



History Newsletter

Department of History
Bethel College
North Newton, Kansas
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www.bethelks.edu/academics/history/

Let's Get Together!

Where can one find young and old wise history alums and faculty, cookies and coffee under one roof? At the Annual History Department Fall Fest Coffee of course! Join us for refreshments and visit with fellow historians in the Chapel from 10-11 a.m. on Saturday, October 4. Feel free to bring the family along! If you're a young alum, the annual departmental coffee is a great place to make contacts with other Bethel history alums!

History Student Headlines

History students selfishly win nearly every history award possible

Bethel History students once again strutted their historical stuff in a number of history paper competitions. Senior Jordan Penner was the big winner, taking home the top prize for undergraduate history research from the Kansas Association of Historians for

his paper "The Success of Aztlan," a paper which examined nationalistic themes in Chicano/a poetry and art. He presented his paper at the annual KAH meeting in Independence, KS in April. Jordan, who hails from Reedley, California, also won the Sider Institute's top prize in Anabaptist research for his senior seminar entitled "Gaining a Voice: Hispanic Mennonites in North America." Meredith Lehman, sophomore from Bluffton, Ohio, took the second-place prize for her paper "Poetry and Politics: Gender-inclusive Language in *Hymnal: A Worship Book*." Peter Miller, senior from Partridge, Kansas, won the third-place prize with his paper "Prophecy and Pacifism: Mennonite Response to the Arab-Israeli Wars of 1948 and 1967." A Bethel College sweep of the Sider Institute's 7th Annual Anabaptist Research Paper competition!

Nebraskan wins Undergraduate Research Award

In an increasingly competitive application process, Bethel College History majors continue to win student undergraduate research awards. Grant Hiebner, senior from Henderson, Nebraska, overcame the handicap of hailing from Nebraska and won an Undergraduate Summer Research Award to research the experiences of Jews in an agricultural experiment in western Kansas. Good luck, Grant!

Recent Notable Accomplishments by Bethel History Alumni

Richard Preheim (1989) was named Director of the Mennonite Church USA's Historical Committee, which will meet on the Bethel College campus November 7-8.

Lawrence Hart (1961) was recently named to the Oklahoma State Historical Society's Hall of Fame. Hart, along with former Bethel College English professor, Raylene Hinz-Penner, published *Searching for Sacred Ground: The Journey of Chief Lawrence Hart* in 2007. Hart, a Mennonite minister and Cheyenne Peace Chief has been instrumental in establishing the Cheyenne Cultural Center at Clinton and a tireless advocate of returning sacred objects and funerary remains to their respective native tribal groups. To top it all off, Hart is featured in the May 2008 issue of *Perspectives on History*, the professional publication of the American Historical Association.



Left to right: Jordan Penner, Meredith Lehman, Penelope Adams Moon and Peter Miller. Penner, Lehman and Miller won the top three places of the Sider Institute's Annual Anabaptist Research Paper competition.

Scholarship Named in Honor of History Alumnus

Kurt Harder, a Bethel History graduate from 1981, passed away last December after an intense battle with cancer. Harder taught history and social studies and coached basketball at Newton High School (1982-86), Santa Fe Middle School (1986-87), Maize High School (1987-91) and Hesston High School (1991-2005). In 1991, he took over his family's farm and began farming in addition to teaching. The Kurt A. Harder Endowed Scholarship will be given to a junior or senior majoring in history education or, if no student meets that criteria, a junior or senior in history or in education. If you are interested in making a donation to or learning more about the Kurt A. Harder Endowed Scholarship, contact the Bethel College Office of Development, 316-284-5250, e-mail development@bethelks.edu.

Clio Musings

For Service Day, Clio members and other interested Bethel College students put themselves at the disposal of the Kauffman Museum in North Newton. Volunteers helped brainstorm, design, and install an exhibit of hygiene products in the museum's collection in the display case of the Administration Building. Other volunteers installed a number of panels from the Peace Ribbon project that wrapped the Pentagon in the early 1980s in the display case in the basement of Mantz Library. Be sure to check out their work Fall Fest weekend.

