



ESR Reports
Vol. V, Number 1

In This Issue:

Theme Articles

- 1 ESR and First Friends of Greensboro

Nodes in the Network of Financial Support

- 5 Meetings
- 6 Individuals and Families
- 7 Foundations
- 12 *ESR Access* Enters its Third Year
- 16 Dean's Word: the Power of the Network

News & Features

- 2 Coming Events
- 3 New Faculty Member: Michael Brenneis
- 8 People and Places: Faculty News
- 10 Recommended Reading
- 13 In Print
- 14 Nowadays: Alumni/ae News
- 15 Past Events

Visit esr.earlham.edu/publications for stories and photos available only on our website, as well as a complete set of back issues of *ESR Reports*.

Joining Hands to Nurture Quaker Leadership:

ESR AND FIRST FRIENDS OF GREENSBORO

By Sarah Peterson

ESR prepares people for ministry within many different kinds of faith communities, but as one of only a few Quaker seminaries in the United States, *ESR* has a unique concern for nurturing leadership within the Religious Society of Friends. As a seminary within a numerically small denomination, *ESR* can't help but think about how to keep the Quaker faith strong for the future in a rapidly changing world.

To do this job well, *ESR* relies on a wide network of Quaker meetings for support in its mission, prayer for its work, dialogue about education and ideas, and financial assistance. Some of these meetings are a short walk from *ESR*'s Richmond campus, while others are as far away as Whittier or Ramallah. Of all these meetings, one particularly special relationship is with First Friends Meeting of Greensboro, North Carolina. The exchange of resources and talent and the mutual support between these two institutions helps *ESR* fulfill its mission in a way that would be impossible without First Friends Meeting.

Members of First Friends have always been generous—both individually and corporately—in their financial support of *ESR*. Most notably, they have supported scholarships that help students attend *ESR* at a reduced cost—a very important gift, since many students come to *ESR* with a calling toward further education but without the resources necessary to finance a two to four year graduate degree program. First Friends Meeting is the home of many of the donors who have endowed scholarships under the Cooper Scholars Program, which covers recipients' tuition for the first two years of seminary study. When *ESR* launched its Partners In Scholarship program, which invites large meetings to contribute, over three years, the amount equal to one seminary student's tuition, First Friends responded immediately. It is the only meeting so far to have completed a full three

year pledge.

First Friends also hosts the North Carolina site of *ESR Access*, the distance learning program that allows students to take *ESR* classes over the Internet or in two-week sessions in Richmond, Indiana; Marshalltown, Iowa; Pasadena, California; Hartford, Connecticut, and Greensboro, North Carolina. From the beginning, First Friends has offered overwhelming support for the *Access* program. *ESR* offered to rent space at the meeting-house to hold classes, but First Friends allowed *ESR* to use the space for free. *ESR* had also planned to hire an administrative liaison to coordinate the *Access* classes,

Continued on page 4.

Local Networks: ESR Connects with Richmond Churches

Visit esr.earlham.edu/publications for coverage of professor Stephen W. Angell's July 10th discussion with leaders of Richmond's African American churches about the new PBS documentary of African American religion, *This Far by Faith*.



Coming Up @ ESR



**Come to Richmond!
Or Pasadena,
Hartford or
Stockholm!
ESR activities are
taking place in
these and other
locations over the
coming months.
If any of these
opportunities
attract you,
call 1-800-432-1ESR
(1377) or visit
esr.earlham.edu for
all the information
you need.**

Monday–Tuesday, September 29–30, 2003: Pastors' Conference

“Exegeting the Congregation” is the theme, and Art McPhee the featured speaker, for this sixth annual gathering of Quaker pastors and other interested persons. Art McPhee teaches mission and intercultural studies at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkart, Indiana. Art is also a published author and an experienced pastor. Phil Baisley, ESR's Assistant Professor of Pastoral studies, says, “This conference aims to assist pastors in their transformational role of aligning congregational priorities with God's purposes. The need to exegete not just biblical texts but one's local congregation is brought home painfully to pastors whose cultural assumptions differ from those of their parishioners.” All sessions will be held on the ESR campus.



Art McPhee

Friday–Saturday, October 24–25, 2003: Ministry of Writing Colloquium

Workshop leaders at this twelfth annual event include Scott Russell Sanders, Haven Kimmell, Lil Capon, Pat Schneider, Nina Shelton, Brent Bill, Nan Phifer, and Mary Lacey. In addition to hands-on workshops, the gathering will feature readings, plenaries, an autograph

signing, and an open mic. Held on the ESR campus.

October 13–24, 2004: ESR Access Regional Intensive Courses

The following courses are proposed for Hartford, CT; Greensboro, NC; Marshalltown, IA, and Pasadena, CA. Actual availability will depend upon student interest.

- Quaker Beliefs
- Christian Discipleship & Living in the Spirit

January 5–16, 2004: ESR Access Regional Intensive Courses

The following courses are proposed for Hartford, CT; Greensboro, NC; Marshalltown, IA, and Pasadena, CA. Actual availability will depend upon student interest.

- Christian Reconciliation: Conflict Resolution in the Church and the World
 - Ministry Among Unprogrammed Friends
- Greensboro, NC, only:
- Old Testament Exegesis: Postexilic Prophets

Saturday, March 6, 2004: Fourth Annual Spirituality Gathering

Held at ESR, theme to be announced.

Monday–Tuesday, March 23–24, 2004: Willson Lectures

This year's speaker is Ted Peters, Professor of Systematic Theology at

Pacific Lutheran Theological School in Berkeley, California. His topic is “Science and Faith: Where are We?”

Thursday–Sunday, April 1–4, 2004: Quakers in Pastoral Care and Counseling

The thirteenth annual gathering, held at Quaker Hill in Richmond, Indiana. Theme to be announced.

July 2004: Pilgrimage to Sweden

Sponsored by ESR and the Newlin Center for Quaker Thought and Practice, this unique travel experience will integrate visits to sites of spiritual and cultural significance with quiet retreat days, times for group reflection and opportunities to meet and worship with Swedish Friends. The group will stay at Svartbäcken, a Quaker retreat center north of Stockholm. The cost is approximately \$1200, not including airfare to Stockholm. For more information contact group leaders Carol Sexton at (765) 983-1548, sextoca@earlham.edu or Julia Ryberg at ryberg.svartbacken@swipnet.se, or visit the Svartbäcken website at <http://www.kvakare.org/svartbacken.shtml>.



At top and right: Scenes from Svartbäcken, the Quaker retreat center to be featured in next summer's “Pilgrimage to Sweden.”

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Jessica Bucciarelli, Editor
Susanna Combs,
Art Director

Michael Brenneis— An Ecumenical Spirit

ESR'S NEW ASSISTANT
PROFESSOR OF
PASTORAL CARE AND
COUNSELING

By Donne Hayden



Indiana and Virginia engaged in a form of cultural exchange this summer when Michael Brenneis from Virginia came to Earlham School of Religion as Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling, assuming the duties of Professor Bill Ratliff, who has retired and moved from Indiana to an intentional community in Virginia.

Michael Brenneis (pronounced Bre-NICE) is ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and in the

process of being ordained in the Episcopal Church. He is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and a Clinical Professional Counselor.

