

HISTORY DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2013

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Jantzi Works at Ancient Roman Archeology Site

BY RACHEL JANTZI '14

Goshen College's unique Study-Service Term (SST) is a semester-long intercultural experience typically set in a location outside North America. During the first part of the semester students focus on language study and local culture; during the latter part of the semester they serve in a variety of settings, from schools and clinics to agricultural cooperatives and nature preserves. For history majors, SST provides a wonderful opportunity for learning world history firsthand.

Last fall I traveled to Morocco for SST. As a history major preparing for a career in archeology I was thrilled when our group received our service assignments and I learned I would be working in a renowned archaeological site known as Volubilis, also called Walili by the locals. Volubilis was an ancient Phoenician settlement that became a Roman city and is located near the present city of Meknes. Much of the time I had the pleasure of shadowing my host father, assisting him as he restored beautiful Roman mosaic floors and doing countless other things on site.

I quickly realized that learning about Volubilis on my own would be a challenge since everything in the center library was written in French, and our SST language study was in Arabic. Thankfully, Mustafa, the curator, assigned me the task of revising a summary of Volubilis' history that was being published in English. My co-worker had previously translated the document from French to English, and we revised it together. The document will be on display in the new museum beginning this summer (2013) and I will be listed as one of the text's editors.

Other things I was able to do while working in Walili was to familiarize myself with the ruins of Volubilis. I learned about the functions of almost every building and room during my five-week assignment and became good friends with many of the staff members. I came to see how Walili is not only home to a UNESCO world heritage preservation site visited by people from around the globe, but also in many ways remains a small, local community just as it might have been two thousand years ago.



Rachel Jantzi ('14) helping restore a Roman mosaic at Volubilis, a renowned heritage site near Meknes, Morocco, as part of her GC Study-Service Term semester.

In my time at Walili I gained experience valuable for my future career, as well as skills that few college students have a chance to learn. I learned something about what it means to run a tourist preservation site and what history means to the public.

The highlight of my experience was getting to know the people around me, such as my host family and co-workers. We share a respect for archaeology and understand that it is integral in shaping a better future.

Paraguay Prompts Students to Reimagine Anabaptist History

BY MARA WEAVER '13

Many North American Mennonites have played church softball, but not many play the game with Beachy Amish young people, drink tereré between innings, and close with a rousing chorus of "Alabaré," complete with movements learned at a Pentecostal church, all under stars that are brilliant in a southern hemisphere night sky.

Welcome to Goshen College's latest course in Anabaptist-Mennonite history.

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Students Consider Indigenous History in the Southwest

BY MARA WEAVER '13

Eighteen Goshen College students accompanied Professor Jan Bender Shetler and GC staff member Janet Shoemaker to the southwestern United States for three weeks during the college's annual May Term. The group visited sites in Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, and Colorado.

This is the fifth time Bender Shetler has taken students to the Southwest, but this year the on-location course focused on the representation of Native American history and culture. Students considered differences and similarities between the ways Native Americans presented themselves and their culture and the ways Native Americans are presented in "mainstream" U.S. society and history. Through lectures, tours, home-stays with Native American families, and other activities, the question that guided the course was "Who represents Native American culture?"

In an attempt to gain perspective and begin to answer this question, students engaged topics ranging from archaeology to sociology, all couched in an experiential historical approach and guided by conversations with Native American hosts, guides, and community members. The Goshen students visited Cheyenne Cultural Center, Canyon de Chelly, Mesa Verde, Chaco Canyon, Ute Mountain Tribal Park, Dawa Park, and the village of Old Oraibi. They also had extended time at the Hopi Mission School in the Hopi Reservation in Arizona and with Navajo families in the Navajo reservation—a highlight and point of deep connection for many students—and at Crow Canyon Archaeological Center in Cortez, Colorado.

Daily activities ranged from leading chapel service at the Hopi Mission School to doing an archeological dig at Crow Canyon to hiking among ruins at Mesa Verde and camping at Canyon de Chelly.

In addition to deepening their understanding of cultural representation in history and modern society, students also became aware of the dynamics surrounding physical representation and ownership of Native American culture as they learned about Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act, a federal law that allows Native Americans to reclaim their ancestral human remains and sacred objects from museums, and the use of photography around sacred sites.



Jessica Klink ('15), Natalie Hubby ('16), and Grace Boehm ('15) participate in a dig at Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, Cortez, Colorado, as part of the May Term course History in the Southwest.

