Welcome to Our New Faculty

We are delighted to have hired two wonderful new tenure-track faculty members who joined us in August 2013. Not only are they both experienced teachers but they also bring with them expertise in areas that will broaden the Department’s teaching offerings and strengthen its scholarly profile. Moreover, they are both warm and approachable people who are good colleagues and wonderful teachers and mentors for our students. We welcome them to the Department and look forward to their contributions.

Anthony Adams received a Ph.D. in Medieval Studies from the University of Toronto in 2008 and since then has held full-time visiting positions at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Brown University, and Colby College. His primary area of scholarly and teaching interest focuses on the literature, language, and cultures of the Middle Ages, especially Old and Middle English, Old Norse, Medieval Latin, and Welsh. He is currently working on a book project, titled Heroid: Slaughter and Versified Violence: Sacrifice, Trauma, and Early Medieval Epic Poetry. The project examines the ways in which sacrificial violence and trauma inform and structure early medieval literature. In addition to having published a number of journal articles and book chapters, he also has forthcoming an edition and translation of Dracontius. De laudibus Del. Satisfactio. Romulea. Orestis Tragoedia. Carmina minora. He is also interested in the ways that the Middle Ages have served as inspiration for 19th- and 20th-century writers as well as in fantastic literature generally, including science fiction, weird fiction, and fantasy. In fall 2013, Professor Adams taught a section of the Honors First Year Writing course and the first half of the British Literature Survey. In spring 2014, he is scheduled to teach a graduate course in The Pre-Modern Condition as well as our gateway to the English major course, Critical Issues in Literary Studies, and a general education course in Science Fiction.

Faith Barrett received a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of California, Berkeley in 2000 and an M.F.A. in Poetry from the University of Iowa in 1993. She comes to Duquesne after ten years teaching at Lawrence College in Wisconsin, where she earned tenure and served as chair for the last three years. Her primary area of scholarly interest is 19th-Century American Poetry, and her primary areas of teaching interest include 19th-Century American Literature, Early American Literature, 20th-Century American Poetry, and Creative Writing. She has published a number of scholarly journal articles and book chapters as well as a book titled “To Fight Aloud Is Very Brave”: American Poetry and the Civil War in 2012. She also co-edited (with Cristanne Miller) “Words for the Hour”: A New Anthology of American Civil War Poetry, published in 2005. At present, she is working on a new book project that focuses on voice-effects—including irony, parody, and dialogue—in the work of a group of amateur and professional American poets of the mid-19th century. In fall 2013, Professor Barrett taught a graduate seminar in The Cultures of the American Civil War as well as the second half of the American Literature Survey. In spring 2014, she is scheduled to teach an upper division undergraduate course in 19th-Century American Poetry as well as a Poetry Writing Workshop and the second half of the American Literature Survey.
Michael Begnal began teaching at Duquesne University in 2009, becoming a full-time Instructor in 2013. He received his M.F.A. in English, Creative Writing - Poetry, in 2008 from North Carolina State University. At Duquesne, he has taught first-year writing and literature, as well as poetry workshops and multi-genre creative writing courses.


Begnal serves on the English Department’s Creative Readings Committee. Along with his investment in the teaching of composition and creative writing, his interests include Irish literature, Beat literature, and contemporary poetry. His current research focuses on the modernist Pittsburgh poet Haniel Long.

Dr. Kristin Klucevsek joined the full-time faculty of the Duquesne English Department in the 2013-2014 academic year to teach Science Writing. She received her Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from the University of Pittsburgh in 2012.

Dr. Klucevsek’s science interests include genetics, gene expression, and cell biology. In her most recent research, she studied the intersection between quality control pathways in cells and what errors in these processes cause cells to reach a lethal limit. Her research has involved organisms with human-like similarities or human exploitations, such as yeast, mice, Helicobacter, and the Human Papillomavirus. She has also taught general biology, genetics, and laboratory research classes and created and edited virtual learning material.

Whether at the lab bench or in the classroom, Dr. Klucevsek’s unofficial research passion has always been methods that foster scientific inquiry and build academic skills. Her current research and teaching interests are centered on strategies that promote science communication skills, including communication to the public as well as to other scientists. She is interested in developing methods that students can use to analyze and critique research outside their scientific comfort zones, encouraging them to make a responsible social impact as liaisons between science research and the community.

Dr. Matthew Ussia joined the full-time faculty of the Duquesne English department in the 2013-2014 academic year. Prior to coming to Duquesne he has been teaching literature, composition, and speech at various institutions since 2005, while working on his Ph.D from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. His areas of specialty include literary theory, pedagogy, and contemporary global literature. His classes tend to focus upon the intersection between the academy and broader global trends.

