars Academy Corp, a college-preparatory nonprofit for underserved students, to create and deliver a four-day social justice program entitled "Liberty and Justice for All" to twenty-five rising 8th-12th graders in Northeast Indiana in June 2022.



**Karen S. Miller ('86)** has been on the front lines of the pandemic as the principal investigator for all the COVID studies for the St. Luke's Health System in Idaho. Karen continues as the Cystic Fibrosis Adult Center Director in Boise, as well as a general pulmonologist.

**Malinda Sanna ('87)** founded a marketing insights firm based in New York called Spark Ideas in 2009. Her team, which includes three other GC grads, created a software program called LookLook.app that can chat with people and gather insights from all over the world. Clients include Google, L'Oréal, Tiffany, Chanel, Mondelez, and General Motors.

**Bonnie Frey ('88)** is a geochemist and manager of an analytical laboratory at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. She collaborates with Navajo Technical University to install filtration units on the Navajo Nation for water purification, and works to educate the next generation of water scientists.

**Mark Musselman ('88)** continues his legal practice through Barnraiser Media Financing, consulting to feature film producers for the sourcing and securing of financing, both public and private, from the international marketplace.

**Barbara Nickel ('88)** launched her third collection of poetry, *Essential Tremor* (Caitlin), in 2021, and her work appeared in *Best Canadian Poetry 2021*. Her middle-grade novel *Dear Peter, Dear Ulla* has just been shortlisted for the British Columbia (BC) and Yukon Book Prizes.

**Eric Unzicker ('89)** spent a year midway through college traveling to West Germany with the MCC Intermenno Trainee program. Eric is now in his eighteenth year working as a family doctor with the Indian Health Service. He and his wife Sheri live in Santa Fe, NM with their son Leo, now 15. Eric recalls Ervin Beck's classes as some of the most rigorous and rewarding humanities courses he took at GC.

**Gayatri Patnaik ('90)**, who has worked in book publishing for over twenty-five years, is honored to be named the next Director of Beacon Press beginning August 2022.

**Phyllis Martin Argueta ('91)** is the Department Head and Teacher of ESL/ELD at a public high school in Waterloo, Ontario. Previously she taught adult ESL in the area from 1992-2011.

**Mark Sawin ('93)** continues at Eastern Mennonite University as professor of history and director of honors. He recently launched Emu Editions (emueditions.com), a small press that publishes annotated editions of forgotten "best sellers" of nineteenth-century US literature.

**Gina Leichty ('95)** and Ben Stutzman '90 (Fine Art) celebrated fifteen years co-owning Eyedart Creative Studio, a marketing and event production company in downtown Goshen. In November 2019, Ben and Gina began restoration of a historic home for their business, and they look forward to finally being able to welcome the public to see their progress in summer 2022.

**Rachel Miller Moreland ('97)** is the box office manager for the historic Holland Theatre, which brings world-class music and arts opportunities to Bellefontaine, Ohio. Rachel also homeschools her three younger kids (her thirteenth year of homeschooling!) while her two oldest attend public high school.

**Tricia Bender ('98)** works at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where she is the Artifact Collection Manager. Her children, Daniel (12) and Annika (9), keep her and her husband, Ben, busy.

**Penn Miller ('00)**, on March 28, 2022, successfully defended his dissertation, "Impact of Core Knowledge Curriculum on Literacy," and was awarded his EdD. Penn teaches middle school English language arts in Ephrata, Pennsylvania.

**Sarah Lashley ('01)** and Kirk Lashley became parents of their daughter, Trinity Ellen Lashley (born March 25, 2020), on Good Friday, April 9, 2020. Sarah still owns and directs Somavida Pain Relief Center in Evanston, Illinois, and moved to Evanston from Chicago in August 2020.

**Megan Elaine Fleming ('02)** is pursuing her master's degree in Integral Noetic Sciences through the California Institute for Human Sciences. The Flemings spent the 2019-2020 school year in Cairo, Egypt, where Megan taught secondary English and art classes at a Christian international school.



