



Young Center

The Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College

Fall 2006

News

Center receives Durnbaugh research collection

The Durnbaugh materials will benefit the work of scholars who come to the Young Center.

Through the kindness and generosity of Hedda Durnbaugh, the Young Center has received many of the papers, periodicals, and books from the collection of her late husband, Donald F. Durnbaugh. A preeminent scholar of Brethren history, Durnbaugh died unexpectedly in August 2005. Long affiliated with the Young Center and Elizabethtown College, he helped to shape the original plans for the Center and delivered the first public lecture here in 1987. In 1989, Durnbaugh was appointed the first Carl W. Ziegler Professor of Religion and History at the college, a position he held until 1993.

In 1993, the Young Center established an annual lecture series to commemorate the scholarly achievements of the Durnbaughs in preserving and interpreting the history of Anabaptist and Pietist

groups. Hedda Durnbaugh decided to contribute her husband's research materials to the Young Center because of the Durnbaughs' affiliation with the Center and her belief that the materials will benefit the work of scholars who come to the Young Center.

This summer, Kate Eisenbise, a doctoral student at Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California, conducted an inventory of the materials. She began by creating a list of all the books and periodicals in the collection. The 595 books, primarily on topics related to Anabaptist and Quaker history, peace and pacifism, Pietism, Pennsylvania Dutch, Colonial American history, communalism, and German printing in America (the Sauer family), will be cataloged by the High Library. They will then become part of the college's collection but kept permanently at the Young Center. New shelving is being installed in the Center's reading room to house the Durnbaugh books.

The 865 items in the periodical collection fall into basically the same subject categories as the books. *Brethren in Christ History and Life*, *Communal Societies*, *Der Reggeboge*, *Gospel Messenger*, *Old Order Notes*, *Mennonite Quarterly Review*, and *Yearbook of German-American Studies* constitute a substantial portion of the journal issues.

The subject matter of the donated papers—30 to 35 folders in each of 57 file boxes—is wide-ranging. There are articles on cults, intentional communities, communalism, Anabaptism, peace-making, alternative service, Pietism, American Revolution, Brethren history, historic peace churches, peace conferences, Alexander Mack Jr., and the



Kate Eisenbise inventories the Donald Durnbaugh research materials donated by Hedda Durnbaugh.

(continued on p. 2)



FROM THE INTERIM DIRECTOR

Donald B. Kraybill

We are concluding a busy summer at the Young Center. In addition to our regular staff, four students and a doctoral fellow have been employed here as well, engaged in a variety of research projects during June, July, and August.

Following the annual conference of the Church of the Brethren in early July in Des Moines, the Young Center organized an educational seminar at the Amana Colonies in Amana, Iowa. Participants explored the stream of radical pietism that led to the formation of the Community of True Inspiration in Germany.

Our summer was marked by the death of Dr. Galen S. Young, benefactor of the

Center, and the departure of Dr. David Eller, who served as director since 1997. The college will begin the search for a new director this fall. Meanwhile I am serving as interim director.

Plans are underway for two conferences to be held next year—a June 2007 conference on the Amish in North America and an October 2007 conference that will highlight the Church of the Brethren’s tricentennial observance. In addition, the Young Center is developing a series of events to be held on campus during 2007 and 2008 around the theme “Honoring a Legacy, Embracing a Future: Three Hundred Years of Brethren

Heritage.” An overview of these activities, for which the Young Center has received a grant from the college, will appear in our Spring 2007 newsletter.

We are very pleased by the continuing strong support for the NEH Challenge Grant. I deeply appreciate all the gifts, pledges, and expressions of goodwill that are helping us move closer to our goal of raising \$2 million.

We are looking forward to having Professor Marcus Meier from Marburg, Germany, here as Center Fellow this fall. I hope you can join us for his lectures in October as well as for our other fall presentations. ■

Brethren Conference scheduled for Fall 2007

“Honoring a Legacy, Embracing a Future: Three Hundred Years of Brethren Heritage,” a conference focusing on the historical development and cultural life of the Church of the Brethren and related groups, will be held October 11 to 13, 2007, at the Young Center. Of interest to academics, pastors, and lay leaders, the conference will explore topics related to the changing nature and witness of the Church of the Brethren and related groups from 1708 to the present.

Proposals for papers or entire sessions are currently being accepted. The pro-

posals may be related to any aspect of the Brethren experience in North America or abroad from its beginning to the present day and are welcome from those in any academic discipline as well as from practitioners in ministry, congregational life, education, and service.