"Our Western concept of freedom of information is different from many of the ways that Native Americans think of access to information about their culture," says Ben Sutter ('13), a history major from South Bend, Indiana, who participated in the class. "There are some things that we, as outsiders, can see and document, some things we can see but not document, and some things that we cannot see at all."

"It was great to see [the Southwestern] part of the U.S., and I would encourage every history major to take this class and especially international students," said history major and class member Samita Thapa ('13) of Katmandu, Nepal. "This course made me also reflect on representations of my own culture."

Class of 2013 Complete Outstanding Senior Theses

Seven history majors completed senior theses during the spring 2013 History Senior Seminar. As always, thesis research was based on extensive primary source investigation and resulted in projects that demonstrated substantial scholarly work. This year's students and thesis titles:

Matthew J. Amstutz (Goshen, Ind.), "People-to-People: The Founding of China Educational Exchange in 1982 as a New Mutual Approach to Mennonite Engagement with the World"

Jackson W. Beck (Archbold, Ohio), "The Elkhart County Victim-Offender Reconciliation Program: A Story of Witness, 1978-1984"

Charles R. Frederick (Bloomington, Ind.), "'It Gets in the Blood': The Indiana Limestone Industry and the Families that Built It"

Grant S. Miller (Danvers, Ill.), "A Transforming Peace Witness: The Mennonite Response to the Iraq Wars 1990-1991 and 2002-2003"

Benjamin E. Sutter (South Bend, Ind.), "Sharing the Good News on a Modern Medium: How Television Changed the Witness of Mennonite Broadcasts between 1969 and 1983"

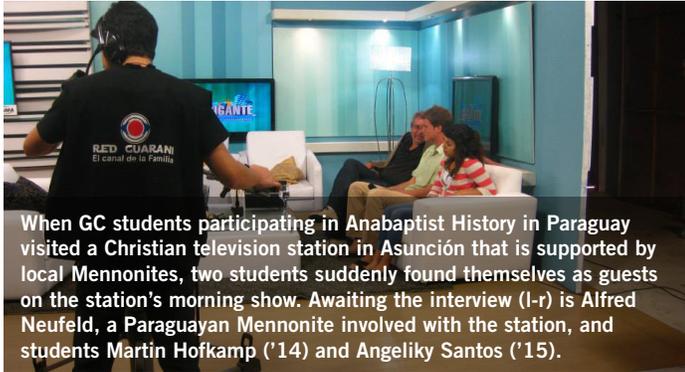
Samita Thapa (Lalitpur, Kathmandu, Nepal), "Relationship and Trust: Agents in the Fulfillment of the Christian Mission of United Mission to Nepal, 1954-2012"

Mara E. Weaver (Bloomington, Ill.), "Congregation and Community: How Dual Conference Affiliation and Mennonite Identity Defined Local Outreach and Witness at the Mennonite Church of Normal, 1971-2002"

Another member of the class of 2013, **William Funk** (Gallup, N.M.), had completed his senior thesis in 2012. The Class of 2013 also included four students with minors in history: **E. Clare Maxwell** (Winchester, Mass.), **Andrew T. Shenk** (Goshen, Ind.), **Lauren E. N. Stoltzfus** (Lancaster, Pa.) and **Marcelle al-Zoughbi** (Bethlehem, Palestine).

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Mention “Anabaptist history” and most North American Mennonites picture Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands, or maybe Ukraine/Russia. Paraguay is less likely to be part of the story that comes to mind. During May Term this year, however, Professor John D. Roth encouraged a group of 17 GC students to do just that, to include Paraguay in the narrative of Anabaptist history and, in the process, to reframe Mennonite identity.



Coming out of an effort on Roth’s part during the last few years to shift North American Mennonite thinking and self-understanding to include—or maybe even to focus on—the global church, Roth designed a course that addressed themes of Anabaptism in a context outside of Europe and North America. “I have found Paraguay to be an ideal ‘laboratory’ for thinking through this new perspective,” says Roth. “Today, at least 20 different Anabaptist-Mennonite groups have settled in Paraguay.” Some of these groups stem from the immigration of Germanic-Mennonites to South America. Other groups have emerged from missions among Paraguayans who speak Spanish or Guaraní, and who have adopted worship practices quite similar to the broader evangelical or Pentecostal currents around them. And there are also several flourishing indigenous church groups—Nivaclé, Enlhet, Guaraní, Ayoreo—who have still other understandings of what it means to be Anabaptist today.

