Frederick Newberry and Bernard Beranek Retire
by Linda Kinnahan

It is a pleasure to help honor the two English department professors retiring this year, Fred Newberry and Bernie Beranek. I’ve known both Fred and Bernie for many years, and it is difficult to sum up those years. I’ll make a try, though, in each case.

FRED NEWBERRY
BA and MA at the University of Redlands and his PhD in American Studies at Washington State University.

Fred came to DU in 1986, to teach American literature, primarily in the period of 19th century American literature, but also branching back into the colonial period and forward into the early 20th century.

As a scholar, Fred’s career-long focus on Nathaniel Hawthorne includes his monograph, Hawthorne’s Divided Loyalties: England and America in His Works, and numerous articles and essays on Hawthorne and other 19th century American writers. As editor of the Hawthorne Review for 16 years, he contributedvaluably to the international study of this author and devoted many, many hours to mentoring the scholarly work of others.

Fred is known for his characteristic combination of intellectual curiosity and skepticism—a refusal to sit comfortably with standard explanations or methods. Such an attitude flavors his current book project on Hawthorne’s biographies, which he describes as “speculative, unreliable creations of the man as remote from the biographical record as could be imagined.” We’ll look forward to this dissection of the narrated life of Hawthorne.

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This spring, Fred was named Professor Emeritus of English, a high honor bestowed by the University President. In announcing the award, President Dougherty stated that Dr. Newberry has “authoritative knowledge in (his) field and the recognition of (his) peers as a scholar and educator. (He has) made major contributions to the academic life of Duquesne University and to (his) scholarly discipline.”

Enough about the big stuff. Here are some of the ways the department has known and valued Fred:

- For his fascination with the history and culture of the American experience and the important role that literature has played in defining & expressing the formation of ideas integral to that experience;
- For the reputation his classes gained as boot camps for writers, and the students who—after complaining a lot but then writing even more, and finding their papers the object of intense specific attention in written feedback

Bernie has taught Medieval and Renaissance literature for us, in courses devoted to luminaries like Spenser, Chaucer, Dante, and Milton; the breadth of his teaching is remarkable, having ranged from the ancient classics of Plato and Socrates to medieval poetry to J.R.R. Tolkien and contemporary global literatures. Bernie’s various courses in Catholic writers have engaged students with the integration of intellect and faith that marks the achievement and the struggle of so many of the writers he taught. He never tired of imagining new courses, drawing upon the seeming infinity of authors he has read.

And so—books. To walk into Bernie’s office is to encounter more books than you could ever imagine could occupy that small space. Bernie has more books than anyone I know, and he is impressively artful in designing ways to construct shelves to store them. But what really strikes me when I stand in Bernie’s office, surrounded by row upon row of books—this temple of literature—is how much the shelves reflect the habits of his mind, his love of the intellectual life, and his absolute faith in this life as a way to enrich the human experience, individually and as a society. Bernie’s own intellectual quest has been both deep and wide-ranging, for he absorbs knowledge from everything, welcoming the most difficult, arduous routes of reading, thinking, and talking. At the same time, he seeks a grace in language that I can only describe as poetic.

Bernie loves language, and that includes a good conversation, whether it’s about the form of T.S. Eliot’s long poem The Four Quartets or about the merits of real grass on a baseball field. Along with my English department colleagues, I have always found Bernie to be generous with his knowledge (and his books), but more importantly, to insist upon the humanity of the work we do as teachers and scholars and the way in which we connect with and conduct ourselves with each other. That human quality has taught me much more, finally, than all of the books on those shelves.