Throughout his career as counselor and psychotherapist, Michael always believed when the time was right, he'd make the transition to teaching. "One has to have something to teach," he comments. "My vocation now is to pass along what I have learned."

Much of what Michael has learned came from his decade

as a psychotherapist at St. Luke Institute in Silver Spring, Maryland, where he dealt specifically with clergy suffering from addiction or compulsive behavior disorders. This experience led him to specialize in pastoral and psychiatric care for people in ministry, the subject of his doctoral dissertation.

Because of his extensive experience in providing psychiatric and pastoral care for clergy in crisis, Michael looks forward to working at ESR and doing what he refers

to as "front-end work." His experience gives him valuable insight into necessary preparation for those entering ministry so they learn to avoid potential difficulties inherent in the role of pastoral caregiver.

Twenty years ago, while Michael was a chaplain intern at St. Elizabeths Hospital, he met Jeanne Maguire, a graduate of Yale Divinity School, who was also in CPE. They became friends and colleagues but went their

separate ways afterward. Over a year later, they reestablished their relationship and eventually married. Reverend Jeanne Brenneis, who is ordained in the United Church of Christ and in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), has been a hospice chaplain since 1986; she is currently Director of the Center for Bioethics, The Hospices of the National Capital Region. Their sixteen-year-old daughter, Rebecca, sings and plays flute, clarinet, piano, and guitar, and is student conductor of the school orchestra. In this ecumenical family, Rebecca is called to the Episcopal faith, and is preparing to serve as state co-chair of the Parish Youth Ministries of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia.

Michael plans to "commute" this year, spending holidays and weekends as possible with his family in Arlington. Both Jeanne and Rebecca supported his decision to accept the teaching position at ESR. When her father was offered the post, Rebecca responded, "Of course accept it. It's what you've been wanting to do all your life."

Donne Hayden, a second-year student at ESR, has worked as a teacher and editor for many years.

MICHAEL BRENNEIS

Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling, Earlham School of Religion

EDUCATION

- BA, History and Religious Studies; Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Missouri (1978)
- MA, Counseling Psychology and Psychological Assessment; Spalding University, Louisville, Kentucky (1982)
- Master of Divinity; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky (1983)
- Ph.D., Counseling & Development; George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia (2000)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- In the Washington, DC, area
- Chaplain Intern, St. Elizabeths Hospital and Spring Grove Hospital Center
 - Chaplain, St. Elizabeths Hospital
 - Parish Pastor, Garfield Memorial Christian Church
 - Psychotherapist, St. Luke Institute
 - Pastoral Care Consultant, Dominion Hospital
 - Adjunct Counseling Faculty, George Mason University
 - Private Practitioner, Renaissance Clinic

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

- Long-distance swimming, running, bicycling; studying local history; travel

Visit esr.earlham.edu/
publications to read more
about Michael Brenneis'
faith journey.

First Friends of Greensboro provides classroom space for ESR Access classes. Pictured: instructor Susan Jeffers (center, standing) with students in the August, 2001 course, Quaker Beliefs.



FIRST FRIENDS
continued from page 1.

but First Friends offered to provide the necessary administrative support as well.

Why has the community of First Friends Meeting been so deeply and consistently generous in their support of ESR? Hopefully because ESR can offer something valuable in return.

About the *Access* program, Lisa Lundeen, a First Friends member, says, “I think First Friends likes to be a host for Quaker education and outreach.” Lisa took her first *ESR Access* class at the meetinghouse in 2001. She recalls that members of her meeting—both those in the class and those beyond it—were so impressed with the professor, Susan Jeffers, that they invited her to return to Greensboro to address the meeting during its annual spiritual renewal weekend.

The influence of *Access* classes at First Friends is frequently felt beyond the classroom. In January 2003, when Lonnie Valentine brought an *Access* class called “Christian Reconciliation:

Conflict Resolution in the Church and World” to the First Friends meetinghouse, he was asked to give the message at worship, to teach a First Day school class, and to address the Quarterly Meeting as well. Because of this resounding welcome, the conflict resolution message reached approximately 80 people—far more than just the students who were enrolled in the two-week class.

But it’s not just the potential of ESR’s unique *Access* program that First Friends Meeting cares about. They also recognize ESR as a place that nurtures leadership among Friends. “First Friends has a real concern for Quaker leadership,” says Sara Beth Terrell, a 1982 graduate of ESR and a current member of First Friends. First Friends has always appreciated ESR, she observes, as a seminary that helps in the training of ministers who are well-educated, and who also have a heart for the distinctive tenets of the Quaker faith. Sara Beth herself demonstrated how an ESR education can enrich the life of a meeting when she agreed to speak regularly at First Friends Meeting when pastor Jack Kirk was absent for nine months during an illness in 1999.

Lisa Lundeen agrees that First Friends Meeting is eager to equip people for

ministry—which can include encouraging them in further Quaker education. After her introduction to ESR through the *Access* program at First Friends, Lisa traveled to Richmond in the fall of 2002 to become a full-time, residential student. During the summer of 2003, she served as a pastoral intern for First Friends. One of the things she appreciates the most about her education at ESR is its practicality, making it easy to tailor the work she does in class to what’s going on in the life of her meeting—writing a paper, for example, that she can send to meeting leaders and friends to share ideas she believes they might find helpful.

Does ESR give something back to First Friends? “I sure hope so!” exclaims Jay Marshall. “I know those of us at ESR who regularly visit First Friends come back feeling inspired. I always feel like I’ve been ministered to, and that’s no small thing.”

As an urban congregation with many members who are young adults, singles, and professionals, First Friends has found a way to let the Quaker message speak to a different group of people than that which makes up many Quaker congregations in the U.S. Many of the newer members at First Friends are just out of college—a definite

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As an urban congregation with many members who are young adults, singles, and professionals, First Friends has found a way to let the Quaker message speak to a different group of people than that which makes up many Quaker congregations in the U.S.

contrast to national trends in church membership for any denomination. This unique connection with young adults, Jay remarks, is an important one to ensure the continued vitality of the Religious Society of Friends. "It gives us hope that the essence of the Religious Society of Friends can speak to a 21st century congregation."

On a variety of levels, from concrete resources to leadership and inspiration, the connection between First Friends Meeting is meaningful and mutual. "Our connection to ESR links us with a larger Quaker world, keeping us from becoming provincial or isolated," says Sara Beth Terrell. About ESR's relationship with First Friends

Meeting, Jay Marshall says, "It's a model for how I wish seminary and meeting relationships were in many places."

Sarah Peterson, an evangelical Friend from Spokane, Washington, is in her second year at ESR. Her seminary education is being sponsored by a Cooper Scholarship in the name of Mrs. Viola

Braxton, a member of First Friends Meeting of Greensboro. Of her experience researching this article, Sarah reflects, "One of the things I came away with after talking to Jay was a much greater appreciation for what the Access program does and why we offer it. And I was so impressed with First Friends, especially the boldness of their Christian message."