The theme that animated the class was “the Word made flesh,” or how have Anabaptists embodied a living faith in their daily lives, and what role do faith and culture play in that intersection of the Divine and earthly disciples?

Over three weeks the group spent time in Asunción, the capital city that accounts for around half of the country’s population; the Mennonite colonies of the Chaco, the dry, sparsely populated part of western Paraguay; and the colonies of East Paraguay. Hosts for daily lectures, tours, worship services, and home-stays included people from Fernheim, Neuland, Menno, Sommerfeld, and Luz y Esperanza colonies, as well as members of the Evangelical Mennonite Church, the Bruderhof, and urban Latino and rural indigenous Mennonite churches. Schools, Bible institutes, Mennonite museums, a Pentecostal pastor training center, a prison, a hydroelectric dam, a leather processing plant, dairy factories, and a one room schoolhouse were just a few additional places that the group visited.

Topics of study and reflection included tradition, faith and culture, worship, politics, economics, and relations with indigenous groups, among others. The course went beyond history to sociology and theology, and encouraged students to examine not only the lifestyles of the various Anabaptist groups they encountered in Paraguay, but also to reflect critically on their own North American contexts and the ways in which faith and culture are manifested in their own lives.

Mara Weaver was a student in Anabaptist History in Paraguay during May Term 2013.

Faculty Activities

This summer Professor Jan Bender Shetler is working with the GC Maple Scholars program that pairs students with faculty research. Bender Shetler and student Oscar Kirwa, from Kenya, are continuing a project to create the on-line Mara Region Cultural Heritage Digital Library. Oscar is digitizing hundreds of cassette tapes from Jan’s oral tradition interviews in Tanzania over the past 15 years. They are also working on how to repatriate this collection back to Tanzania so people there can have access to these materials, which include maps, videos and music.

Professor Steve Nolt completed two research projects during the past school year. In the fall he published *Seeking Places of Peace* (Good Books, 400 pp.), coauthored with Royden Loewen (University of Winnipeg), which is a history of Mennonites in North America. He also published *The Amish* (John Hopkins, 520 pp.) with Donald Kraybill (Elizabethtown College) and Karen Johnson-Weiner (SUNY-Potsdam), a comprehensive study of Amish life and culture.

Professor John D. Roth was on sabbatical from teaching during 2012-2013 and kept a busy schedule of international travel (Switzerland, France, Mexico, Paraguay, Ethiopia, Nicaragua) in his roles as director of the Institute for the Study of Global Anabaptism (ISGA) and secretary of the Mennonite World Conference (MWC) Faith and Life Commission. He also taught a May Term course in Paraguay (see p. 1). This summer he is convening a major consultation of researchers from 20 countries who are participating in the Global Anabaptist Profile, a quantitative/qualitative survey that ISGA is undertaking on behalf of MWC.

The World Is Our Campus

At Goshen College the study of history moves beyond classroom walls with on-location courses during the college’s three-week May Term and the service-learning opportunities that come with GC’s unique Study-Service Term semester. In this issue of the History Department Newsletter we highlight some of the ways Goshen history students make the world their classroom.

— *Steven M. Nolt, Professor of History*

Student and Recent Alumni Prizes, Publications, and Presentations

Ted Maust ('12) published "For a Brief and Shining Moment: The Story of a Coffee House Ministry in the Vietnam Era," *Mennonite Historical Bulletin*, October 2012, 5-10. Maust also won second prize in the 2012 John Horsch Mennonite History Essay contest sponsored by the Historical Committee of Mennonite Church USA for his paper "Imagining a Mennonite Peoplehood in 'Modern Babel': John F. Funk and the *Herald of Truth*, 1857-1875," which had been his senior history thesis. Maust is currently working with the Wisconsin State Historical Society Press.

Matthew Amstutz ('13) published "When Mrs. Suderman Met Betty Crocker," *Mennonite Historical Bulletin*, October 2012, 11-15. Amstutz is beginning a three-year assignment teaching English in China with Mennonite Partners in China.

Samita Thapa ('13) presented her research on United Mission to Nepal at the 8th annual Chicagoland Christian College History Conference, on April 6, at Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, Illinois.