Professional Activities

Associate Professor Mark Jantzen

The highlight of Mark's year was a spring sabbatical that including moving the family in March and April to Weierhof, Germany, where he did research at the Mennonite Research Center run by Gary Waltner (1962). He spent his time reading through records produced by the Vistula Delta Mennonite churches in the eighteenth and nineteenth century. Weierhof is about 15 miles west of Worms, so the Jantzens made an excursion there to see where Luther stood as well as visiting Wuppertal, Berlin and Munich. Mark had a book chapter published, "Creating Proper Citizens: Prussian Taxation Policies toward

Mennonites, 1773-1927," in *Taxation, State, and Civil Society in Germany and the United States from the 18th to the 20th Century*, Christoph Strupp and Alexander Nützenadel, eds. Baden-Baden: Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, 2007. Together with Mary Sprunger, Professor of History at Eastern Mennonite University, he is planning an international conference on Anabaptists, Mennonites and Modernity in European Society to be held on Bethel's campus in June 2010. See the call for papers at <http://www.bethelks.edu/MennosandModernity/> and plan now to attend!

Associate Professor Penelope Adams Moon

Penny published "Loyal Sons and Daughters of God? American Catholics Debate Catholic Antiwar Protest" *Peace & Change*, v.33, no.1 (January 2008): 1-30 and "Blessed and Broken: A response to Darrin K. Snyder-Belousek," *Mennonite Life*, v.62, no.2 (Fall 2007). She took four students to Independence, KS in April to attend the annual Kansas Historical Association meeting where student Jordan Penner presented his award-winning paper. Currently, Penny is planning a sabbatical trip to South Africa and reviewing a book on the CPT hostage crisis in Iraq.

Professor Emeritus Keith Sprunger

Keith returned to the Bethel classroom in the spring semester to teach History of Civilization II, two sections, with about 50 students. Although we hear about Bethel's increasing diversity of student body, he found that he had taught the parents of at least one-third of his new students in past years. He has several research projects underway, ranging from the 17th century to the current time. The biggest assignment is to write a new history of Bethel for the upcoming 125th anniversary of the college in 2012.

Professor Emeritus Jim Juhnke

Jim has been working on a cooperative museum project involving Kauffman Museum at Bethel College and the Ichan Kala Museum in Khiva, Uzbekistan. Bethel is providing some funding and documents for an exhibit in Khiva about a Mennonite settlement at Ak Metchet, 1884-1935. In

April Jim presented a paper on the Ak Metchet Mennonites at the annual meeting of the Kansas Association of Historians at Independence Community College. Jim has spoken on the same topic at meetings in Kansas, California, Pennsylvania and Virginia. In October he will speak about Mennonites and the War for Independence at a conference in Germantown, Pennsylvania: "Germantown: Gateway to American Mennonite History."

Guest Speakers

2008 Menno Simons Lecture Series

Be sure to save the evenings of November 2, 3, and 4 to come hear this year's Menno Simons lecturer, historian James Stayer. Stayer, Emeritus Professor of History at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario will speak on "Anabaptist Beginnings—July 1523-February 1527: Grebel and Hubmaier; Mantz and Sattler" on Sunday, November 2 at 7:30 p.m. in Krehbiel Auditorium on Bethel's campus. The lecture series will continue on Monday, November 3 at 11 a.m. when Stayer speaks on "The Prophetic Political Dissent of the Anabaptists: Then and Now" in convocation. Monday evening at 7:30pm, Stayer will term to the topic of "Pilgram Marpeck and the Austerlitz Brethren: A 'Disappeared' Anabaptist Denomination." And the lecture series will finish on Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. with a talk entitled "Menno and Münster."

In addition to a lifetime of teaching, Stayer published studies focused on Anabaptist/Mennonite pluralism. He has authored two books on Anabaptist/Mennonite history: *Anabaptists and the Sword* (1972) and *The German Peasants' War and Anabaptist Community of Goods* (1991). He has more recently co-edited two collections on the radical *Reformation: Radicalism and Dissent in the Sixteenth Century* (2002) – with Hans-Juergen Goertz, and *A Companion to Anabaptism and Spiritualism* (2007) – with John D. Roth.

Professors Emeriti to speak at "Germantown" Conference

Professors Emeriti Jim Juhnke and Keith Sprunger will be involved with a



VADA SNIDER

2007 Menno Simons Lecturer Rudy Wiebe (center, foreground) visits Mark Jantzen's Mennonite History, Life and Thought class.

conference this October in Philadelphia entitled, "Germantown: Gateway to North American History." The conference will take place October 17-18, 2008 at the historic Mennonite meetinghouse at Germantown (Philadelphia). Jim will be one of the keynote speakers. His topic is "Germantown Mennonites and the American Revolution: New Interpretations." Keith, who is on the planning committee, will give a paper on the historical interpretations of D. K. Cassel.