So, in saying goodbye to Fred and Bernie, it’s difficult to say enough about either of these colleagues. And while I’m struck, always, with their unstinting love of literature and fascination with the written word, there’s a particular quality they also share that I feel I need to mention before closing. I want to praise their ability to disagree. As colleagues engaged in literary studies, we have not always agreed on everything, from departmental policy to scholarly method to literary value, but I always counted on Bernie and Fred to be honest and true to their principles. The Romantic visionary poet William Blake imagined a cosmic order energized by what he called “contrariness,” and he wrote in his epic Heaven and Hell, “Without contraries is no progression.” I want to thank Bernie and Fred for their valuable moments of contrariness over the years, the coming together of differences that has generated much life and progress and moving forward, and to take this moment to say, again in praise, that you’ve taught me—us—a lot.
In Fall 2011, longtime Duquesne University Theater Arts professor and Red Masquers faculty director John Lane was granted tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor in the Department of English. A fixture of Pittsburgh’s theater community for decades, John has been involved with Duquesne University since the late 1980s and has directed, designed, and acted in dozens of plays at Duquesne and elsewhere in that time. In 2011, John received the McAnulty College Award for Excellence in Service to the Mission, and generations of students recall John’s classes with love and admiration.
Alumni Updates

Janine Bayer (Ph.D. 2010) won two teaching awards this past year at La Roche College: the Faculty Commitment to Excellence Award for service to the college community, chosen by the faculty and staff; and The Brother Gregory Nugent Award for Teaching and Mentoring Excellence, chosen by students. No one has ever won both awards in the same year before!

Timothy Bintrim (Ph.D. 2004) earned promotion to Associate Professor and tenure at Saint Francis University this March. He has an essay in the new edited book collection Willa Cather and Aestheticism from Fairleigh Dickinson UP. Titled “Exit Smiling: The Case for Paul’s Dandyism,” the essay examines the eponymous character of Cather’s 1905 story “Paul’s Case” as a fin de siècle dandy, with side glances at other varieties of male butterfly such as the dude, the top, the masher and the chappie.

Ellen Foster (Ph.D. 2005) is co-editor, with Melissa J. Homestead of University of Nebraska-Lincoln, of the Broadview Press edition of Catharine Maria Sedgwick’s Clarence; or, A Tale of Our Own Times (1830), available as of October 2011. Ellen is also Coordinator of the Venango Campus Honors Program at Clarion University-Venango Campus and was recently elected Chair of Clarion University’s Faculty Senate.

Sally Rosen Kindred (M.A. 1998) received a Fellowship to the Virginia Center for Creative Arts for a November residency. In October, she visited Linda Kinnahan’s poetry workshop and Duquesne’s Coffee House Reading Series to read from her book, No Eden. Her poems have recently appeared and are forthcoming in Quarterly West, diode, and Hunger Mountain.

Ellen McGrath Smith (Ph.D. 2002), whose work is included in Beauty Is a Verb: The New Poetry of Disability, took part in readings this spring for the groundbreaking anthology at the AWP Convention in Chicago and the Split This Rock Festival in Washington D.C.; this fall, she will take part in a reading for the book at St. Mark’s Poetry Project in New York and will coordinate a reading/roundtable on disability studies at the University of Pittsburgh. Upcoming featured readings include Hemingways Cafe in Pittsburgh on June 12, the Words in Process/Allegory Cafe series in Ligonier on July 19, and the Morgantown Poets series on October 18. In June, she will be presenting her paper, “Gender: Women’s Prose Poetry in the 1980s,” at the National Poetry Foundation Poetry of the 1980s conference at the University of Maine, Orono. Recent flash fiction publications include Weave, The Shadyside Review, and Switchback, where her story, “On Its Way to Some Long Fable,” won the online journal’s February 2012 competition. Her poems have been recently published or are forthcoming in: Sententia: All-Women Issue, 5 AM, The American Poetry Review, and the online sites “The Poetry of Yoga” and “99 Poems for the 99 Percent.” For 2011 work, Smith has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and for inclusion in Meridian’s Best New Poets; her book-length collection, Bender: Yoga, Alcohol, Poems, is currently a finalist in the New Rivers Press Many Voices competition.

