



Bethel College

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

History Newsletter

Let's Get Together!

Where can one find young and seasoned history alumni and faculty, current history majors, cookies, coffee, juice and great conversation 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. Saturday, Oct. 3. Feel free to bring the family along. If you're a young alum or current student, the annual departmental coffee is a great place to make contacts with other Bethel history alums. It would be great to see you at Fall Festival 2009!

History Student Headlines *Bethel College maintains chokehold on state competition*

Senior Miriam Friesen continued Bethel's dominance of the annual Kansas Association of Historians student paper competition. Friesen, a history major

from Filley, Neb., won the competition with her paper "Becoming Better Men," an examination of race and gender in two Kansas Civilian Conservation Corps camps during the 1930s. Friesen was the 22nd Bethel student to win this award.

History nerds win Undergraduate Research Awards...again

Once again, Bethel College history majors won Undergraduate Research Awards to fund summer research, snapping up two of the five awards given out in 2009. Victoria Janzen, a senior from Wichita, will use the funds to continue her research on Kansas citizens' participation in the national Peace Ribbon Project, a peace initiative used to call attention to the issue of nuclear disarmament in the 1980s. Meredith Lehman, a senior from Bluffton, Ohio, will use the funds to examine the historical importance of the 9th Mennonite World Conference in Curitiba, Brazil, the first such conference to be held

outside the United States or Europe. Good luck, Victoria and Meredith!

History paper wins 2009 Sider Institute prize

Senior biology major Allison Boehm of Prairie Village, Kan., won the Sider Institute's 8th Annual Anabaptist Research Paper competition with her paper "Beyond the Sewing Circle: Public and private gender concepts within the leadership of the Mennonite Women's Missionary Society, 1911-1929." Despite choosing to major in something other than history, Allison was bright enough to understand the value of Bethel College history courses and took Penny Moon's Gender in American History class "just for fun." Way to go, Allison!

History major wins UPS Scholarship

Matthew Root, a senior history major from Topeka, Kan., won a competitive scholarship from the UPS Educational Endowment Fund, established by the United Parcel Service at the Foundation for Independent Higher Education in Washington, D.C.

Departmental News *Anabaptists, Mennonites and Modernity in Europe Conference*

On June 25 and 26, 2010, Bethel College will be the site of an international conference on Anabaptists, Mennonites and Modernity in Europe. Heinz Schilling, professor of early modern history at Humboldt University in Berlin and a leading expert in the area of confessionalization, will be the keynote speaker. The call for papers and updated information on the schedule and registration are or will be available at <http://www.bethelks.edu/MennosandModernity/>. Mary Sprunger '84, Eastern Mennonite University, and Mark Jantzen are conference co-organizers.



Dale Schrag (history grad, '69), as Pilgram Marpeck, at the MCUSA convention in Columbus with former Bethel student president, Joe Penner.

History Newsletter

Bethel's new history needs you!

Bethel College's upcoming 125th anniversary in 2012 calls for a new college history. The previous one, *The Story of Bethel College*, was published in 1954. Keith Sprunger is the writer and history faculty, past and present, has a large role, with Mark Jantzen, Penny Moon and Jim Juhnke (along with history alumni John Thiesen, Dale Schrag and Robert Kreider) serving on the advisory committee. Besides written and printed sources, we are collecting stories via oral history and e-mail. Recorded interviews so far have included presidents and deans (D. C. Wedel, Harold Schultz, Marion Deckert) and several retired faculty.

We need the grassroots story. Can history alumni help out? If you have memories and stories, get in touch and we can work by face-to-face interview, phone or e-mail. Onward with Clio.

CLIO Musings

Once again this spring, CLIO History Club members put themselves at the disposal of the good folks at Kauffman Museum. Along with pulling some pesky weeds on the museum grounds, CLIO members gathered artifacts from the museum's collection to create a "Cabinet of Curiosities" in the display case of the Bethel College Administration Building. Check it out during Fall Festival.

Professional Activities

Associate Professor Mark Jantzen

Mark published "Wealth and Power in the Vistula River Mennonite Community, 1772-1914" in the *Journal of Mennonite Studies* 27 (2009): 93-107. This article was based on the presentation with the same title he gave at a conference in October on "Mennonites and Money: Wealth and Poverty in the Past and Present" at the University of Winnipeg. He also presented a summary of ongoing research as part of Bethel's Faculty Seminar series in April in a talk entitled "Mennonite German Soldiers: Intersections of Nation, Religion, and Family in the Prussian East, 1772-1880."