Seven history students—**Matthew Amstutz, Jackson Beck, Grant Miller, Sandrine Sandrali, Ben Sutter, Mara Weaver,** and **Bethesda Zewdie**—presented papers on diverse topics at the 15th annual Goshen College Student Academic Symposium, April 6. History had the largest representation of any academic department at the symposium.

Scholarship Recipients

The 2013-2014 Willard and Verna Smith U.S. History Scholarship has been awarded to **Jacob Yoder** (Wellman, Iowa).

The Oswin and David Gerber Scholarship in Mennonite Studies for 2013-2014 has been awarded to **Ben Shelly** (Goshen, Ind).

The generosity of the Smith and Gerber families has been very helpful to many Goshen College students. The History Department welcomes donations to the Smith and Gerber scholarship endowments.

Some Recent History Alumni Activities

Hannah Canaviri ('12) spent a year in Nepal with Mennonite Central Committee's Serving and Learning Together program.

AliceENZ ('02) graduated from the University of Notre Dame School of Architecture in 2009 and now works for the architectural firm Torti Gallas and Partners, in Washington, D.C.

Andrew Esch ('07) is a doctoral student in American environmental history at the University of California Santa Barbara. He held a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship during 2011-2013.

Cassie Greer ('07) is an actor, performer and voice coach based in Oregon.

Randy Keener ('08) graduated from Eastern Mennonite Seminary in 2013 with a master of divinity degree and will complete a year of clinical pastoral education at Lancaster (Pa.) General Hospital during 2013-2014.

Alex Lake ('09), Pittsburgh, Pa., is enrolled in Chatham University's master of accounting program, expecting to finish in 2014.

Zach Landis-Lewis ('00) is a Ph.D. student in the biomedical information program at the University of Pittsburgh. He was a National Library of Medicine Fellow, 2007-2011, and has published articles on improving electronic medical records.

Craig Mast ('06), **Matthew Miller** ('03), and **Josh Weaver** ('06) are faculty members at Bethany Christian Schools, Goshen, Ind., teaching in the areas of social studies, Bible, mathematics, and Spanish.

Chris Meyer ('05) is Stewardship Investing Specialist at Everence, Goshen, Ind., where he works with socially responsible investment, shareholder advocacy, and proxy voting.

Jessica Meyers ('03) is technology reporter at *Politico* and previously was a staff writer at the *Dallas Morning News*.

Rachel Ringenberg Miller ('02) has been serving Portland (Ore.) Mennonite Church as Pastor of Community Life since 2007.

Mallori Norris ('11) is Archives Assistant at Lewis County (N.Y.) Historical Society and also works with the Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association.

Daniel Penner ('12) is beginning work in Ghana as a communications staff person with Greater Rural Opportunities for Women, a project of Mennonite Economic Development Associates that seeks to increase food security and strengthen production and market connections.

Jeremy Shenk ('02) is Co-Executive Director of Community Labor United, in Boston Massachusetts.

Kirsten Docken Showalter ('06) is Mennonite Central Committee's Exchange Coordinator in Cambodia.

Janneken Smucker ('98) is assistant professor of history at West Chester (Pa.) University. Her book, *Amish Quilts: Crafting an American Icon*, will be published by Johns Hopkins University Press in 2013.

Karl Stutzman ('03) is Digital Services Librarian at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Ind.

Sarah N. Tapia ('12) is a student at Valparaiso University Law School, Valparaiso, Ind.

Laurel Yoder ('06), Portland, Ore., works as a paralegal and is training to be a midwife.

Matilda Yoder ('12) is Archives Assistant at the denominational archives of Mennonite Church USA.

History Graduate Admissions. The Department of History actively seeks scholars with a wide variety of backgrounds, ideas, and interests to join our student body. [Read more.](#) [Meet our Faculty.](#) Our faculty study history throughout the world. [Read more.](#) [Department of History.](#) [Undergraduate.](#) [Graduate.](#) [Courses and Requirements.](#) [Majors & Minors in History.](#) [Learn More.](#) [Why Major in History?](#) The Department of History Graduate Program leads students to many opportunities. In February 2019, the Department wrote graduate student, Benedetta Luciana Sara Carnaghi, who was conducting archival research in Vienna, and asked her some questions about her graduate student experience at Cornell. Her full responses are below. They are set up in a Question and Answer style so that readers may look for items of interest to them. For those interested in graduate