Laurie McMillan (Ph.D. 2004) presented “Performing Gender on YouTube: The Rhetoric of Jenna Marbles,” with Lindsey Wotans at the Pennsylvania College English Association Conference in Scranton, PA in April 2012. She also presented “Spiraling into Activism: Writing about Feminist Writing” at the Conference on College Composition and Communication held in St. Louis during March 2012. Dr. McMillan will also be publishing “Undergraduate Writing Research Shapes Pedagogy & Curriculum” in Council on Undergraduate Research Quarterly on the Web this fall.

Amy Crinitti Phillips (Ph.D. 2011) is currently working as a Visiting Assistant Professor of English at Wheeling Jesuit University. Before graduating from Duquesne last spring, Amy was proud to work as the Instructional Consultant for TAs in the Center for Teaching Excellence. While there, she started a program for graduate students to obtain a Certificate of University Teaching or an Advanced Certificate of University Teaching.

Both are non-credit certificates designed to help graduate student teaching assistants grow as teacher-scholars. Amy also co-authored an article with her former CTE colleagues—Laurel Willingham-McLain and Steven Hansen—entitled, “Leveraging Existing PFF Resources to Create a Certificate of University Teaching.” The article is slated to be published in Volume 14 of Studies in Graduate and Professional Student Development in 2012. Amy and her husband, Mark, were also blessed with the arrival of their son, Benjamin Mark Phillips, in February.

Kathryn Pivak (Ph.D. 2005) was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor at Cottey College in Nevada, Missouri.


Elizabeth Savage (Ph.D. 1998) was promoted to full professor last spring at Fairmont State University. Jane & Paige or Sister Goose, a poetry chapbook, was published in September and Grammar, a full-length collection, came out in March, both from Furniture Press Books. Last fall, Feminist Teacher published her article, “What We Talk Around When We Talk about The Dick,” and another essay “The Relations Between Poetry and Painting” in Elizabeth Willis’s Turneresque will be out soon in Contemporary Women’s Writing.

Sr. Rita Yeasted (Ph.D. 1981) was elected to a two-year term as President of the Western Pennsylvania Council of Teachers of English. She also has a book forthcoming from Universe, entitled JON: John Oliver Nelson and the Movement for Power in the Church.
Visiting Speakers

Dr. Batchelor Presentation

On Wednesday, September 21, 2011, Dr. Jennie Batchelor, of the University of Kent-Canterbury, presented on The Lady’s Magazine to a large group of students and faculty. Hosted in part by the English department, Dr. Batchelor’s presentation, entitled “Gaining a ‘Footing in the Inclosure’: The Lady’s Magazine & Women’s Literary Histories,” examined the historical and social contexts of the eighteenth-century periodical, The Lady’s Magazine. Dr. Batchelor argued that the periodical engendered community in its writers and readers, offering alternative ways to conceptualize women’s writing and reading during the late eighteenth century. Even though, as Dr. Batchelor stated, the periodical has been marginalized within the world of literary studies, scholars from as far as West Virginia University came to listen to the enlightening presentation, which illuminated both eighteenth-century life and the contemporary field of literature.

Gang Expert Visits Duquesne

Can crack-dealing street gangs be a positive influence in a poor community? Can we understand criminal activity with the tools we would use to analyze any other business? What happens to a community when the police and the government withdraw, leaving the “bad guys” in charge? Renowned writer and sociologist Sudhir Venkatesh addressed these and many other questions in a visit to Duquesne University on November 2, 2011.

The English Department and the Honors College hosted Venkatesh, the William B. Ransford Professor of Sociology at Columbia University, who visited several UCOR 101 and IHP 104 classes that had read his 2008 book Gang Leader for a Day. Venkatesh also presented a formal lecture to an audience of 500 that evening.

“We wanted first-year students to engage with a writer who addresses many of the experiences that they are encountering,” noted Greg Barnhisel, director of the first-year writing program and organizer of Venkatesh’s visit. “In Gang Leader for a Day, he talks about the importance of learning things for yourself, rather than relying on received wisdom about the danger of the city. He weighs the relative value of data-driven quantitative analysis against the qualitative, ethnographic approach that he eventually takes. Finally, his work is valuable for Duquesne students because he is explicitly concerned with the ethical obligations students and professors have to the poor and disadvantaged communities around them.”