PHOTO BY CHARLIE VÁZQUEZ

## Urayoán Noel to Present S.A. Yoder Lecture in Spring 2023

Urayoán Noel, a poet, translator, scholar, and performer, will present the annual S.A. Yoder Lecture in the spring of 2023.

Originally from Río Piedras, Puerto Rico, Noel earned his B.A. at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras, his M.A. at Stanford University, and his Ph.D. at New York University, where he is currently an associate professor of English and Spanish and Portuguese and affiliated with The Latinx Project and the MFA in Creative Writing in Spanish.

Noel is the author of eight books of poetry, most recently *Transversal* (University of Arizona Press), which was longlisted for the PEN Open Book Award and named a Book of the Year by the New York Public Library.

Noel has also published the critical study *In Visible Movement: Nuyorican Poetry from the Sixties to Slam* (University of Iowa Press), winner of the LASA Latino Studies Book Prize and an MLA Honorable Mention.

As a translator of Latin American poetry, Noel has been a finalist for the National Translation Award and the Best Translated Book Award.

His international performances include Poesiefestival Berlin, Barcelona Poesia, and the Toronto Biennial of Art, and his work has been exhibited at the Museum of the City of New York and published in the *New York Times*.

## Recent PPP Books

### 2015

***The Meaning of Grace***

Dominique Chew

***Bonehouse***

Kate Yoder

***Flash***

Elizabeth Derstine (ed.)

***Becoming***

Hayley Brooks

***Imbalance***

Kolton Nay

***Broken and Blessed***

Heidi Siemens-Rhodes

***Parallax***

Elizabeth Derstine

***Epiphany***

Armarlie Greer

***Red Cents 2015***

Hayley Brooks, Kate Yoder (eds.)

### 2016

***Freaky Squirrels***

Maddie Birky, et al. (eds.)

### 2017

***Between Orchard Trees***

Madeline Gerig

***The Goshen College Guide to Studying and Serving Abroad***

Duane Stoltzfus and Grace Weaver (eds.)

### 2018

***The Secret Color***

Sadie Drescher

***The Language of Kangas***

Maddy Keener

***Red Cents 2017-18***

Maddy Keener and Siana Emery (eds)

### 2019

***Uncommon Union***

Elsa Lantz

***Good Enough to Bruise***

Christy Sessa

***A Day Spent Dreaming***

Andrew Nussbaum

***Songs of Fire***

Laura Hoover

***Temples to Alien Gods***

C.C. Lilford

***Red Cents 2019***

Elsa Lantz and Siana Emery (eds)

### 2020

(delayed—for release Fall 2022)

***Five Stages of Grief***

Sondra Flores Reyes

***Egosphere***

Anna Keller

### 2021

***Growing Up a Sunflower***

Laura Miller

***In Search of Presence***

Mackenzie Miller

***These Sacred Fractures***

Emmalene Rupp

***Lady Luck and the Monorail Conspiracy***

Patrick Webb

### 2022

***Goshen Graphix III***

Greta Lapp Klassen, Gussie Nafziger, Erica Gunden, Dakota Cain, and Caleb Gingerich (eds.)

***Environmental History: A Reader of Essays by Goshen College Students***

Sophia Martin, ed.

**Jacob Sider Jost ('02)** is spending the year 2021-22 visiting at the University of Halle in Germany, researching eighteenth-century British life-writing. He is grateful for his English-German double major at GC, without which this opportunity wouldn't have been possible.

**Jessica Meyers ('03)** is the editor-in-chief of *Global Press Journal*, an international media organization that trains and employs women journalists in some of the world's most challenging places. She lives in Washington with her husband, Jeff Kearns, and their son, Aiden.

**Jenna Wysong Filbrun ('06)** has completed her first full-length poetry collection, *Away*, which is scheduled to be published by Finishing Line Press in 2023.

**Rosanna Nafziger Henderson ('06)** completed an MFA in fiction at Portland State University in spring 2022.

**Ondrej Polisensky ('08)** moved in 2013 to Zürich, Switzerland. He currently works at a secondary school in Bülach, a town in the greater Zürich area, and loves teaching English and French as foreign languages. Ondrej is married and has two kids.