The conference, organized by the Germantown Mennonite Historic Trust, commemorates the 300th anniversary of the formal organization of the Germantown church (1708-2008).

Rudy Wiebe reflects on writing Mennonite history

Renowned Canadian Mennonite writer Rudy Wiebe served as the 2007 Menno Simons lecturer in October. Wiebe's novels, many of which place Mennonite communities as the center of the story, have won a number of literary prizes both in the United States and Canada. Wiebe's lectures focused on "Tracking the Story through History," a look at the intersection between the process of creative writing and the process of recording history.

2008 History Seminar Paper Topics and News

This was a weird year in the History Department...and not simply because Mark was gone on sabbatical! We had six wonderful students in seminar, but only two of them graduated. The remaining four will be returning to Bethel for a number of reasons. Julia Fromm and Miriam Friesen will be completing requirements for Education licensure. Aaron Voth is coming back to finish up a communications major he decided to add his junior year. And Charles Schrag has decided to do some volunteer work in Germany before finishing up at Bethel.

Our two graduates, Peter Miller and Jordan Penner, both secured highly-competitive service positions. Peter will be serving in Jerusalem through the SALT program. Jordan will work with SALT in Guatemala.

Miriam Friesen, "Becoming Better Men: A Comparison of Self-Improvement and Masculinity in Two Kansas CCC Camps"

Julie Fromm, "Different but Equal, Riveting but Wrong: A Gender Analysis of the Holocaust in Memoir and Film"

Peter Miller, "Souls, Cars and Division: The Amish Mennonite Movement of the

1950s and its Effects on the Amish Community of Partridge, Kansas"

Jordan Penner, "Gaining a Voice: Hispanic Mennonites in America"

Charles Schrag, "A Community Committed to Unity: Military Service During WWII at Salem-Zion Mennonite Church"

Aaron Voth, "Tompkins Square Park: Where Gentrification, Politics, and Hardcore Punk Meet"

History Alumni News

Eleonore "Leo" (Zimmer) Aarsen (1995) is an archival consultant and is President and CEO of Make It Last Inc. The business focuses on providing document preservation service for private individuals. Eleonore is also actively involved in the Society of North Carolina Archivists and holds occasional public talks about paper preservation. Her leisure interests include fashion, reading (history of course) and traveling. She and husband John live in Fayetteville, NC.

Jan Bargaen (1975) is on the staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in Washington, DC.

Justin Bull (2007) is currently working on his MA in Sports Management from Texas A & M University.

Braden Conrad-Hiebner (2007) married Aislinn Conrad this summer and has returned to Bethel to seek history secondary education licensure.

Janel Cook (1992) former director of the Coronado Quivira Museum, is moving across the square in Lyons, KS and is opening a retail/coffee shop called Town Square Emporium.

Victoria Eastes (2003) finished her MA in history at the Texas A & M University and is currently working on getting her thesis published. She presented her research at a conference on Baltic Studies in May at the University of Indiana.

Elizabeth Ediger (1995) has taken a job with the US Embassy in Belgium.

Rachel Epp Buller (1996) presented papers at the Performing Feminist Motherhood conference in New York and at the 14th Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, in Minneapolis. She also participated in an Artist Exchange program through the Salina Art Center and has been exhibiting her prints regionally in

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the last year. Rachel regularly contributes to *Review* magazine in Kansas City.

Jay Franz (1968) of Spokane, Washington continues to be an unrivaled traveler. This past year he did extensive touring in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware.

He has a special interest in visiting state capitol buildings. He attended his 40th anniversary class reunion in May.

Scott Friesen (1991) is principal at Inman High School. He is making progress toward a doctorate in education at Wichita State University.

Matthew Gilmore (1983) served on the local arrangements committee for the American Historical Association conference in January. Matthew won reelection as H-Net's Vice President for Networks in November to a second full term. His newest book, *Historic Photos of Arlington*, came off the press at Christmas, joining *Historic Photos of Franklin Delano Roosevelt* published in October. He published "H-Net: Digital Discussion for Historians," in the May 2007 issue of *Perspectives*, <http://www.historians.org/perspectives/issues/2007/0705/0705tec5.cfm> and is now working for the District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs in the Office of Information Systems in IT and GIS.