Visiting two sections of UCOR 101 during the day, Venkatesh engaged in a spirited back-and-forth with the first-year students, who were a bit awed by the presence of an intellectual celebrity in their midst. “I think my students have a crush on Sudhir,” instructor Craig Bernier joked. Journalism professor Maggie Patterson, who teaches IHP 104, agreed. “My students really liked Venkatesh and felt friendly enough to refer to him as Sudhir,” Patterson remarked. “They were particularly interested in the ways he juggled his identity as he went back and forth between his buddies in the gang and his mentors in the graduate program.”

Venkatesh’s visit was the second in the annual series of visiting writers sponsored by the Honors College’s first-year writing program. English department faculty members coordinate the course and teach many of its sections. The event was co-sponsored by the Center for Nursing Research, the Center for the Study of Catholic Social Thought, the Department of Sociology, and the Center for Interpretive and Qualitative Research.

2012 Senior Award Winners

Each spring, the O’Donnell Awards are given to those seniors who have achieved excellence as an English or Theater major. Each recipient is given an award in the amount of $150.

Congratulations to the 2012 Recipients of the O’Donnell Excellence Awards:

**Best English Majors:**
Greta Harman and Natasha Gatian

**Excellence in Service:**
Rachel Van Campenhout and Carolann Holland

**Best Writing Center Consultants:**
Greta Harman and Melissa Unger

**Best Theater Major:**
Jacob Wadsworth

**Excellence in Poetry:**
Molly Lurie-Marino and Natasha Gatian

**Excellence in Fiction:**
Varun Ravindran and Ben Johnson

Duquesne faculty, students and alumni in the Pittsburgh Marathon

This year, for the first time, the English Department had a relay team in the Pittsburgh Marathon. The team consisted of junior English/Education major Caitlin Zajko, Ph.D. student Ian Butcher, alumna Glencora Pipkin (M.A. 2011), instructor Josh Zelesnick, and Dr. Greg Barnhisel. The team finished in 3:21:31, good enough for 15th place of the 639 co-ed teams, 25th place among all of the 925 marathon teams. Dr. Barnhisel said it was a wonderful morning and “we showed all the city what a gang of literature students and teachers—we are all both—can achieve. Fear the bookish!”
Doctoral
Graduates
FALL 2011

Ruth Newberry, Ph.D.
Dissertation: “Wallace Stegner’s ‘Wolf Willow’ and 1960s Critical Essays: Renarrativizing Western American Literature for the West and For America”
Linda Kinnahan, director; Magali Michael, first reader; and Mike Cahall (History), second reader

Beth Buhot Runquist, Ph.D.
Dissertation: “Women and the Suburbs in late 20th and Early 21st Century American Film and Fiction”
Magali Michael, director; Linda Kinnahan, first reader; Judy Suh, second reader

New Graduate
Students
FALL 2011

Master of Arts

Samina Ali
Penn State University

Jennifer Kane
Eastern College

Lindsey Kurtz
Gannon University

Danielle Leach
St. Francis University

Amanda Miller
Westminster College

Rebecca Penn
Westminster College

Willard Powell
Abilene Christian University

Alexandra Reznik
Chatham University

Abraham Schneider
University of Kansas

Doctorate

Matthew Durkin
State University of New York- Buffalo

Michael Smith
Boston College

Johanna Sullivan
Carnegie Mellon University

Bryon Williams
Stanford University

Graduate Student
Achievements

Maureen Gallagher, Graduate Student Award for Excellence in Teaching

Congratulations to Ph.D. student Maureen Gallagher, who was the recipient of a 2011-2012 Graduate Student Award for Excellence in Teaching. Two of these awards are given annually to graduate students enrolled in the McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts. At least one English Graduate Student has received this award eight out of the last nine years that it has been presented.