**Emily Stutzman ('08)** lives in Portland, Oregon with her five cats, one dog, and wife Amber. She is the CEO of a global ad agency called Happylucky (happylucky.com). Emily spends her extra time hosting dinner parties, trying to beat PRs on her Peloton, and working in her greenhouse.

**Ben Jacobs ('09)** returned to his hometown of Goshen, Indiana, after a decade in California. He leads the engineering department of Encamp, a software startup revolutionizing the world of environmental compliance.

**Dan Vader ('09)** earned a PhD in epidemiology from Drexel University in 2020. This summer, he completes a postdoctoral research fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania and starts work as a collaborative public health researcher at Drexel University.



**Anna (Ruth) Miller ('12)** works as a freelance artist and designer specializing in printmaking and textiles. Following a year teaching English in South Korea, Anna moved to Oregon in 2013 and continues to make her home in Portland with her husband, John W. Miller ('14).

**Tillie Yoder ('12)** is still happily working at the Goshen College Library and the Mennonite Historical Library, but is dusting off her literary criticism skills by reviewing various media on her podcast *Just Plain Wrong* (<https://justplainwrong.buzzsprout.com/>).

**Becca Kraybill ('13)** is Manager of Advertising Communications and Senior Copywriter at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC. She manages a team that writes digital and print publications and advertisements.

**Michael Miller Yoder ('13)** finished a PhD in Language and Information Technologies from Carnegie Mellon University in 2021 and started a postdoc, also at Carnegie Mellon, this year. He and his spouse recently welcomed twins!

**John W. Miller ('14)** has been living in Portland, Oregon since 2018 and works as a data scientist. His background in English has served him well, helping him avoid the "poor communicator" label assigned to many of his engineering peers. John married fellow Goshen English alum Anna Ruth in September 2021.

**Kate Stoltzfus ('14)** lives in Washington, D.C. and works as an editor for ASCD's *Educational Leadership* magazine, and as a freelance food writer for local news site DCist. She is heading to the University of Arkansas in fall 2022 for an MFA in poetry.

**Andrea Mast ('15)** completed a service year in the criminal justice system in Arlington, Virginia, and then worked for various nonprofits in Washington, DC, before completing an MBA. Andrea currently works in operations for a funding intermediary in the progressive space.

Let us know what you're up to! Send life updates to [peterm@goshen.edu](mailto:peterm@goshen.edu).

## Mennonite/s Writing Conference

After two years of postponement due to COVID-19, Goshen College is thrilled to be offering the 9th Mennonite/s Writing conference on September 29-October 2, 2022. The theme, "Celebrating 30 Years: Looking Back, Looking Forward," acknowledges the 30+ years since the inaugural conference was held at Conrad Grebel/University of Waterloo in 1990. The purpose of the Mennonite/s Writing conferences has been to celebrate, investigate, and publicize the emergence of creative writing among persons from diverse Mennonite contexts, as well as to create a forum in which writers, readers, and scholars could meet and inspire each other. Keynote speakers include Hildi Froese Tiessen, who organized the first Mennonite/s Writing conference, and award-winning writers including poet Patrick Friesen from Vancouver, Casey Plett, a transgender novelist and short story writer who splits her time between New York and Winnipeg, and Sofia Samatar, a writer of speculative fiction who teaches at George Mason University.

In 1990, writers from Mennonite backgrounds were publishing in both the US and Canada, but for the most part they didn't have any organized venue for meeting and learning about each other. In the ensuing 30+ years, a series of Mennonite/s Writing conferences changed that, as creative writing by those from Mennonite backgrounds continued to flourish and diversify. Two previous conferences were held at Goshen College, in 1997 and 2002. Others were held at Bluffton University, Eastern Mennonite University, Fresno Pacific University, and the University of Winnipeg, in hopes that a variety of geographical locations and hosts would make the conference more accessible to a wider variety of participants. We're delighted that the conference has come back to Goshen College again this year. Many of this year's writers and scholars are connected to Goshen College as alumni or faculty, among them Ervin Beck, Daniel Shank Cruz, Todd Davis, Jeff Gundy, Ann Hostetler, Julia Spicher Kasdorf, Barbara Nickel, Sofia Samatar, David Waltner-Toews, and Rudy Wiebe. Professor Emerita Ann Hostetler, who is chairing this year's conference, published the anthology *A Cappella: Mennonite Voices in Poetry* (University of Iowa, 2002) in response to her discovery that a host of writers from Mennonite backgrounds were writing excellent poetry, but there was no collection of their work. She hoped that this anthology could introduce writers from Mennonite backgrounds, those studying at Mennonite colleges, and readers in general to this newly developing field. Today's college-aged readers may take this literary tradition for granted, but it is still a recent and flourishing one. Goshen College has been at the heart of encouraging new writing through its publishing program, which includes Pinchpenny Press and Broadside. The 50th anniversary of these publications will be honored at an open mic reading on Saturday night, October 1.