For each paper or session proposal, provide a title, a 150- to 200-word abstract, and a one-page resume with full contact information and institutional affiliation (if any). Send proposals by e-mail to Steve Scott at scottse@etown.edu by December 31, 2006. Proposals will be


screened and program committee decisions will be made by March 31, 2007. Direct questions to Donald B. Kraybill at kraybilld@etown.edu. ■

College receives Durnbaugh collection *(continued)*

Sauer family. Durnbaugh compiled or collected extensive bibliographies for most of the subject folders. There are also boxes with Durnbaugh’s correspondence, boxes of material related to his publications, a box containing photographs of people and places related to Brethren history, several pencil drawings of the Ephrata Cloister by Charles Overley, and boxes of material from

Durnbaugh’s tenure at Bethany Theological Seminary. Eisenbise looked through each file folder, listed the general contents, and compiled an inventory list for each box.

The inventory lists will greatly enhance the use of and access to the papers, periodicals, and books. They will eventually be accessible via the Young Center web site. ■



- INTERIM DIRECTOR & SENIOR FELLOW
Donald B. Kraybill, Ph.D.
- RESEARCH STAFF
Stephen Scott
Cynthia Nolt
- NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Cynthia Nolt

Young Center News is published twice each year for those interested in the work and events of the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies. Comments and suggestions are welcome. Please direct correspondence to the Young Center at the address below.

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The Young Center is coordinating a national survey of a probability sample of 7,000 members in three denominations: Church of the Brethren, Mennonite Church USA, and Brethren in Christ. A 20-page questionnaire was developed in 2005 and mailed to the selected participants in early 2006. Volunteers from the Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren helped prepare the surveys for mailing by applying stamps and address labels and stuffing the envelopes.

The survey return rate was beyond expectations. “We are extremely pleased with the exceptionally high response rate of respondents,” project coordinator Donald B. Kraybill said. “The Gallup organization anticipates a 25 to 30 percent return rate for a mail survey like this. We achieved rates of 65 percent and higher.”

A team of three students worked with project directors Conrad Kanagy, Carl D. Bowman, and Donald B. Kraybill this summer to clean the data files and begin the analysis. Reporting to denominational leaders and constituents will begin in the summer of 2007.

Book on Wenger Mennonites published

Pennsylvania State University Press has just released *Horse-and-Buggy Mennonites: Hoofbeats of Humility in a Postmodern World* by Donald B. Kraybill and James P. Hurd. This book is the first social-historical analysis of the Wengers, an Old Order Mennonite group that formed in Lancaster County in 1927 as the result of a schism over acceptance of the automobile. The community has grown rapidly since its formation—it now numbers approximately 18,000—and has expanded into eight other states in addition to Pennsylvania. Kraybill and Hurd explore the Wengers’ life and culture, and compare them with other Mennonite groups as well as with the Amish.

To order a copy of *Horse-and-Buggy Mennonites*, please contact Penn State University Press at (800) 326-9180. ■

NEH Grant update

Donors have been very supportive of the Challenge Grant awarded the Young Center by the National Endowment for the Humanities. In order to receive \$500,000 in NEH funding, the Young Center must raise \$2 million dollars. To date, \$1.39 million has been contributed or pledged, leaving \$607,500 remaining to be raised before January 2008. Approximately \$109,500 of that amount must be pledged or given by January 2007.

The Durnbaugh Legacy Endowment, which honors Donald F. Durnbaugh, Young Center Fellow and prominent scholar of Brethren studies, is part of the NEH Challenge Grant.

Challenge grant donations may also be made in memory of Young Center benefactor Galen S. Young, who died in July at age 94.

Contact Allen Hansell, director of church relations, at (717) 361-1257 for more information. ■

Jeff Gundy receives 2006 Brown Book Award

Walker in the Fog named outstanding book in Anabaptist and Pietist studies

W*alker in the Fog: On Mennonite Writing* by Jeff Gundy has won the 2006 Dale W. Brown Book Award. Part of the C. Henry Smith Series published by Cascadia Publishing House (copublisher: Herald Press), the book explores important Mennonite and related authors—Patrick Friesen, William Stafford, Julia Kasdorf, Jean Janzen, Keith Ratzlaff, and others—as well as crucial issues and themes, such as power and authority, myths of origin and possibility, heresy and community.