Essay Winner, Melissa Wehler

Congratulations to doctoral student, Melissa Wehler, who received the 2011 Eric Molin Graduate Student Essay Prize from the East Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. The judges praised Melissa’s paper, “‘Ready to burst’: Dorothy Jordan, Leigh Hunt, and Restraining Desire” for the originality and sophistication of her “interdisciplinary, feminist, and literary analysis of the cultural debate on a series of issues: the theater as a social institution and its cultural practices, how this woman actor demonstrated her resistance to the discipline and punishment procedures that presumed to control public performances on stage by women, and also men, and the dynamics of acting out gender roles, which gave discriminatory, differential treatment of women versus men as actors and performers.”

This essay is part of Melissa’s dissertation entitled “(Il) Legitimate Celebrity in the British Long Eighteenth Century,” directed by Laura Engel, with Anne Brannen and Sue Howard as first and second readers. This year Melissa was also the recipient of the McAnulty College Dissertation Fellowship Award, and the Eleanor Holveck Graduate Student Essay Prize awarded annually from the center for Women’s and Gender Studies.

Graduate Student Panel at ACLA

Six graduate students from the department of English —Jennifer Collins, Ian Butcher, Robert Foschia, Danielle LaCava, Rachel Luckenbill, and Shreyashi Mukherjee—organised a panel and presented papers relating to the theme of exile at the annual American Comparative Literature Association conference. The conference was held at Brown University (Providence, RI) from 30 March to 1 April 2012. Their work, individually and as a group, was professional, intellectually rigorous, and historically relevant.

The contribution of these six students at the conference contributes to rendering Duquesne’s English department visible, reputable, and desirable for developing literary scholars, not just regionally, but across the country. The ACLA is a highly influential organisation nationally and internationally, and its annual conference is where the most important figures in literary studies convene.

These six graduate students are part of a larger culture of scholarship and excellence at Duquesne’s English department. Other graduate students in the department regularly present at prestigious conferences, publish in peer-reviewed journals, engage in creative writing, and regularly receive campus-wide teaching accolades and awards.
Faculty Updates

Greg Barnhisel, along with alumnus Elizabeth Savage and Megan Jewell, presented on “Modernist Visions and Revisions” at the Modernist Studies Association Conference (Buffalo, New York, October 2011). Dr. Barnhisel also served as the Acting Chair of the department during the spring 2012 semester and published a textbook, Connecting with Cultures.

Bernard Beranek presented a paper at the Shakespeare: Literature and Philosophy Conference (Carlow University, March 17, 2011). His revisionist reading of the ending of King Lear, “The Sanity of King Lear,” was supported by a dramatic reading of Lear’s final scene by Jay Keenan, whose credits include a long run as Chairman of the English Department of Duquesne University and an even longer tenure as Director of the Red Masquers.

Anne Brannen served as the Acting Director of First-Year Writing in the spring 2012 semester.


Furthermore, as part of the Carnegie Library’s The People’s University, Dr. Engel will present “A History of Celebrity” in August 2012.


Dr. Kinnahan also presented at two conferences: “The ‘abstract poetic theatre’ of Caroline Bergvall,” ASAP/3 Conference (The Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh PA, October 2011), and “Mina Loy Among the Photographers,” Thirteenth Annual Conference of the Modernist Studies Association (Buffalo, New York, October 2011). She also presented “A Foliage of Mass Production: Photography and the Modern Urban Scene in Mina Loy’s Poetry” as an invited speaker at The Cultural Theory/Historical Practices Lectures (Carlow University, Pittsburgh PA, November 10, 2011).

Furthermore, Dr. Kinnahan was appointed the Associate Editor of Poetry for the journal, Contemporary Writing by Women (Oxford UP), and is currently acting as a member of the host committee for the 16th annual conference of the Modernist Studies Association which will be held in Pittsburgh in 2014.


Magali Michael was on sabbatical during the spring 2012 semester, working on a book project.