Meeting of ESR: Support *A Conversation with Pam and Ron Ferguson*

Like First Friends of Greensboro, featured in this issue's cover story, Winchester Friends Meeting in recent years has given regular financial support to ESR. The church is located in Winchester, Indiana, about 25 miles north of Richmond on Route 27. Ron Ferguson, co-pastor with his wife, Pam, says, "Our meeting realizes just how short the supply of pastors is in Indiana Yearly Meeting. Three years ago, we began consciously giving money to a special ESR fund to develop pastors. We need to be training up people. This is one way to do that."

Each year's gift has been in the \$1000 range. The exact amount varies because of the source of the funds. Ron explains, "The church is a beneficiary of a perpetual trust of deceased Friends who owned a local grocery store. When Pam and I got here five years ago, we joined an ongoing conversation in the Meeting regarding stewardship of the 'nest egg' that had built up. The monthly meeting eventually decided that the reserve fund was large enough, so we began giving away what was left over after we met our expenses." The beneficiaries of this new understanding of stewardship include not only ESR's pastoral ministry training, but also Friends Committee on National Legislation, jail ministry, and a fund that sends unchurched

local kids to camp.

Other elements of the mutually beneficial relationship between Winchester Friends and ESR include:

- Carloads of Winchester Friends traveling to events at ESR and Earlham, such as the Pastors' Conference, Peace Forum, and Convocation. "Ron and I try to go to everything IYM and ESR offer!" says Pam.
- Friends from ESR visiting Winchester to give the Sunday message. "We got to hear from John Punshon while he was here, and Jay Marshall spoke last fall," Ron remembers. He observes, "We're working to build relationships that break down the wall of suspicion and distrust" that has at times stood between some Friends and ESR.
- Pam and Ron's informal mentoring of students and recent alums who are serving in Indiana Yearly Meeting. Ron



Continued on page 11.

Individuals & Families:

The Strength of ESR's Donor Network

“By far the majority of gifts to ESR over the years have been from individuals. The more individuals with resources and interest we can find, the stronger our work is.”

—Keith Esch, M.A. 1966, former Development Director

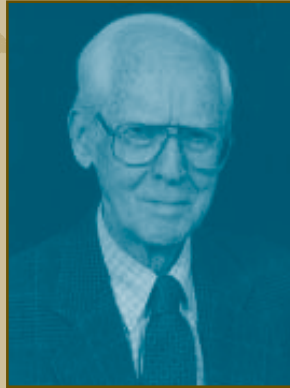
Hundreds of people have given millions of dollars to support ESR's educational ministry in the 43 years since the school first opened its doors. For each of these donors, there is a story: the first awareness of ESR; the decision to give the first gift, and the second, then the third, and the personal encounters with the school and its people over the years.

There is no such thing as a “typical” donor to Earlham School of Religion, but the stories of Mary Birenbaum and Wallace Collett certainly give an intriguing glimpse of the many facets of the donor network. These two special friends of ESR have certain characteristics in common. Both Wallace and Mary have served on the Earlham College Board of Trustees; Wallace is now an Honorary Lifetime Trustee, and Mary has just completed a term as Clerk of the Institutional Advancement Committee. While serving the College, both of these individuals have taken a particular interest in ESR, sharing generously of

their resources and counsel. And in both cases, the commitment to ESR is part of a larger picture of each person's life of service.

Wallace Collett has been involved with ESR since its very beginnings. Raised “a good Baptist” in Wilmington, Ohio, Wallace started his undergraduate degree at Wilmington College, and did one year at Haverford College. Looking back almost 70 years, Wallace recalls that the Haverford year “was a wonderful thing for me. People like Rufus Jones were still here. We started a meeting of six people who gathered on Sundays for unprogrammed worship, and that's been my direction ever since.”

Wallace went on to become a prominent businessman in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1958, when Wil Cooper embarked upon his travels to assess Friends' support for a proposed Quaker seminary, Wallace Collett was one of the people he visited. Wallace remembers, “Wil came down to my office in Cincinnati to talk about the school they were going to start. It sounded good to me. The Friends don't have a central authority – which is good – but we certainly need a group of people coming along who



Wallace Collett



Mary and Georges Birenbaum

Wallace Collett and his wife, Stella Miller-Collett, recently moved to the Philadelphia area, where

she is chair of the Department of Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology and he is active — once again! — in Haverford Meeting. His new book, *McCarthyism in Cincinnati: The Bettman-Collett Affair* is available from Pendle Hill.

Like Wallace Collett, Mary Birenbaum has Earlham connections that go back over 40 years. She and her husband, Georges Birenbaum, met at Earlham College. She grew up in the Philadelphia area and went to Earlham directly after high school. Georges was older, but didn't arrive in Richmond until later. Mary explains, “My husband is a Holocaust survivor. He received a rather limited education in Belgium, never completing what we would consider a high school education. In his early 20s, Georges decided to contact a very distant relative in Troy, NY. He sailed to the States in '57 and eventually ended up in Manhattan, where he went to night school to learn English. In '59 another distant relative had a son

depth of knowledge about Quakerism and Christianity and so forth.” Since that meeting in Cincinnati, ESR has been one of the Friends' projects to which Wallace has dedicated himself. He also served as national clerk of the American Friends Service Committee, and has spoken widely about tax resistance as peace witness. As he considers the impact of ESR since its founding, Wallace opines, “Taking classes at ESR and getting a degree makes a person almost a new person—she or he has a wider understanding of spiritual issues.” He continues, “I'm so pleased to find how the different branches are able to get along and understand each other at ESR. I believe students get a good grounding in both unprogrammed and programmed traditions.” Wallace concludes, “ESR is very important for the Society of Friends. It prepares Friends to do valuable work for humanity.”

graduating from Earlham, and Georges went along for the ride. By the end of the weekend, he had been enrolled. He attended Earlham for three years and applied to medical school. At this point he had no high school diploma, no college degree, and wasn't a U.S. citizen. The University of Kentucky Medical School accepted him. When he graduated from UK, Earlham gave him his undergraduate degree." Two of the Birenbaum children have also attended Earlham College.

"I knew of ESR, but I didn't really have any connection until I went on the Earlham Board of Trustees ten years ago," Mary says. Since then, she has become a strong supporter of the seminary's mission. She comments, "We are Jewish, so why are we supporting a Christian seminary? There are three reasons. First, my husband and I give to institutions whose philosophies are compatible with our own. At ESR, you're teaching people to resolve differences, and whether that's through Christianity or other ways, it's a good thing. I also like the general way the school operates: it's so small, and gives so much personal attention. Second, we want to know how our money's being spent, and Earlham does a

Foundations

New Grants Make Possible New Programs

A financial support for ESR is a drama — in the positive sense of an interesting story with important themes — then individual donors and meetings play the lead, with foundation grants in an indispensable supporting role. Wil Cooper, the first dean of ESR, emphasizes: "I wouldn't be here, and the school wouldn't be here, without the support of the Lilly Foundation."

Today, it remains the case that there are times when grant funding is the best "fit" for a particular initiative within ESR. Two such occasions arose earlier this year. The first piece of good news came in the spring, when the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations accepted ESR's proposal for a \$150,000 grant to launch the Digital Quaker Collection, which will put hun-

dreds of important Quaker texts — more than 60,000 pages — on the Internet. The materials will be available at no charge to anyone who visits the ESR website. Tim Seid has created a webpage — esr.earlham.edu/dqc/ — where you can view the bibliography, learn the details of the digitizing process, and follow the progress of these precious volumes as they move from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries into the twenty-first, from the confines of North American Quaker college libraries to an electronic medium that is increasingly available to Friends internationally.