Gundy is professor of English at Bluffton University, where he has taught writing, literature and general education courses since 1984. He has also taught at Hesston College, Goshen College, Indiana University, and the Antioch Writer's Workshop. The recipient of six Ohio Arts Council grants for poetry, Gundy was also the first two-time winner of the C. Henry Smith Peace Lectureship. His earlier prose books are *Scattering Point: The World in a Mennonite Eye* and *A Community of Memory: My Days with*

George and Clara. His poetry collections include *Deerflies*, winner of the Editions Prize and the Nancy Dasher Award, *Rhapsody with Dark Matter*, *Flatlands*, and *Inquiries*. His poems and essays have appeared in dozens of magazines and journals, including *Christian Century*, *Mennonite Quarterly Review*, *The Sun*, *Image*, *Shenandoah*, *Georgia Review*, *Conrad Grebel Review*, and *Mennonite Life*.

The judges, scholars in Anabaptist and Pietist studies, reviewed the 22 books nominated for the award. Their comments on *Walker in the Fog* include: "Gundy writes superbly. He introduces Anabaptists and Pietists to a high level of literary criticism without being ideological or doctrinaire," "Gundy attends both to the variety of 'Mennonites writing' and to the emerging scholarship and critical analysis of that writing. He does this with careful attention and in a spirit of genuine dialogue," and "The essays in the book reveal different voices and styles of writing. This is one of the

strengths of the book—its use of polemic, of humor, of seduction, and of logic to draw the reader in, to challenge received wisdom, and to strengthen the tradition through honest dialogue with the tradition, from both the center and the margins."

The national award, which recognizes an outstanding book in Anabaptist and Pietist studies, was named for Dale W. Brown, a retired Bethany Seminary professor who lives in Elizabethtown and served as Young Center Fellow in 1993. A noted author and theologian among the historic peace churches, Brown has written *Biblical Pacifism*, *Understanding Pietism*, and *Another Way of Believing: A Brethren Theology*. The first Brown book award was given in 2004.

Gundy will present a public lecture at the Young Center on September 21.

Nominations for the 2007 Dale W. Brown Book Award will be accepted until December 1. Visit the Young Center's web site (www.etown.edu/youngctr/) for details. ■

Amish identity project continues

The research team of Donald B. Kraybill, Steven Nolt, and Karen Johnson-Weiner is coordinating a three-year project on Amish identity and diversity in North America, funded through the collaborative research division of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The team has held several meetings and conferred with a seven-person advisory group of scholars in November 2005. Research visits have been made to Amish communities in Pennsylvania, Delaware, New York and Illinois; additional visits are scheduled for later this year and in 2007.

One component of the project is the organization and hosting of an international conference on the Amish of North America. The conference, "The Amish in America: New Identities and Diversities," will be held June 7 to 9, 2007, on

the Elizabethtown College campus. Scholars from a variety of academic disciplines as well as people who provide services to the Amish will participate.

Currently, the planners are inviting proposals for papers and poster sessions on topics related to any facet of the Amish experience in America. Presentations may cover historical as well as contemporary themes. For each paper or poster session, the presenter should provide a title, a 150- to 200-word abstract, and a one-page resume with full contact and institutional affiliation. Proposals should be submitted to kraybilld@etown.edu by November 1. Proposals will be screened and program committee decisions made by January 10, 2007.

Registration for the conference, which is open to the public, will begin in January 2007. ■



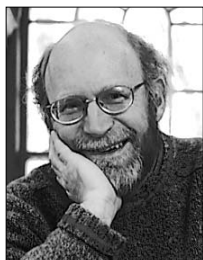
In April, C. Arnold Snyder presented the 2006 Durnbaugh Lectures, which focused on Anabaptist spirituality.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Return of the Prodigal: Anabaptists and Imagination

JEFF GUNDY, PH.D.

Thursday, September 21
7:30 p.m.



Jeff Gundy

This lecture will explore the recent strong emergence of imaginative writing among Anabaptists and Mennonites, and seek to demonstrate that such work is constructive and even

essential for contemporary followers of Jesus. Poet Julia Kasdorf of Penn State University will respond to Gundy's lecture and comment on his book.

Gundy is professor of English at Bluffton University, where he has taught writing, literature, and general education courses since 1984. *Walker in the Fog: On Mennonite Writing*, the book on which Gundy's lecture is based, was chosen to receive the 2006 Dale W. Brown Book Award. Copies of the book will be available for sale and signing.

Durnbaugh Lectures

MARCUS MEIER, PH.D.



Marcus Meier

Meier, an ordained Lutheran pastor, has been a research assistant in Reformation Studies and Radical Pietism and an instructor in church history at the Philipps University in Marburg, Germany, since earning his Ph.D. there in 2003. He spent the 1994-95 academic year as a scholar in residence at Bethany Theological Seminary in Richmond, Indiana.

■ Thursday, September 21, 7:30 p.m.

The Return of the Prodigal: Anabaptists and Imagination

Jeff Gundy, Ph.D.

Durnbaugh Lectures

Marcus Meier, Ph.D.