The upcoming conference will celebrate the work of current writers, and look to the future of Mennonite/s Writing. In this spirit, we are offering three pre-conference workshops for students and participants on Thursday afternoon, Sept. 29, from 1-5pm. Workshops will be taught by Casey Plett, as well as Beth Piatote, a fiction writer, poet, and scholar from Nez Perce background who teaches at Berkeley, and the team of Julia Spicher Kasdorf and Steven Rubin, whose recent collaboration of documentary poetry and photography explores the impact of fracking on Northwestern Pennsylvania. All of these writers will also be participating in the program. Students can sign up for one of these workshops and receive credit for the one-hour writing workshop, ENGL 312.

Alumni and others can reserve their spot through the registration form at [www.goshen.edu/academics/english/mennonites-writing](http://www.goshen.edu/academics/english/mennonites-writing)

## Q&A with Two English and Secondary Education Double Majors: Mariela Esparza and Jakyra Green



### Q1: Why did you decide to pursue a career in English education?

**Mariela:** It is the ultimate culmination of my affinity for literature and writing! Plus, I love helping students discover what they may not see in themselves—it's so rewarding.

**Jakyra:** My passion for striving to be an educator derives from my knowledge of the significant shortage of minority teachers. Helping all students, specifically those marginalized, see their full potential is one of my goals.

### Q2: What are some of the Goshen College classes that you feel have prepared you for this career path?

**Mariela:** Kathy Meyer Reimer's Literacy I is the first one that comes to mind. Although I intend to teach at the secondary level, going back to the beginning and learning how students learn to read in the first place was incredibly enlightening. I got to do field placements in local elementary schools with various age groups, including our own campus kindergarten. All in all, Kathy's approach to literacy is just so inspiring, and her passion serves to fuel my own!

**Jakyra:** All of my classes with Kathy Meyer Reimer! The ones that prepared me the most were literacy and children's literature. Both covered content from all school levels, while

teaching me the power children's books can have in a secondary classroom, especially for struggling readers like English language learners.

### Q3: How has the Teach Elkhart County program influenced your teaching plans?

**Mariela:** Participating in Teach EC has further opened my eyes to the importance of representation in the classroom. Of course, I felt it throughout my entire career—none of my teachers ever looked like me or came from a similar background. So, being a part of the program has only served to reinforce how much I value teaching in a diverse school district.

**Jakyra:** By joining Teach EC, I continue to learn about the startling reality of the lack of teachers of color and the importance of creating an inclusive and equitable environment for all—which only solidifies my passion for teaching. Through this program, I have also gained a strong support system, which I will hopefully carry with me forever.

### Q4: What is the most difficult part of teaching English?

**Mariela:** As a teacher in general, but especially as one of English Language Arts, there is a great deal of managing and censorship involved. Part of my job will be to instill a life-long relationship

with reading for my students. What happens when the books they identify with are controversial or banned? What happens when lawmakers who are incredibly detached from the world of education try to invalidate my knowledge and make my job unnecessarily more exhausting? What happens when teachers are so bogged down with extra procedures and tasks they lose track of why they started teaching in the first place?

**Jakyra:** Perhaps the most challenging is differentiating instruction when students have various academic abilities and backgrounds. Many aspects are involved in teaching English, such as writing, grammar, reading, speeches, etc. As I continue at GC, though, I am learning more about differentiation and that it can be something as simple as scaffolding instruction.