In early summer, ESR learned that the Board of the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation had awarded the school \$27,000

to support faculty research. This new initiative includes opportunities for faculty to present their research to the ESR community.

While the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations are new to the ESR family, the Carpenter Foundation is not. Jay Marshall recalls, "Seven years ago, a major grant from the Carpenter Foundation launched ESR's campaign to fund the Cooper Scholars program, which has become the foundation of a vital and diverse student body. Today, by creating a pool of research funds where none have existed before, the Carpenter Foundation is positioned to play a similar catalytic role on the faculty side of the equation."

fine job of explaining that. And third, we know our gift is really appreciated, and that gives us a good feeling."

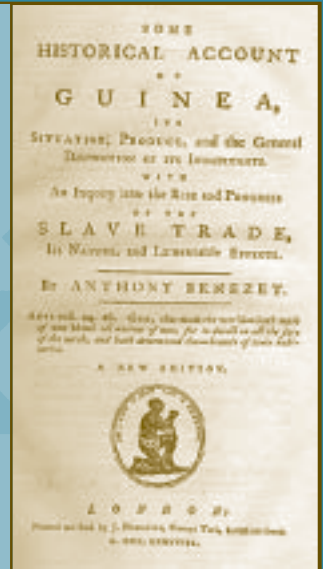
Mary and Georges Birenbaum currently live in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where Mary reports they are "moderately active in the local Jewish community, just

as we were when we lived in Kentucky." The couple travels frequently to developing countries, where Georges, a retired physician, performs volunteer eye surgeries and Mary provides operating room assistance.

Donors like Mary Birenbaum and Wallace

Collett are important points in ESR's network of support. In turn, the connection with ESR is an integral part of Wallace and Mary's lives of service. It is our intention that this principle of mutual benefit inform our relationships with all of ESR's many supporters.

Quaker texts like this one will be part of the new Digital Quaker Collection.





At the Baccalaureate Dinner, each graduating student receives a farewell tribute from their faculty advisor. Pictured: Stephanie Ford, Assistant Professor of Christian Spirituality, with her advisee, Kat Jaramillo, M.Div. 2003.

ESR *People & Places* F A C U L T Y N E W S

Stephanie Ford, Assistant Professor of Christian Spirituality, was awarded her Ph.D. this spring, and enjoyed trying on her doctoral robes for the first time at ESR's graduation. In June, Stephanie traveled to North Carolina with five ESR students to attend the Baptists and Others Interested in Spirituality, where she offered a workshop on the metaphysical poetry of Evelyn Underhill. In July, Stephanie gave a series of talks at the 20th anniversary celebration of the Academy of Spiritual Formation in Sumatanga, Alabama, where spiritual friendship was the theme. Stephanie hopes in the next year to publish an article or two from her dissertation, ideally focused on Evelyn Underhill's theology of the Holy Spirit and her passionate pacifist vision. After three years of focus on Underhill, Stephanie also looks forward to branching out in her writing, saying, "It's a joy to be able to let my imagination wander among a variety of topics in spirituality. I am particularly interested in looking at the relationship of the body and spirit."

Dean **Jay Marshall** visited Newtown Meeting (Philadelphia Yearly Meeting) in April as part of his continuing work on ESR's Vitality Study. This past spring and summer, Jay also clerked the annual session of Indiana Yearly Meeting, delivered the Douglas Steere Lectures in Bay View, Michigan;

led Sunday School and gave a prepared message at West Newton Friends Meeting (Indiana Yearly Meeting); and preached at Jericho Friends Meeting (IYM), as well as at the revival services of Southern Quarterly Meeting (North Carolina Yearly Meeting). In July, Jay was reappointed as Clerk of Indiana Yearly Meeting.

In January, **Stephen W. Angell**, Geraldine Leatherock Professor of Quaker Studies, presented a sermon on "Quakers and the American Revolution" at West Elkton (Ohio) Friends Meeting, and led a clerking workshop for Friends Memorial Church in Muncie, Indiana. In April, Steve presented a paper entitled, "Bunji and Toshi Kida and the Friends' Mission to the Japanese in California" to the Midwest section of the American Academy of Religion in Chicago, Illinois. He will present the same paper at the national meetings of the American Academy of Religion in November, in Atlanta, Georgia. "George Fox's Catechisms" was the topic of the paper Steve presented at the Friends Association for Higher Education conference this summer in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania.

Tim Seid, Associate Dean of Distributed Learning, has completed the Distance Learning Certificate program from State University of West Georgia. He has accepted an invitation to join the editorial board of that school's *Online*

Journal of Distance Learning Administration, viewable online (of course!) at <http://www.westga.edu/~distance/jmain11.html>.

Sue Axtell, Director of Admissions and Recruitment, recently studied "Theology and the Visual Arts: Narrative Cycles in Central Italy" with Bethany faculty member Dena Pence Frantz and a group of seven ESR and Bethany students. After a semester of preparation, the group flew to Italy in mid-May to view mosaics, frescos, and sculptures in cathedrals and museums in Venice, Padova, Florence, Sienna, Assisi, and Rome. Sue reports, "Decoration of the cathedral domes was the life work of artists (we studied 15th century) who spent literally decades of their time on scaffolding pasting mosaic pieces into masterpieces of religious art scenes from old and new testaments and pre-testamental works about the ark, or Mary, or Jesus' life, or Adam and Eve, the lives of the apostles etc. The works are stunning and huge. People without reading skills learned the bible stories by sitting in the cathedrals." Seeing the places of baptism, the catacombs, and illuminated manuscripts caused Sue to reflect on the history of faith and dedication of the faithful.

Phil Baisley, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Studies, continues to pastor Williamsburg Friends Meeting. This spring, he

Last August, Claire Retter joined her dad, ESR student Jeff, at an end-of-intensives Common Meal. Today, Jeff is preparing to graduate, and Claire is a whole year older!



accepted invitations to speak at the Fountain City (Indiana) area ecumenical Good Friday service, as well as the Williamsburg (Indiana) Community Memorial Day Commemoration.

Stephanie Crumley-Effinger, Director of Field Education, attended the biennial meeting of the Association for Theological Field Education in Chicago last January. This spring, Stephanie chaired the committee planning the baccalaureate service for Richmond high school graduates, which incorporated seniors' talents in dance, music, poetry, and rap. Stephanie brought a message which challenged seniors to know that they matter, that the things that they say and do make a difference toward goodness or toward chaos, and that each one of them is needed to be a "thinking heart for our troubled world." In June, Stephanie and a van-load of Earlham and ESR faculty traveled together to the Friends Association for Higher Education gathering in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. The conference theme was "Seeking a Praxis of Peace: The Sacred and the Secular," and Stephanie's session was entitled, "Can't We All Just Get Along?" — Peacemaking in Theological Conflicts." Stephanie traveled east again in July, to Cambridge, Massachusetts, where the annual Case Study Institute was held at Harvard Divinity School. Stephanie is currently serving as clerk of the Indiana

Yearly Meeting Appraisal Committee, which meets for discernment with local ministry and oversight committees and meeting members they are recommending for entering the process of being recorded as a minister of the gospel.