Ussia’s scholarship focuses on the ways in which traces of neoliberal ideology work their way into popular culture and literature. He currently is working on revising his dissertation, The Children of Reagan: Troubling Pleasures for the Era of Privatization, and submitting it for publication. He is also working on some smaller projects about manifestations of the values security and surveillance culture in literature and popular culture. He is a member of the steering committee for the Pittsburgh Adjunct Discussion Group. He is a grumpy old curmudgeon trapped in the body of a middle-aged man.

**Theater Productions 2013-2014**

- **The Threepenny Opera**
  By Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill
  October 3-5 and 10-12

- **Premiers XXXVII**
  Written and Directed by Students
  December 4-7

- **Directing Showcase**
  Presented by students in the Fall 2013 Directing I class
  December 11

- **Awakening**
  By August Stramm
  February 6-8 and 13-15

- **Strindberg One Acts**
  Renowned playwright August Strindberg
  April 9-13

- **One Acts for Charity**
  April 23-26

All shows begin at 8:00 pm in Peter Mills Auditorium and are **FREE** with Duquesne ID, Carlow ID, or Red Masquers Card.

Visit www.duqredmasquers.com or send an e-mail to redmasquers@gmail.com for more information.
Faculty Updates

Anthony Adams published “‘He took a stone away’: Castration and Cruelty in the Old Norse Sturlunga saga” in Castration and Culture, a book edited by Larissa Tracy.


Faith Barrett presented “‘If I can stop one heart from breaking’: Dramatic Voice in Phoebe Cary and Emily Dickinson” for the Emily Dickinson International Society at College Park, Maryland in August. She presented “A ‘Conflict of Convictions’: Divided Allegiances in Melville’s and Dickinson’s War Poems” for the Herman Melville Society at Washington, D.C. in June. She also presented “New Poetry Studies and the Civil War” for the Modern Languages Association in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in November.

Laura Engel presented “Letters, Lockets, and Longings: Sally Siddons, Embodiment, and the Archives” at the Women’s Writing in the Long Eighteenth Century conference in Alton Hampshire (United Kingdom) in July.

Linda Kinnahan presented “The Photo and the Page in Mina Loy and Caroline Bergvall” for the Modernist Studies Association in Brighton (United Kingdom) in August.


Magali Michael presented “Narrative, Narrative Everywhere: Ian McEwan’s Sweet Tooth” for the Narrative International Conference in Manchester (United Kingdom) in June.

James Purdy presented “Why Are We Invoking Design? An Analysis of Use of Design in Computers and Composition Scholarship” at the Computers and Writing conference at Frostburg State University in June. He also co-presented “Futures of Composition” at that same conference.

Danielle A. St. Hilaire presented “Sin, Death, and the Possibility of Allegory in Paradise Lost” at the American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference in Toronto (Canada) in April.

Judy Suh published “Jean Rhys’s Voyage in the Dark: Community, Race, and Empire” in Communal Modernisms, a book edited by Emily Hinnov, Laurel Harris, and Lauren Rosenblum. She also presented “D.H. Lawrence’s Ambivalent Primitivism” for the Modernist Studies Association at Brighton (United Kingdom) in August.

New Graduate Students

Master of Arts

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>University</th>
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<tr>
<td>Marla Anzalone</td>
<td>Wittenburg University</td>
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<td>Kathryn Calano</td>
<td>Duquesne University</td>
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<td>Robert Craven</td>
<td>Westminster College</td>
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<td>Justin Fanzo</td>
<td>Duquesne University</td>
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<td>Kaitlin Green</td>
<td>Duquesne University</td>
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<td>Christopher Habliak</td>
<td>Duquesne University</td>
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<td>John Hadlock</td>
<td>Penn State University-Erie</td>
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<td>Theresa Hoffman</td>
<td>Indiana University of Pennsylvania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cassandra Jones</td>
<td>University of Pittsburgh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebekah Lynn</td>
<td>University of Pittsburgh</td>
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<td>Megan Patterson</td>
<td>Point Park University</td>
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<td>Margaret Pavlick</td>
<td>Duquesne University</td>
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<td>Stephanie Smith</td>
<td>Grove City College</td>
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<td>Joshua Wood</td>
<td>West Virginia University</td>
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<td>Christopher Maverick</td>
<td>Carnegie Mellon University</td>
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<td>Will Powell</td>
<td>Duquesne University</td>
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<td>Alexandra Reznik</td>
<td>Duquesne University</td>
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<td>Lisa Weddell</td>
<td>Indiana University of Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>David Young</td>
<td>John Carroll University</td>
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Doctoral Graduates


Susan Howard, director; Dan Watkins, first reader; Laura Callanan, second reader

Much Ado
Study Abroad

Best Ten Days—Ever!
By Janine Bayer (Ph.D. 2010)

How do you get American college girls to fall madly in love with boys they’ve never met before? Take them on a ten-day Study Abroad trip to England! I know this from experience because I took twelve of my students from La Roche College—eight girls and four guys—to England this past summer. And despite our jam-packed schedule, most of the female students somehow managed to fall desperately in love with lovely English lads they met along the way. Important lesson: it’s not just at Hogwarts; cute boys with British accents have magic powers all over England.