Frederick Newberry retired this year, receiving emeritus status and a plaque during Commencement. During his retirement, Dr. Newberry’s hopes to “read, write, landscape, and learn how to prepare French sauces.”

Jim Purdy was a contributing author to the article “Computers and Composition 20/20: A Conversation Piece, or What Some Very Smart People Have to Say about the Future” published in Computers and Composition 28.4. Dr. Purdy also published “Three Gifts of Digital Archives” in The Journal of Literacy and Technology 12.3. At the Conference on College Composition and Communication in St. Louis in March 2012, he presented “Scholarship on the Move: Digital Manifestations of Scholarly Activity” and was a speaker at the “Student-Centered Plagiarism Policy for the 21st Century” roundtable for the Intellectual Property in Composition Studies Caucus. He was also invited to be a curator for the International Debate Education Association online debate on Wikipedia.

Danielle St. Hilaire presented a paper, “The Labor of Free Will in Paradise Lost,” at the 2011 Conference on John Milton (Middle Tennessee State University, October 13-15, 2011, Murfreesboro, TN). She also received a Presidential Scholarship Award from Duquesne University for summer 2011.

Tim Vincent published “From Sympathy to Empathy: Baudelaire, Vischer, and Early Modernism” in Mosaic 45.1 (Spring, 2012), a special issue on the intersection of poetry and philosophy. He also presented “Strange Empathy: Wyndham Lewis’s ‘Eye’ and Virginia Woolf’s ‘Being’” at the SAML A Annual Convention, November 4-6, 2011, Atlanta.
Welcoming New Faculty

Ava C. Cipri joined the full-time faculty of the Duquesne English Department in the 2011-2012 academic year. Prior to this, she taught at Duquesne University, establishing ties with the English Department through teaching primarily first-year writing, presenting with colleagues, sharing her experience in meeting our UCOR curriculum objectives, and contributing as a creative writer.

Cipri brings to her appointment experience as an artist and educator, earning her M.F.A. in Poetry from Syracuse University. Her award-winning Tanka Sequence “From the Barre” is featured in AHA Books’ anthology Twenty Years Tanka Splendor: 1990-2009. Her recent poetry publications include “Of Last Things,” in Georgetown Review; a tanka string “Eye of Horus,” “Marsh Loon,” “Nuit,” & “Three-tier Necklace,” in Atlas Poetica: A Journal of Poetry of Place in Contemporary Tanka; and an invitation for her haibun “Character Study” and “Third Anniversary” appears in Red Moon Press’ contemporary haibun anthology. Additionally, she was interviewed by Jan Beatty on WYEP’s PROSODY, a radio show featuring poets and writers.

Active in Duquesne’s creative writing community, she teaches poetry workshops and serves on the English Department’s Creative Readings Committee. Cipri continues teaching in the Core Curriculum, invested in the Personae Learning Community, where she serves as both instructor and director.

Dr. Jessica McCort joined the full-time faculty of the Duquesne English Department in the 2011-2012 academic year. She received her Ph.D. from Washington University in St. Louis in the fall of 2009, specializing in American literature and women’s writing. Here at Duquesne, she teaches primarily in the first-year writing program, working closely with the Orbis Learning Community.

Dr. McCort’s scholarship focuses on the appropriation of children’s literature, particularly Grimm’s and Andersen’s fairy tales and Lewis Carroll’s Alice books, by women writers. Using scholarship devoted to children’s literature, childhood and girls’ culture studies, and women’s appropriation of the fairy tale and fantasy story, she explores how female authors employ children’s literature and examine girls’ reading practices and authorship in order to come to terms with questions of identity, femininity, sexuality, psychological trauma, and both literary and familial inheritance. She is especially interested in how the children’s book becomes embedded in confessional aesthetics and women’s representations of girlhood and womanhood, particularly in the work of Elizabeth Bishop, Sylvia Plath, and Anne Sexton. Dr. McCort also serves on the editorial board of Plath Profiles, an interdisciplinary journal for Sylvia Plath studies.