Tracy Crowe, Business Manager, has also assumed the duties of Director of Student Services. This spring, she traveled to Brooklyn, New York, to handle matters related to Frank Mullen's planned donation of his home to ESR.

Lonnie Valentine, Associate Professor of Peace & Justice Studies, has been giving workshops on conscientious objection to military service, nonregistration for the military draft and counter-recruitment issues. In addition to presentations at the Bethany and ESR Peace Forum and for Earlham College students on campus, Lonnie has given workshops at a number of Friends Meetings and Churches in the region. Given the fact the U.S. government is committed to conducting "preventive" wars, and that several bills to reinstate the military draft have been introduced in the U.S. Congress, Lonnie believes it is important for young Friends—or anyone—with questions about these issues to consider them *before* a military draft returns. To see what the major groups addressing these issues are doing, Lonnie encourages readers to check out their web sites:

- Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors (CCCO) www.objector.org
 - National Interreligious Service Board for Conscientious Objectors (NISBCO) www.nisbco.org
 - American Friends Service Committee Youth & Militarism Project (AFSC) www.afsc.org/youthmil.htm
- Please feel free to contact Lonnie for information on these topics at valenlo@earlham.edu or (765) 983-1353. Looking ahead, Lonnie plans to represent ESR at the Friends World Committee for Consultation Triennial in Auckland, New Zealand, in January 2004.

Last fall, **David Johns**, Assistant Professor of Theology, responded to two papers at the international conference on the legacy of George Fox held at Swarthmore College. David also spoke at a number of churches and meetings throughout Indiana, Ohio, and California over the spring and summer. In addition, he addressed "Speaking Truthfully in a Broken World" at a Quaker Forum at First Friends Church of Whittier, California, in February, and traveled to Washington, DC, in March to participate in Faith & Order Commission meetings of the National Council of Churches. In April, David presented the Quaker Lecture at Wilmington College, with the title "He's Not a Tame Lion, You Know!" Thinking About God with Lucy and Lewis."

Summer Reunions:

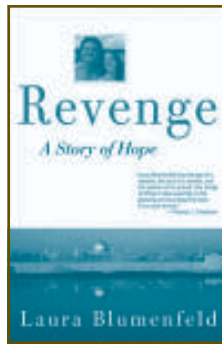
ESR SENDS REPRESENTATIVES TO YEARLY MEETINGS

"I'll be traveling to Lake Erie and Northwest Yearly meetings this summer, ostensibly representing ESR, but really looking to learn more about Friends, having never been to either of these yearly meetings before. If the folks they've sent to study with us at ESR are any indication, I expect I discover some extraordinary people both places!"

— Steve Spyker, Director of Information Technology, 6/17/03

Did Steve's experiences match his expectations? Read more on the web: Visit esr.earlham.edu/ publications for tales of faculty and staff visits to yearly meetings and the FGC gathering since this newsletter went into production.

RECOMMENDED Reading

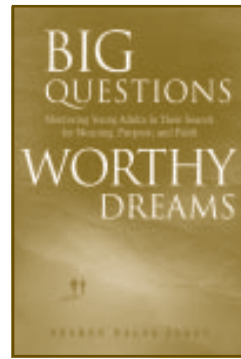


A friend of mine recently sent Laura Blumenfeld's *Revenge: A Story of Hope* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2002) because she thought I'd find it interesting, and she was right. Blumenfeld is a staff writer for The Washington Post. In 1986 her father was shot by a Palestinian in the Old City of Jerusalem. Although he was not seriously wounded, and recovered fully, Blumenfeld became obsessed with the need to revenge this shooting. This book is a chronicle of her journey of revenge. She examines



Bonus fiction review! Visit esr.earlham.edu/publications for Stephanie Crumley-Effinger's comments on the "unusual stories of crime and detective work" to be found in Phil Rickman's Rev. Merrily Watkins series.

psychologists' research into our need for revenge and explores the rules of revenge by visiting the Mafia in Sicily and Ayotollahs in Iran, among others. She spends a year in Jerusalem and — without revealing her personal connection — gets to know the shooter's family and ends up corresponding with the shooter, who is in prison. A dramatic confrontation with the shooter climaxes her story. The book is well written and engaging to read. In the wake of 9/11, as well as the ongoing cycles of violence in the Middle East, her topic is especially timely. But it should also be of interest to anyone who has ever wanted revenge for harm done to them or who



wonders in perplexity at the need for revenge. Blumenfeld, who is Jewish, struggles as well with what her faith and her tradition tell her about revenge, justice, and forgiveness. I find myself continuing to reflect on her story and what my own faith and the Christian tradition have to say on the same issues.

Nancy Bowen
Associate Professor of
Old Testament

Anyone who works with, is related to, or cares about young adults will find a treasure trove of useful information in Sharon Daloz Parks' *Big Questions, Worthy Dreams: Mentoring Young Adults in Their Search for Meaning, Purpose, and Faith* (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2000). A substantial rewrite of her earlier work, *The Critical Years*, Daloz Parks' recent volume helps readers understand the process of faith development and describes the needs of young adults as these have changed over time and are experienced in the 21st century. She emphasizes the situations common to many people between the ages of 22 and 35, and describes the vital role of mentors in helping young adults grow in their ability to make meaning, participate deeply in communities, and establish trust in God.

Stephanie Crumley-Effinger
Director of Field Studies



I heartily recommend *Grounded in God: Care and*

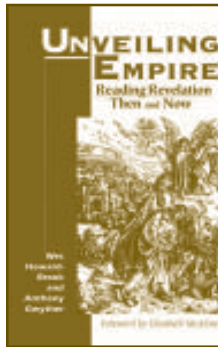
Nurture in Friends Meetings (Philadelphia: Quaker Press of Friends General Conference, 2002.) Pastoral care is a subject that unprogrammed Friends sometimes overlook. This delightfully informative book, edited by Patricia McBee, should help to remedy that problem. Drawn from the best articles published in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Pastoral Care newsletter, it offers pithy and thought-provoking insights in such areas as meeting membership, care of marriages and divorces, care of the meeting community, care for those who are ill and dying, and facing conflict in our meetings. It was used as a text in the Ministry Among Unprogrammed Friends class during May term, and participants all agreed that this was a useful resource that they would take back to their meetings. Highly recommended for every Ministry, Worship, and Oversight committee or committee member.