Associate Professor Penelope Adams Moon

Penny spent her sabbatical traveling, researching and playing with her daughter. In February, she traveled to South Africa and visited sites of historical importance, including the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg, the District Six Museum in Cape Town and the Robben Island Prison Museum. July found Penny at the

Mennonite Church USA conference in Columbus, Ohio, where she gave a seminar entitled "Welcomed as I was: A Catholic at home in the Mennonite Church." She spent most of her sabbatical, however, researching and writing about the public uproar surrounding the American government's use of napalm in the 1960s and 1970s. She was especially thankful that her sabbatical allowed her to pull her daughter out of day care and keep her home during the spring semester.

Professor Emeritus Keith Sprunger

Various historical projects are on Keith's agenda. He is on the Newton/North Newton Historic Preservation Commission and, further afield, on the board of the Germantown Mennonite Historic Trust (which maintains the 1770 Mennonite meetinghouse in Philadelphia – the oldest Mennonite church building in America). Then there is always the ongoing work of writing the new 125th anniversary history of Bethel (to be out by 2012).

Professor Emeritus Jim Juhnke

Jim has been working on two self-published family history books. One, published earlier this year, was *Speaking for Herself, The Autobiographical Writings of Anna K. Juhnke*. Another will be off the press shortly: *So Much to be Thankful For, The Story of Bill and Meta Goering Juhnke, 1912-1996*. Both books are currently online at www.juhnke.com. Jim still receives invitations to talk about his book *The Missing Peace, The Search for Alternatives to Violence in American History* (2001, 2004).

Guest Speakers

2009 Menno Simons Lecture Series

James Stayer, professor emeritus of history at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, gave last fall's Menno Simons Lectures on the topic of "Anabaptist/Mennonite Pluralism." Scott Holland, associate professor of theology and culture and director of peace studies and cross-cultural studies at Bethany Theological Seminary, Richmond, Ind., will give this fall's lectures, scheduled for Nov. 1-3. His topic is "Prophets, Poets & Pragmatists: The Historic Peace Churches and Public Theology."

2009 History Seminar Paper Topics and News

Graduates

DJ Bookout, Moundridge, Kan., graduated with a degree in history and completed the requirements for teacher licensure. He

will be teaching at Santa Fe Trail High School in Carbondale, Kan. Officially, he is a history special ed. teacher, but he will also be doing Adaptive Physical Education.

Miriam Friesen, Filley, Neb., graduated with degrees in German and history and completed the requirements for education licensure. She landed a job teaching German at Topeka (Kan.) West High School.

Jonathan Nathan, Moundridge, graduated in interterm with degrees in social work and history.

Matthew Root, Topeka, , graduated with a degree in history and will spend the fall applying to graduate programs in cultural studies. He will present a paper at the Midwest Popular Culture Association in Detroit in late October. His proposal, taken from a part of his seminar, is "He is, Indeed, a Strange Freak of Nature: Manhood in the American Freak Show," a discussion of the representations of manhood in P.T. Barnum's freak shows, focusing specifically on a dwarf, General Tom Thumb.

Aaron Voth, Hesston, Kan., graduated with degrees in history and communications and will spend the next year doing voluntary service in Colorado.

Max Wedel, Tucson, Ariz., graduated with degrees in history and Bible and religion and has been accepted into Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, Calif. He spent the summer working with his band, *Lost in Lights*.

Seminar topics

Matthew Root, "He is, Indeed, a Strange Freak of Nature: Manhood and Race in the American Freak Show"

DJ Bookout, "Mennonite Businessmen and How They Changed Mennonite Communities from the 1950s to the Present"

Max Wedel, "Faith-Based Initiatives and the Separation of Church and State: Remembering the History of Religion and Politics in America"

Grant Hiebner, "The 'Failure' of the Beersheba Colony in Kansas, 1882-1886: Examining Gender Roles and Community Organization of Orthodox Judaism"

Notable Alumni News

Bethel College honored 1978 history grad Claudia Limbert with the 2008 Outstanding Alumni Award at last year's Alumni Weekend and commencement activities. Keith Sprunger prepared and



read the citation at the Alumni Banquet. A Missouri native, Limbert majored in English, history and education at Bethel and went on to earn a master's degree in creative writing (1980) and a doctorate in English literature (1988) from Boston University. She has published widely in both popular and academic journals. Limbert worked in various administrative capacities in the Penn State University system before being appointed by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning as the 13th president of Mississippi University for Women July 1, 2002, a position that has earned her recognition as one of Mississippi's Twelve Leading Business Women for 2004.