■ Thursday, October 19, 7:30 p.m.

New Light on Brethren Beginnings: The Debate about Baptism in German Radical Pietism

■ Friday, October 20, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Johann Kipping from Württemberg: A Case Study of Pietism and Anabaptism in Germany

The Little Church According to Comenius and Spener: A New Look at Pietism

■ Thursday, November 9, 7:30 p.m.

Horse-and-Buggy Mennonites in a Postmodern World

Donald B. Kraybill, Ph.D.

James P. Hurd, Ph.D.

New Light on Brethren Beginnings: The Debate about Baptism in German Radical Pietism

Thursday, October 19
7:30 p.m.

Baptism by trine immersion in flowing water was the starting point for the formation of a "New Testament church" in August 1708 under the leadership of Alexander Mack. At that time baptism was one of the major issues among radical Pietists in Germany. Meier will give a sweeping overview of this debate and its influence upon the early Brethren movement in Europe.

Johann Kipping from Württemberg and

The Little Church According to Comenius and Spener

Friday, October 20
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Johann Kipping is one of the neglected first members of the Brethren in Europe, although handwritten material from the archives in Stuttgart/Württemberg provides an in-depth look at his personality.

Meier will reconstruct Kipping's step-by-step renunciation of the Lutheran Church and discuss the interaction between Pietism and Anabaptism in Germany.

The establishing of private gatherings ("collegia pietatis") in August 1670 was one of the most significant actions during Philipp Jakob Spener's stay in Frankfurt, Germany. Meier will show that Spener obtained the idea for this new ecclesiological model from the writings of Johann Amos Comenius, describe the literary dependencies between the two reformers, and examine Spener's connections to Amsterdam, where Comenius spent the latter years of his life.

Cost of the Friday seminar, which includes lunch, is \$10. To register, contact the Young Center by October 8.

Horse-and-Buggy Mennonites in a Postmodern World

DONALD B. KRAYBILL, PH.D.

JAMES P. HURD, PH.D.

Thursday, November 9
7:30 p.m.



James P. Hurd

The authors of *Horse-and-Buggy Mennonites: Hoofbeats of Humility in a Postmodern World* will discuss their field research in various Wenger Mennonite communities, some of the key findings

from their book, and the ways that Wenger people differ from other Old Order communities. Copies of the book will be available for sale and signing.

Kraybill is Senior Fellow and interim director of the Young Center. Hurd is professor of anthropology and chair of the department of anthropology and sociology at Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota.

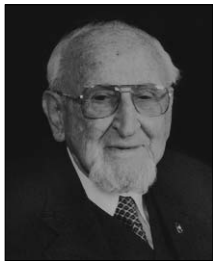


Elizabethtown College

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Galen S. Young, Center benefactor



Dr. Galen S. Young

The Young Center exists today largely because of the vision and generosity of Galen S. and Jessie B. Young. Committed to the study and interpretation of Brethren heritage, the Youngs made a significant contribution toward the construction and an initial endowment for the Center when it was established in 1988.

A 1934 graduate of Elizabethtown College, Galen Young went on to earn a doctor of osteopathy degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM). He received his license to practice surgery in 1939 and, after completing his internship, opened his own practice in the Philadelphia area, and also taught PCOM students, interns, and residents for 44 years.

Active in the Church of the Brethren and its leadership, Dr. Young helped found congregations in Drexel Hill, Philadelphia, and Paoli and served as moderator of the church's North Atlantic District Conference.

Dr. Young received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Elizabethtown in 1951 and was a trustee of the college for over 30 years, joining the board in 1973 and achieving emeritus status in 2004. He received the college's Outstanding Alumni Award and the Educate for Service Award, and he was a charter member of the President's Club.

"Galen was always a generous friend and active supporter of the Center," interim director Donald B. Kraybill said. "He supported many of our events whenever he was able. He was delighted to see the Young Center grow and flourish beyond his initial expectations."

Dr. Young died on Saturday, July 8, at the age of 94. ■

The first book in the new Young Center series will be published by Johns Hopkins University Press this fall.

Train Up a Child: Old Order Amish

and *Mennonite Schools* by Karen Johnson-Weiner is a comprehensive study of Old Order Mennonite and Amish schools in Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Based on countless hours of interviews and observations in classrooms, Johnson-Weiner shows how Old Order schools reflect the values of their communities and asserts that the reinforcement of those values among children is essential for the communities' survival in the modern world.

Three additional titles in Young Center Books in Anabaptist and Pietist Studies are slated for publication in 2007. Series editor Donald B. Kraybill is working with other authors who are preparing manuscripts for publication in the series.