Stephen W. Angell
Leatherock Professor of
Quaker Studies

This Fall I will be teaching the course "Bible and Violence and Nonviolence" and believe that one of the newer texts for that course is particularly timely and may be of wide interest. It

is called *Unveiling Empire: Reading Revelation Then and Now*

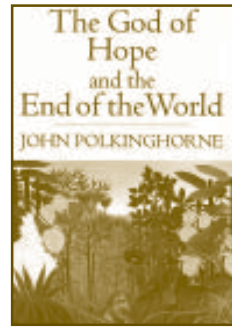
(Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1999) by Wes Howard-Brook and Anthony Gwyther. As you would expect from the title, the authors place the Book of Revelation in the historical context of the Roman Empire's economic, military and cultural milieu. The authors argue that reading the text with an awareness of this context undermines the pervasive premillennialist approach to the text in the United States. That is, the real challenge of Revelation is to the emerging Pax Americana and also to those elements of the Church that support oppressive U.S. government policies. Though this reading of Revelation is not brand new, the authors show the parallels between the situation of the Church at the time of the composition of Revelation and our current national and world situation. Also, they end with a note of hope in the final chapter entitled "How Do We Take a Step Away from Empire and toward New Jerusalem?" A feature of this text that I found particularly helpful was the effort to understand the attraction of premillennial thought. In reviewing the literature on this topic, they find that the millennial readings of Revelation respond to "real and deep needs" of people that are most "acutely felt in times of social confusion



and stress." The current U.S. situation is one that not only affects people's attitudes towards government, but to the Churches as well. That is, if the Church does not offer alternative visions and address the substantive concerns of people, then the premillennialist readings will supply the vision to meet those needs. With such an apocalyptic vision, the people will perish.

Lonnie Valentine
Associate Professor of
Peace and Justice Studies

I recently enjoyed Louis Menand's *The Metaphysical Club: A Story of Ideas in America* (New York, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2001). Focusing on the lives, work, and relationship between four great American thinkers, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., William James (of "Varieties of Religious Experience" fame, though it's barely mentioned here), Charles Peirce, and John Dewey, Menand manages to turn a primer on some of the deepest philosophical thought to come out late nineteenth and early twentieth-century America into a real page-turner. What seemed particularly fascinating to me was how driven these men were by religion and the search for a unified philosophy that incorporated all of human



understanding, which we now too

easily compartmentalize into mutually exclusive categories like science, religion, psychology, sociology, spirituality, politics, statistics, and so on. It also gave me a much deeper insight into the school of philosophy commonly known (somewhat inappropriately it turns out) as "American pragmatism." It was little intimidating, but a worthwhile corrective, to discover just how smart some of these "dead white guys" were. I recommend it highly to anyone who has a love of history and philosophy. (And if you don't love history and philosophy, I just don't know what to say to you!)

**Steve Spyker, Director of
Information Systems**

In *The God of Hope and the End of the World* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2002), John Polkinghorne, a physicist and an Anglican priest, tackles the

complex theme of eschatology and science. Brimming with insight, passion, and hope, he does not flinch from discussing difficulties on both sides of the connection. On the one hand, Polkinghorne considers chance and necessity in evolutionary history and threats from natural disasters; on the other, he looks at heaven, hell (he takes a purgatorial view), judgment, and death. Rather than dismiss science and religion as enemies, Polkinghorne sees connections. For example, quantum theory recognizes relationality at every level; Christianity has claimed since the fourth century that there is internal and eternal relationality within God's very being (doctrine of Trinity). Not all our perplexities can be resolved in this life, Polkinghorne concedes, but the ground of a true and everlasting hope in this life and beyond lies only in the eternal faithfulness and love of the God who is Creator and Redeemer of history.

**David Johns, Assistant
Professor of Theology**

WINCHESTER continued from page 5.

says, "Local pastors can help ESR graduates prepare to pastor in the IYM environment just by inviting students to come and worship and see where Indiana people are at."

ESR values all the contributions of Winchester Friends Meeting to our work: the money, the prayers, the visits, the feedback and advice. We are glad to have the opportunity to "give back" to Winchester Friends as well, and look forward to a continued blossoming of the relationship with this congregation, and with others in our network of mutual support.

ESR Access 3rd Enters Its Year



ESR Access, the distributed learning program of Earlham School of Religion, offered its first classes in the fall of 2001. The program is a major outcome of the consultation/strategic planning process in the late '90s, as well as a continuation of ESR's long history of working with meetings around the country to offer educational opportunities to persons who are not in a position to move to Richmond and become residential students.

In those two years, more than 40 persons have become *ESR Access* students. Their names and hometowns appear below. In a couple of instances, those who began as *Access* students became residential students, at least for a time. In addition, a number of residential students have taken classes that were offered through *Access*.

These folks come from the following Yearly Meetings: Baltimore, Iowa, Northern, North Carolina, New York, New England,

North Pacific, Pacific, and Philadelphia. Beyond Quakers, they represent the following denominations: American Baptist, Baptist, Episcopalian, Presbyterian-USA, United Church of Christ, Unitarian Universalist, and Unity.

Access courses are taught by regular and adjunct ESR faculty. Courses offered in the first two years included:

- Introduction to Spiritual Formation
- Educational Ministries in the Church & World
- Introduction to Old Testament History & Literature
- Quaker Beliefs

- Introduction to Pastoral Care & Counseling
- Technology & Ministry
- Christian Reconciliation: Conflict Resolution in the Church & World
- Work of the Pastor I
- Old Testament Exegesis: Exegesis of Biblical Narrative
- Introduction to Peace & Justice
- Emergency Pastoral Care
- Ministry Among Unprogrammed Friends

When *Access* was launched in 2001, ESR made a commitment to offer the program for at least five years, and to begin an

After a four-hour class, members of this May 2003 intensive course kept the conversation going in the Earlham campus coffeeshop. Pictured: Steve Angell (center right, gesturing) leading a discussion with Ministry Among Unprogrammed Friends students.

evaluation process during year three. If you have comments or questions about *ESR Access*, please contact Associate Dean of Distributed Learning, Tim Seid, at seidti@earlham.edu, or 1-800-432-1377. For more information about *ESR Access*, including a slideshow presentation of its first year, please visit esr.earlham.edu and click on the *ESR Access* banner.

ESR Access Students, August 2001–May 2003

Laurel Amabile	Alexander, NC	W. Philip Irwin	Newtown Square, PA
Anne Andrews	Hampton, VA	Susan Kaul	Darnestown, MD
Tanya Atwood Adams	Syracuse, NY	Angelynn King	Redland, CA
◊Noel Berendt	Greensboro, NC	"Skip" Theodore Londos	Waco, TX
Priscilla Berggren-Thomas	Cortland, NY	Lisa Lundeen	Greensboro, NC
Alyce Branum	Iseco, NY	Janet MacColl-Nicholson	Media, PA
Kathryn Carpenter	Pasadena, CA	Kathryn McKay	Columbia Falls, MT
Kathleen Coe	Greensboro, NC	Ann Lee Nichols	State Center, IA
William Davis	Hutchinson, KS	Kirsten Paap	Sauquoit, NY
James Douglas	Durham, ME	Eugenia Perkins	Greensboro, NC
Sharon Doyle	Sierra Madre, CA	Peggy Ramsey	Glendale, CA
Roger Dreisbach-Williams	Easton, PA	Christopher Reece	West Branch, IA
Robin DuRant	Los Angeles, CA	Julia Ryberg	Svartbacken, SWEDEN
Betsy Emerick	Monrovia, CA	Esther Safford	Cleveland Heights, OH
Elaine Emily	Tujunga, CA	Patricia Shepherd	Manlos, CO
Cheryl Garrison	High Point, NC	Laurence Sigmond	Philadelphia, PA
James Glasson	West Branch, IA	◊Ronald Stroud	Oxford, PA
Rosalie Grafe	Portland, OR	Wendy Wells	Philadelphia, PA
John Hancock	Greensboro, NC	Terry L. Williams	Merritt Island, FL
Carol Iammatteo-Code	Gilman, IA	Sallie Wolff	Brighton, IA
William (Bill) Iammatteo-Code	Gilman, IA		

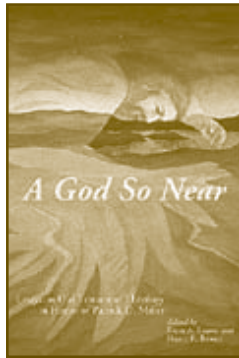
◊Deceased

Might distributed learning speak to you? One of the "accessible" qualities of *ESR Access* is that new classes start six times a year. Check out the *ESR Access* schedule at esr.earlham.edu/esraccess.html.