History Alumni News

Rachel Epp Buller '96, is teaching a few classes at Bethel, making prints, writing about art, and raising three kids. She writes for *Review* magazine out of Kansas City and is working on a book called *Reconciling Art and Motherhood*. In the past year, she presented papers at art history conferences in Los Angeles, Kansas City, and Indianapolis. Her most recent prints are currently on display at Cobalt Gallery in Newton.

Brad Conrad-Hiebner '07 worked full time at St. Francis Community Services in Newton, a child protective services agency, as a program support worker, while student teaching history in Wichita in the spring and completing his education licensure. Future plans are still in process. He and his wife, Aislinn Conrad-Hiebner '07, live in Newton.

Janel Cook '92, director of the Rice County (Kan.) Museum for more than a decade, resigned her position to open the Town Square Emporium and J&J Espresso Café, with her sister, Janet, on the south side of the Lyons, Kan., square. During her tenure as museum director, Janel helped steer the institution toward financial stability. She also played a role in expanding public education programs at the museum.

Mark Crider '85 is still married to Linda and just celebrated his 25th wedding anniversary. Mark and Linda live in Overland Park, Kan., with their two daughters. Mark owns a flooring business and two countertop companies: C & S 3 Day Granite and M & L Wholesale Counter Tops.

Jay Franz '68 travels here and there (e.g., Hawaii and North Dakota) as well as supporting worthy activities in Spokane, Wash. He attended his 40th anniversary reunion at Bethel in May.

Miriam Friesen '08, landed a job teaching German at Topeka West High School.

Andrew Gingerich '05 has begun the Community and Regional Planning program at University of New Mexico. He reports that he loves being a student again and is really pleased with his fellow students and faculty.

Monty Graber '01 married Hope Greiser in July. Monty teaches eighth grade at Santa Fe Middle School in Newton. Santa Fe Middle School in Newton.

Craig Hargett '94 is completing the Ph.D. program in history at the University of Chicago. His area is voluntary associations in British and Irish society during the 18th and 19th centuries, with the specific dissertation topic on the Amalgamated Society of Engineers. He recently returned from a research sojourn in the UK, working at the Trades Union Congress archive in London and the Modern Research Centre in Coventry.

David Haurly '73, Harrisburg, Pa., is head archivist for the state of Pennsylvania. During this past year, David has been president of the national Council of State Archivists. He is also on the Germantown Mennonite Historic Trust board.

Daniel Hege '87 has been named music director and conductor of the Wichita Symphony Orchestra starting with the 2010-11 concert season. He also conducts the Syracuse (N.Y.) Symphony and will continue to have his main residence in Syracuse.

Roger Hofer '67 is the owner of the widely known Wheatbelt Inc. company, Hillsboro, Kan. He is much involved with civic and church activities (e.g., as a delegate to church conferences).

Susan Jantzen '76 completed a M.A.T.S. degree in July 2008 with a concentration in biblical studies, graduating with honors from Saint Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, Mo. She is now employed in Newton as director of ministries at Trinity Heights United Methodist Church.

Bob Mayer '73 is a leader in the social entrepreneurship movement in the Kansas City area. He is founder and first president of the First Step Fund (a low-income microenterprise program). Bob and Harold Schultz, who also lives in Kansas City, get together regularly to talk over events. Park University in Kansas City invited Bob to be the inaugural "executive in residence" in their School of Business for 2009-10.

Peter Miller '07 is currently engaged in voluntary service with Mennonite Central Committee in Jerusalem. Peter works at

Sabeel Theology Center in their international department, where he plans conferences, engages in advocacy work targeted at North America and the UK and assists with publications. He intends to pursue a law degree upon his return to the United States in summer 2010.

Bill Morris '07 is a trustee at Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church, Wichita. In the last year, he gave, along with his father, a presentation to a group at Wichita State University on architectural preservation, covering aspects of research methods and how they apply to historic preservation.

Karrie Peterson '06 will begin graduate work in social work at Washington University in St. Louis. She spent last year traveling in Central America with fellow Bethel grad Tina Schmidt-Tieszen.