### Q5: What aspect of teaching are you most excited for?

**Mariela:** Ah so many! I mean, I will be paid to talk about books all day! However, the more frivolous things like decorating my classroom and teacher outfits are fun too!

**Jakyra:** There would be too many to list. I love all things literature and want to watch my future students learn and grow from a single piece of text. I'm also excited about decorating my classroom and building my library!



## Faculty Updates



### JESSICA BALDANZI

Jessica has enjoyed teaching writing, comics, critical theory, literature, and gender studies in her past few years at GC, and is getting the hang of chairing the department. Her book *Bodies and Boundaries in Graphic Fiction: Reading Female and Nonbinary Characters* was released on Routledge (UK) in July 2022, and her collection *Ms. Marvel's America: No Normal*, co-edited with religious studies scholar Hussein Rashid, was published by University Press of Mississippi in spring 2020. She reviews new comics on her blog Commons Comics ([commonscomics.com](https://commonscomics.com)), which she was invited to discuss on a panel about public and personal scholarship at the first Academic Symposium of the Toronto Comic Arts Festival (June 2022). She is also grateful for community connection grants this summer to work with Goshen community nonprofit Art House on a reading by local writers, and to develop an Inside-Out prison exchange class to be taught at the Elkhart County Correctional Facility.



### PETER MILLER

Peter recently completed his third year of teaching at Goshen College, having earned his Ph.D. from the University of Virginia in 2019. A highlight of the past year was leading the 2022 May Term course "Fictions of Empire in London," an immersive three-week course for twenty students that involved shared reading assignments, live events and performances, guest visits from London-based authors, and a series of self-directed, place-based writing assignments. In his spare moments, Peter has been plugging away at a book project titled "Writing Sound," which seeks to reframe prosodic analysis as a form of media theory. A version of Chapter 2 appeared in the March 2020 issue of *PMLA*. Heading into next year, Peter is particularly excited to be teaching CORE 187: The Poetry of Hip Hop and ENGL 212: Word & Image, which will feature the poetry of Emily Dickinson.



### KYLE SCHLABACH

In addition to teaching linguistics and composition classes, Kyle is working at the GC Academic Success Center as an academic coach and as the Coordinator of Writing Support. He is currently working on teaching and learning research and developing a corequisite composition model for the GC Core. In this capacity, he has also enjoyed being a part of the Student Academic Services and Retention teams. Recent courses Kyle has taught include DCS 110: Academic Success, ENGL 310: Linguistics, ENGL 315: Global English, and ENGL 319: English Grammar. He also remains engaged in his research fields of student learning, democracy and literacy, and Irish and post-colonial studies.



### Greta Lapp Klassen— Horswell Reflection

When I agreed to be the Horswell Fellow for this academic year, I wasn't sure what to expect—would I find people on campus who were interested in submitting poetry for Broadside? Would there be books to publish through Pinchpenny Press? How does something get published in the first place? How did Covid-19 change things? As it turned out, I had nothing to worry about. There were plenty of people from all departments on campus who submitted poetry, and there were also some big projects to complete with Pinchpenny Press that had been backlogged due to COVID-19. We published *Goshen Graphix III* and an environmental history reader, two more additions to the Horswell Anthology series. We also printed Broadside from a wide variety of students: English and writing majors (of course), but also theater majors, math majors, and art majors. It is wonderful to see that poetry is still alive and well in 2022! One of my favorite parts of being Horswell Fellow is seeing how excited people get when they get a new Broadside or when they see their work published. It was especially gratifying to publish student comics and see how much the campus community enjoyed them. I am super grateful to have had this opportunity to learn about publishing, and I am proud of the work we do in the English Department!

## Skip Barnett Reflects on Retirement: Goodbye, and thanks for all the fish!



Once upon a time, I was a fresh graduate of George Mason's graduate English program, trying to figure out what to do with my education, experience, and interests. I had happily taught English as a Second Language to adults in the US and in China for a number of years, but I was looking to do something slightly different

with my degree. Suddenly, the phone rang! It was a friend I had met in China, Wilbur Birky, inviting me to come out to the wilds of northern Indiana to interview for a teaching position at his college—you know the one.