Henry Goertz (1974) died at his home at Bristol, Indiana June 28, 2008. He practiced law in Dodge City, Kansas from 1984-2003.

Jakob Gunden (2002) is in his fourth year of teaching American history and government at Inman High school. He reports high student interest in election year politics.

Aziza Hasan (2003) married Abdul Jabbar Sani August 9, 2008, in Wichita. They are living in California, where Aziza continues to work for the Muslim Public Affairs Council.

Scott Janzen (2006) won a highly unusual double scholarship from the Fund for Theological Education, receiving both a Congregational Fellowship and a Volunteers Exploring Vocation Fellowship. Scott and his wife, Bethel grad Christa (Taylor), finished a year of Mennonite Voluntary Service in Tucson, AZ, and recently moved to Elkhart, IN, where Scott will enter the M.Div program at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary while Christa teaches art in the Middlebury school system.

William Juhnke Jr. (1967) gave a convocation address last November on the Kennedy assassination.

Brett Klingenberg (2003) plans to study at Eastern Mennonite Seminary in Harrisonburg, VA this fall.

Chris Koehn (2000) teaches social studies at Santa Fe Middle School in Newton.

Clayton Koppes (1967), professor of history at Oberlin College, is writing a new book about censorship of Hollywood movies (with the help of an NEH grant).

Greta Grace Kroeker (1994) teaches history at the University of Waterloo in Canada. Her new book on Erasmus is moving along well and will be in the hands of the University of Toronto Press by September.

Jesse Nathan (2005) is co-producer of a documentary, "Through the Desert Goes Our Journey," about the Mennonite Great Trek to Central Asia in the 1880s and its rediscovery by Mennonite pilgrims in 2007. Jesse also published "The Unfinished Great Trek," an article in the Fall 2007 issue of *Mennonite Life*. <http://www.bethelks.edu/mennonitelife/2007fall/nathan.php>.

James Regier (2003) is really looking forward to taking his comps and putting his dissertation proposal together this year at the University of Notre Dame. He spent part of the summer in Oswiecim (Auschwitz), Poland, as part of a Holocaust study group.

Joe Sawatzky (2001) continues to serve in South Africa under Mennonite missions. Joe and his wife Anna teach at Bethany Bible School, which serves pastors of African-Initiated Churches in Eastern Cape Province. During the summer of 2008 they returned to the United States for a brief tour and spent some time with family in Kansas.

Dennis H. Schellenberg (1971) is still in social services delivery as a senior manager for the Province of Manitoba. His title is Area Director - Downtown (Winnipeg) and he is responsible for the delivery of social assistance, children's special services, child development services, supported living services and vocational rehabilitation in Downtown Winnipeg. Dennis continues to "chew away" on a historical novel looking at some fictional characters involved in the Selbstschutz.

Kimberly Schmidt (1984) just starting a study, *From Mädchen to Frau: Becoming a Woman in Amish Society*, which looks at how girls negotiate womanhood in Amish patriarchal society that has the "home" as its physical and religious center. She also continues to recover from her bout with breast cancer and is doing well.

Amber Schrag (2003) is a graduate student in archeology at Wichita State University, and was recently featured in the WSU alumni magazine for her leadership of a team on a dig of Mayan ruins in Central America.

Don Schrag (1971) has been listed in the 2008 edition of Best Lawyers in America and as a Missouri and Kansas Super Lawyer. He practices with Morris, Laing, Evans, Brock & Kennedy in Wichita.

Luke Shilts (2000) now hosts a radio show in Colorado. He'd like everyone to know that you can hear it online live 4-5pm MT at www.1310kfka.com. The show won "Best News/Talk Personality/Team in a Major Market" last year!

Jay Spaulding (1966) and his wife Stephanie Beswick are currently editing a volume of essays called *African Systems of Slavery* in which the contributors examine a number of cases where slavery owed little or nothing to the better-known Atlantic and Islamic slaving systems. Jay has also begun work on bringing the 2011 annual meeting of the Sudan Studies Association to Kean University, which has not undertaken anything quite like that before. Jay's recent publications include: "The Pardon of Hasan Rajab," *Sudan Studies Association Bulletin*, Vol. 25, No. 2 (April 2007), 21-25 and "Conflict in Dar Fur: a View from the Old Sudan," *Sudan Studies Association Newsletter*, Vol. 24, No. 2 (February 2006), pp. 21-23.