Patrick Preheim '92 is pastor of Nutuna Park Mennonite Church, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Jonathan Root '06 defended his M.A. thesis at Kansas State University, completed under Robert Linder. This fall, he will begin working on his Ph.D. at the University of Missouri, with John Wigger as his advisor.

Dennis Schmidt '75 has accepted a call to be pastor of Grace Mennonite Church in Pandora, Ohio. He moved to the new pastorate in the spring of 2009 after serving for eight years as pastor of care and adult ministries at First Mennonite Church, Berne, Ind.

Kimberly Schmidt '84 continues to recover from breast cancer and is doing well. She was on sabbatical last year, during which she began work on a study entitled "From Mädchen to Frau: Becoming a Woman in Amish Society."

Amber Schrag '03 is now curator at the Museum of World Treasures in Wichita.

Don Schrag '71 – We regret to report the death of Don Schrag, Dec. 14, 2008, in Wichita. He was a partner in the Wichita law firm of Morris, Laing, Evans, Brock and Kennedy, Chartered. He was married to Donna Froese '71 and was the father of Samuel Voth Schrag '04 and Joseph Schrag '06.

Paul Schrag '69 – We regret to report the death of Paul Schrag after a long illness, Dec. 6, 2008, in Nashville, Tenn. For many years, he worked with Corporate Child Care Bright Horizons Family Solutions, managing child-care centers within businesses, as well as consulting.

Mary Sprunger '84 enjoyed a trip in the summer of 2007 to attend a family wed-

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ding in Amsterdam and visit some new places on a European road trip, including Romania, Slovenia and several towns in Italy. Mary, who teaches about these things at Eastern Mennonite University, was excited to see Urbino, of Renaissance fame, and the ruins of the castle Canossa near Parma. She also presented a paper, at a conference on Mennonite women held in Amsterdam in late August 2007, entitled "Deaconesses, Fish Wives and the Burden of Mennonite Respectability: Amsterdam Women in a 17th-century Congregation."

Kevin Stoda '85 lives and works in Germany. He married Maria Victoria March 8, 2009. The wedding was in Kuwait, where Kevin and Maria Victoria have taught for a number of years.

Eric Stucky '05 is working as a public defender out of Emporia, Kan.

Tom Taylor '98 completed a Masters of Library and Information Science at the University of South Florida last summer. He and his wife Amy have moved to Wichita, and Tom is the continuing education coordinator for the South Central Kansas Library System in South Hutchinson.

Barbara Thiesen '81, co-director of

libraries at Bethel College, has taken on the added role of acquisitions for the libraries. She continues to teach yoga as part of the General Education curriculum at Bethel as well as at the Yoga Center in Newton. She is working toward earning her certification as a Certified Yoga Teacher, which requires 200 hours of practice.

Nathan Toews '01 teaches elementary special education in Austin, Texas. During the summer of 2009, he joined a Christian Peacemaker Teams delegation for an assignment in Colombia.

Russell Tribby '98 teaches American and world history at the high school level in Gilbert, Ariz. One of the books he uses in his classes is Jared Diamond's *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, which he got acquainted with while at Bethel.

John Unruh-Friesen '93 teaches at Hopkins High School in Minnetonka, Minn. He is chair of the Social Studies Department and mainly teaches Advanced Placement government classes. The election of 2008 was very exciting and energizing for his classes. One of his former students was doing advance work for Barack Obama and arranged for John to attend the Democratic convention in

Denver – no doubt providing a lot of that famous "access" to the big politicians. Back in Minneapolis, John had the connections to get into the Republican convention to hear John McCain's nomination acceptance speech.

Sam Voth-Schrag '04 continues to enjoy pastoring St. Louis Mennonite Fellowship. Sam and his wife, Rachel Voth Schrag '06, enjoy taking in the many free events available in the wonderful city of St. Louis.

Craig White '75 has now logged 30 years with the federal government in Washington, D. C. For the past three years, he has worked in the Department of Defense office that negotiates agreements to dismantle and destroy weapons of mass destruction in the former Soviet Union.

Keep in Touch!

Please visit the History Department Web site at www.bethelks.edu/academics/history/. Drop us a line with news of what you're up to by contacting Penny Moon (pmoon@bethelks.edu), Mark Jantzen (mjantzen@bethelks.edu), Jim Juhnke (jjuhnke@bethelks.edu) or Keith Sprunger (ksprunger@bethelks.edu).

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