Despite the snowy reception (in mid-March!) the job was a perfect fit—I'd be directing the TESOL program to train future ESL teachers and I'd be working with a group of 10 visiting Chinese professors each year. Fabulous! Well, in short order, my wife and I loaded up a truck and hauled our lives out to the Midwest, bought a house, had a couple babies, and joined the busy world of Goshen College.

Over the years (33.5 of them), my life at the college evolved in interesting and unforeseen ways. I continued as the director of the TESOL program, but for a number of years, I shifted my time away from teaching first-year composition courses and started spending most of my time as the international admissions counselor and as the International Student Adviser. I enjoyed having one foot in the academic side of campus and one foot in the administrative part, since it gave me a wider perspective on the college as a whole. These two new positions also gave me the chance to get deeply involved with all of GC's wonderful and fascinating international students. This opened up a new world to me, even though it meant I had to dance between three different departments and two offices. A bit stressful at times, but very stimulating.

After about eight years, I backed off from the Admissions job and went back to helping teach the first-year composition and literature courses, such as American Voices and Identity, Culture, and Community. I learned a great deal working with GC colleagues from many departments as we developed plans for these courses, and I very much enjoyed getting to work with first-time GC students each semester.

In short, as Jimmy Stewart realizes at the end of *It's a Wonderful Life*, I have been blessed with wonderful, stimulating educational experiences and loving friends. I had no clear idea what I was getting into when I came to Goshen back in 1988, but it was so much more than I had ever imagined. I am now looking forward to a new adventure—retirement back in Virginia where all our family members are—that I am sure will also be full of surprises and rewarding new relationships. 🌿

## Ann Hostetler: Reflections from Retirement



Looking back on the two years since my retirement on July 1, 2020, I'm in awe of the students and faculty who persevered during the pandemic (is it even over?) to deepen their educational experiences.

My last class—Walking in the World—was taught online in May 2020 with visiting Professor Pamela Carralero. Necessity forced us to redesign a course shaped for in-place immersion into an online experience. Instead of immersing ourselves at Merry Lea, we challenged students to explore walking in the environments where they had landed when the college closed, and to report on their individual "in place" experiences through blogs. We learned so much from each other! This remains one of my favorite teaching experiences, but I'm grateful that I didn't have to redesign every course for Zoom, and I admire those who did.

Retirement has thus far afforded me time to finish some scholarly projects and to make progress on others. My chapter on Toni Morrison, "Quiet as It's Kept: Embedded Theology in Toni Morrison's Fiction," will appear in the edited collection, *People Get Ready: Twelve Jesus-Haunted Misfits, Malcontents, and Dreamers in Pursuit of Justice*, to be published by Eerdmans in 2023. Sponsored by the Institute for Lived Theology at the University of Virginia, this project invited me to revisit one of my favorite authors through a theological perspective, a new challenge for this seasoned scholar.

I've continued to write poems and short essays, and to work on a long-term project based on the letters of my father, John A. Hostetler, tracing his journey from an Old Order Amish family through the academy and to his eventual position as academic student of and spokesperson for the Amish during the second half of the 20th century. Retirement has enabled me to do lots of travel connected to this project, especially to Pennsylvania where my father's papers are housed at The Pennsylvania State University, and where some of my Old Order Amish relatives and other informants for the study live.

In another week I'll take an entirely different kind of trip, one to an island in Greece, where I'll be participating in a three-week long writing workshop with poets Carolyn Forché, Ilya Kaminsky, and Scott Cairns.

Meanwhile, I've been hard at work planning the 9th Mennonite/s Writing conference, to be held at Goshen College this fall from September 29 to October 2. It, too, was postponed twice because of the pandemic, so in this way, I don't feel like I've retired yet.

I've also enjoyed many exchanges with former students, whether it's been to request a letter of recommendation, share a publication, a new job, an essay or poem, a wedding invitation, or just a friendly "hello." Thank you for reaching out and staying in touch! I hope I'll see some of you at the conference this fall—along with current students and faculty. 🌿