In PRINT

Michael L. Birkel's new book, *A Near Sympathy: The Timeless Quaker Wisdom of John Woolman*, is forthcoming from Friends United Press. Michael is an ESR alum and a member of the Earlham College Religion faculty who also teaches at ESR. The Friends United Press catalogue states, "Today's world cries out for lives of integrity, for Christian models that integrate 'the inward life of devotion and the outward life of the activist for justice and peace.' We can find no better example than the eighteenth-century Quaker John Woolman. *A Near Sympathy* is not a history book. It is an invitation to a friendship with John Woolman and encourages readers to consider what John Woolman has to say to us today." The volume includes a group discussion guide. To check on the availability of this book, contact FUM's Quaker Hill Bookstore at 1-800-537-8838 or visit www.quakerhillbooks.org or QuakerBooks of FGC at 1-800-966-4556 or www.quakerbooks.org.

Lonnie Valentine (Associate Professor of Peace & Justice Studies) has a brief article on "Process Theology and the Friends Peace Testimony" in the spring 2003, newsletter of the Friends Association for Higher Education. This came as a result of his presentation on the same topic at the Friends World Committee for Consultation gathering on the Peace



Testimony at Guilford College in January 2003. Lonnie believes that there is great affinity between Quaker perspectives and what is termed "process theology." With regards to the Peace Testimony, process thought provides a way to develop the idea that the Peace Testimony is a "witness," a calling, rather than a "command" for obedience to a pacifism based upon rules or based upon an expectation of "success."

David Johns' recent publications include: "Parenting Virtues" in the summer 2003 issue of *Christian Reflections* (Center for the Study of Christian Ethics, Baylor University), entries on "Ecumenism" and "Theology" in the *Historical Dictionary of the Friends (Quakers)*, and "Blessing and Cursing: Learning the New Language of Christian Faith," in *Proceedings of the 2002 Friends Association for Higher Education*.

A God So Near: Essays in Old Testament Theology in Honor of Patrick D. Miller, edited by **Nancy R. Bowen** and Brent A. Strawn (Candler School of Theology) was published in March 2003 by Eisenbrauns. Dr. Miller was Nancy's dissertation advisor and is professor at

Princeton Theological Seminary. The volume is a collection of essays by Miller's colleagues on the themes of Psalms and Deuteronomy. Nancy's contribution is an essay titled "A Fairy Tale Wedding?: A Feminist Intertextual Interpretation of Psalm 45." The cover art for the book is an original painting by ESR alumna (1998) Melanie Weidner, entitled "Our God So Near" and commissioned specifically for this volume.

Phil Baisley continues to write the teacher's guide for *The Adult Friend* curriculum. Phil also bore witness for simplicity in an unusual venue this summer, when the June 2003 edition of *Road & Track* magazine carried his letter to the editor, extolling the virtues of SUVs: Small Utility Vehicles, such as Phil's trusty little 1991 Festiva.

Stephanie Ford, Assistant Professor of Christian Spirituality, is one of 53 contributors to *The Upper Room's Dictionary of Christian Spiritual Formation*, published earlier this year and edited by Keith Beasley-Topliffe. Stephanie contributed 17 articles, on topics ranging from Mother Ann Lee to William Penn, from the medieval lay movement of the Beguines to the contemporary Christian writer, Agnes Sanford. This volume is designed to be of interest to scholars and laypeople alike.

THE DEAN'S WORD continued from page 16

ute to the well being of the whole, even as each receives generously from the affiliation. ESR wants friends to know that we take seriously our role in the network. Offering sound theological education and ministry preparation is an important contribution to the life and vitality of local meetings. Providing innovative leadership and resources outside the classroom is another way we contribute to the life of the network. Whether we're constructing the new digital collection of Quaker texts, or conducting sessions at monthly and yearly meetings around the country, we at ESR continuously look for ways to serve beyond the boundaries of Richmond.

And, ESR wants its friends to know that we understand how important your support is to our work as well. From the simplest of prayers and encouragement, to major financial support, to hospitality in regions around the country when we visit, to feedback that allows us to adjust our practices, we simply could not be the strong institution we are without the help of our network.

It is my hope that this edition of *ESR Reports* makes the network visible for a few moments, much the way a flash of lightening reveals the supporting backdrop to a rain shower. Whenever and wherever you catch a glimpse of this network, be grateful for it. At ESR, we certainly are as we continue to contemplate how best to offer our educational resources for the benefit of the greatest number of Friends and friends.



Nowadays

ALUMNI/AE NEWS

Jennifer Amy-Dressler (M.Div., 1988) is Associate Pastor of Saron United Church of Christ in Linton, Indiana.

Peter Anderson (M.Div., 2000) has become editor and publisher of the journal, *Pilgrimage*, a publication of story, place, spirit and witness.

Josh Brown (M.Min., 1984) is in his tenth year as pastoral minister at West Richmond Friends.

Marie Cavanagh (M.Div. 2000) is a chaplain at Dominican Santa Cruz Hospital and has just become a Board Certified Chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains.

In November 2002, **Juliet (Julie) Dodds** (M.Div. 2000) passed her qualifying exams and became a Ph.D. candidate at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Shirley Dodson (M.Div., 1981) has become Director of Marketing at Pendle Hill.

Chris Ebberts (M.Div. 1991) is just finishing his sixth year of serving the United Methodist Churches in both Harris and Lake Park, Iowa.

Ingrid Fabianson (M.Div. 2002) has recently traveled to Ireland, England, and France, as well as points up and down the Pacific Northwest.

Sabrina Falls (M.Div. 1995) plays harp music in hospitals as a certified Music Practitioner in Indianapolis.

Margaret Fraser (M.Div. 1997) is now Executive Secretary of Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas.

John (M.Div.1990), Manuela, Maya and Milo **Guffey** have recently moved to Estes Park, Colorado, where John is a service-learning instructional specialist at Eagle Rock School.

Kenneth E. Hall (M.Div. 1978) now resides in Fort Worth, Texas, where he serves as the Trinity-Brazos Area Minister for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest.

Robert Hayes-Bennett (M.Div. 1981), D.Min., LMHC, and his wife Ginny live in Indianapolis, where Robert counsels individuals, couples, families, faith groups and the community.