Mary Sprunger (1984) enjoyed a trip last summer (2007) to attend a family wedding in Amsterdam and visit some new places on a European road trip, including Romania, Slovenia and some new towns in Italy. Highlights for Mary, who teaches about these things at Eastern Mennonite University, included Urbino and the ruins of the castle Canossa (near Parma), once the stronghold of Mathilda of Tuscany who brokered a reconciliation between Pope Gregory VII and German emperor Henry IV in the 11th century.



Mary also presented a paper at a conference on Mennonite women held in Amsterdam in late August 2007, "Deaconesses, Fish Wives and the Burden of Mennonite Respectability: Amsterdam Women in a 17th-Century Congregation."

Eric Stucky (2005) successfully passed the Kansas State Bar exam.

Gregory Stucky (1971) practices law with Fleeson, Gooing, Coulson & Kitch in Wichita and has been listed in the 2008 edition of Best Lawyers in America and as a Missouri and Kansas Super Lawyer.

Allan Teichroew (1969) is with the Library of Congress in Washington D.C., managing the archival collections.

John Thiesen (1982) spoke at convocation last April about Bethel's "mascot"—the thresher. John adapted his talk from a Faculty Seminar he gave earlier in the year.

Nathan Toews (2001) has taken a job in the Austin, TX, public school system as a special education elementary school teacher for autistic children.

Ty Unrau (2006) is teaching history at Garden Plain High School and will have opportunity to teach an advance placement class for college credit this fall.

Matt Van Wingen (1999) has moved into a new career. He is teaching elementary school in New York City (Brooklyn).

Jerome Waltner (1986) runs Waltner Wood and Wall Designs in Newton. He was recognized by *Fine Woodworking* magazine for his design and construction of a maple chess table and pieces. It fared very well in the magazine's internet "International Furniture Build-off Contest."

Robert Weaver (2007) spent six weeks this summer studying law in Utrecht, Netherlands. Last year, Robert helped secure and introduce Brandon Mayfield as a speaker in convocation. Mayfield was wrongly arrested and imprisoned after the attacks of September 11.

Craig White (1975) is with the Department of Defense in Washington D. C. This is his second year with the DOD in a policy office that supports the disarmament of weapons of mass destruction in the former Soviet Union. One of his trips has been to Baku, Azerbaijan.

Keep in Touch!

Please visit the History Department website at www.bethelks.edu/academics/history/.

Drop us a line with news of what you're up to by contacting Penny Moon

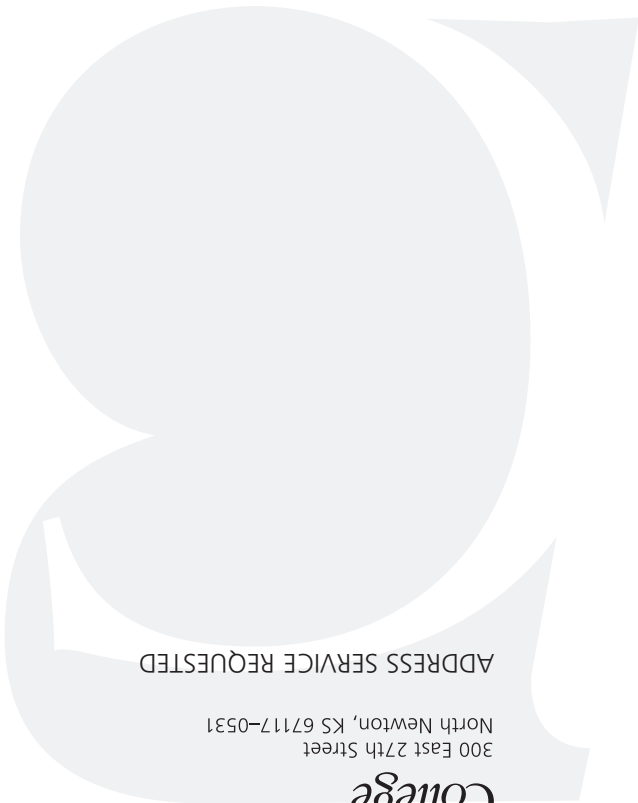
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