Phyllis Chamberlin Hutson (M.Div., 1982) received the 2003

Distinguished Alumna Award from Hood College, in Frederick, Maryland, in recognition of her work enriching the lives of people challenged by dyslexia.

Holly Inglis (M.Min. 1983) has been with Arvada Presbyterian Church (APC) for six years. **Mark Inglis** (M.Min. 1983) works as a 'techie,' teacher and administrator at the Center for Discovery Learning.

Katherine Jaramillo (M.Div. 2003) spent the summer immediately after graduation living and working in Bloomington, Indiana, where she served as the Interim Chaplain/Director of Pastoral Services at Bloomington Hospital and Healthcare System.

Trish Roberts (M.Div. 2000) has settled in Australia's national capital, Canberra, where she works from home as a spiritual director, and is on the local planning committee of a spiritual direction network.

Peter Sebert (M.Div. 1973) is a storyteller and minister in Southern Indiana's Brown County.

Send your alumni news to Marty Sulek, Director of Development, 228 College Avenue, Richmond, IN 47374. Email: sulekma@earlham.edu. Phone: (800) 432-1377. Notes may be edited for clarity, consistency and length. Submissions for the spring 2004 issue should be received by December 1.

Read more on the web: Visit esr.earlham.edu/publications for:

- An introduction to Marty Sulek, ESR's new Development Director
- Much more news from the alumni/ae whose names you see here
- Reflections from Victoria Burke (M.Div. 2000), "Traveling in Ministry: One Alum's Experience"

Ron Stroud, a new and much-loved ESR *Access* student, died of a heart attack on May 28, 2003. His death is a loss to ESR, and a sharp sorrow to those who knew him in his six months with us. Ron began his studies in January with a two-week regional intensive, "Conflict Resolution," in Greensboro. He continued with a full-semester online class, "Work of the Pastor," and then traveled to Richmond in May for another intensive, "Ministry Among Unprogrammed Friends". Friends in that mid-May course remember Ron's enthusiasm, his meaningful contributions to discussions, and his moving written reflections about his beloved Oxford-Nottingham (PA) Meeting and the George Fox School he administered. A community builder, Ron was always ready to continue the conversation over lunch or while sitting on a porch in the evening. The great joy he took in living was evidenced by a persistent twinkle in his eye, which shone especially bright with love for his wife, Lynn, and their young daughter, Ellen Marie. May Ron's spirit carry on, and may his family be comforted.

LOOKING BACK on *Spring* Events

After 18 years teaching pastoral care and counseling at ESR, Bill Ratliff has retired. Fittingly, Bill's involvement in his own retirement festivities was a powerful model of self-care, mindfulness, and God-centeredness during major life transitions.



The public celebration took place on Saturday, April 5, right in the middle of the annual gathering of **Quakers in Pastoral Care and Counseling**, a group founded by Bill in 1991. The evening, entitled "**A Celebration Worthy of a Season of Care,**" began at Nicarry Chapel (pictured) with worship, words of farewell and tribute, and music by alums Sabrina Falls, Jesse Paledofsky, and Wiley Smith. Alumni, students, faculty, staff and special guests — including members of four generations of Bill's family, and his CPE supervisor from more than 20 years ago — then moved to the quilt-bedecked ESR gathering area for fellowship and refreshments.

Just two days later, while many QPCC folks were still in town, Bill introduced the three talks by Margaret Zipse Kornfeld, the **2003 Willson Lecturer**. Margaret, a learned and

engaging speaker, is a leading figure in pastoral counseling, and the author of a key text used in Bill's classes.

In May, another wave of honors for, and messages from, Bill arrived on ESR's shores. Bill gave the message at joint meeting for worship on the last day of classes, delivered the Baccalaureate message the night before graduation, and taught an intensive class during the two weeks immediately following graduation.

A few weeks later, Bill and Virginia moved to their new home in an intentional community in rural Virginia, where they plan to (among other things) sip tea at dawn and dusk while enjoying Bill's retirement gift, a set of metal lawn furniture, one item of which Bill drolly dubbed "the endowed chair in pastoral care and counseling." God be with you, Bill and Virginia, and stay in touch.



On May 11, 2003, **ten students** received the **Masters of Divinity** degree from ESR. The graduates posed for a photo (above) with some of the faculty; the names of members of the class of 2003 appear in **bold**.



(Top photo) Back: **Steve Angell, Beth Lawn, Patti Pomerantz,** Stephanie Ford, **Shelley Newby, Sara Van Degrift;** Middle: Jay Marshall, David Johns, Lonnie Valentine, Bill Ratliff, Steve Spyker, Phil Baisley; Front: **Joanne Afshar, Steve Ackley, Maureen McCarthy, Katherine Jaramillo, Clarence Morningbear Cullimore Mercer,** Stephanie Crumley-Effinger; Graduate not pictured: **Keith Sellers**

Participants in the third annual **ESR Spirituality Gathering** were greeted by this stunning display of quilts as they entered the gathering area on Saturday, March 8, 2003. The quilts were created by members of the Quaker Quilters, including Virginia Ratliff, and were displayed again a month later for Bill Ratliff's retirement festivities. With the theme, "Engaging with God in the Arts," and the leadership of



Dena Pence Frantz and Carol Sexton, participants were guided through a series of reflections and exercises, including the group drawing project pictured.



THE DEAN'S word

The Power of the Network

Our theme this issue — *networks* — is a fundamental concept for Friends in general, and for Earlham School of Religion in particular. Indeed, ESR's strategic plan observes:

[In centuries past,] Quaker networks allowed Friends to succeed in business. They kept the society of Friends connected; brought Friends of varying locations/persuasions into contact; provided avenues of safety and trust for a variety of interactions. As a result, networks created opportunities to shape identities. . . . ESR can build on this historic principle of networking used by early Friends by considering how best to use its educational resources for the benefit of the greatest number of Friends.

I lift these words from this important document — itself informed by the wide network of constituents who participated in ESR's National Consultation of 1998-99 — as a means of raising the concept of "network" as you

read and digest the material in this edition of *ESR Reports*.

The past century gave rise to at least three distinct meanings of the word "network" in popular North American usage, all of which translate to a Quaker context. For many years, the term was used primarily to refer to the three or four major television companies. Sometime in the 1980s, a verb form emerged, and "networking" came to describe the cultivation of informal yet powerful work relationships, as in "you'll have to network to find a job." More recently, the term has surged in popular consciousness as a description of computer-related technological connections.

All three images serve well as we reapply the concept to Friends. As in the world of television broadcasting, networks help Friends communicate, educate, and even entertain. As in the creation of loose associations of persons with similar interests or demographics,

networking strengthens Friends' caring and effectiveness within and beyond our faith communities. And as with computers and the Internet, networks help Quakers with efficient delivery of information and assistance, with little regard to geographical barriers.

History repeatedly teaches that no group of Friends or friends flourishes in isolation, least of all ESR! Without a thriving network, the school lacks meaningful connections that inform and support. In their absence, we miss an important outlet toward which to direct our graduates who've prepared to serve in ministry. With no network intact, we lose the wise counsel and rich heritage that shapes our educational ministry, as well as the encouragement, partnership and financial support that are so important to this work.

In a good network, relationships are mutually beneficial. All parties contrib-

Continued on page 13.



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Networks