In the moments between romantic sparks, we also experienced plenty of what our course title promised: England’s Literature, Culture, and History. In the first two days, we visited Windsor Castle, Blenheim Palace, Oxford University, and Christ Church, Oxford (where parts of Harry Potter were filmed!). We spent the next two days in the beautiful little town of Stratford-Upon-Avon, visiting William Shakespeare’s Birthplace, Holy Trinity Church (where he is buried) and Anne Hathaway’s Cottage. We were also fortunate to be there during Stratford’s fabulous May Festival, so the town was bustling with street vendors, music, and dance performances.

On day five, we left Stratford and made our way to London, where we hit the (under) ground running once again. Our days were packed with visits to the British Museum, Trafalgar Square, Covent Garden, the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, a site-seeing riverboat ride down the Thames, the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace, the Tower of London (ahhh—the crown jewels!), Platform 9 ¾ at Kings Cross Station, a Charles Dickens walking tour, and a backstage tour of the rebuilt Globe Theatre.

Our evenings included gorgeous dinners in restaurants and pubs throughout London. (The British routinely describe their food as “gorgeous” even though it’s clearly not that good looking.) We also enjoyed fantastic theatre productions at the National Theatre, the Royal Theatre Haymarket, and (my personal favorite) the Globe Theatre! I have seen The Tempest performed on quite a few stages in my life, but nothing comes close to seeing it performed on the actual Globe Theatre stage—right in the heart of London’s Bankside District—in essentially the same spot as it was originally performed in 1611.

Perhaps the most attractive part of our trip was the price: FREE FOR ALL OF US. In 2009, we reinvented the Study Abroad/Study USA program at La Roche, making it a unique experience for students who want to broaden their horizons and marketability in an ever-expanding global workplace. After earning 60 credits at La Roche, students become eligible to take a Study Abroad course and trip. Travel courses are typically offered for between one and three credits (depending on the length of the course and the amount of required academic work), and the accompanying trips are usually 10 to 14 days. As long as the trip is scheduled within the regular academic year (August through mid-May), the entire package—academic credits, flights, hotels, in-country travel, and 2 meals each day—are completely free for the students and faculty leaders. Trip participants are responsible only for passports, souvenirs and extra spending money (in our case, mainly pub money!). Every trip is equipped with an in-country tour director. Jon, our tour director, met us at London’s Heathrow Airport when we first arrived, and he expertly navigated our travels for the entire ten days.

La Roche students and faculty have enjoyed free Study Abroad trips to France, Ireland, England, Italy, China, Peru, the Galapagos Islands, Turkey, Germany, Poland, Greece, Canada, Guatemala, Trinidad, and Tobago. Our Study USA program has also offered trips to Alaska, Texas, the Navajo Nation, New York, and New England. These are truly once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for the students.

Although I have been to England before, I agree with Kaylyn, who wrote in her journal: “This was hands down, no exceptions, the best ten days—ever.”
Alumni News

Dr. Timothy Bintrim, DU Ph.D 2005 and Chair of Literature & Languages at Saint Francis University, Loretto, accompanied four students to the Remote Area Medical (RAM) Expedition in Grundy, Virginia, October 5-8, 2013.

Together with Rose Klaiber (English) and Dustin James (Computer Science), Bintrim volunteered in RAM’s mobile optical lab, housed in a retrofitted NASCAR trailer. The “pit crew” of ten filled 352 eyeglass prescriptions, many for people in desperate need. Within hours of their exams, most clients were fitted with free prescription glasses made on site from donated new materials. After 15 minutes’ training, Bintrim was operating a $65,000 lens edger, while Klaiber and James mastered all steps of the manufacturing process. Meanwhile, third-year Physician Assistant students Emily Tercek and Kristi McClelland assisted two dentists and an oral surgeon with fillings and extractions, including full mouth extractions and minor oral surgeries.

On Saturday the group met with RAM’s second in command, Jean Jolly, about changing Pennsylvania state law to allow temporary licensure for out-of-state providers, a precondition for RAM expeditions to Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, or Johnstown. Over the last 25 years, RAM has offered free medical, dental, and vision treatment to 250,000 Americans and thousands more overseas.

Coffee House Reading Series
2013-2014

The Coffee House Reading Series is a monthly reading of creative writing at the Barnes & Noble Café in the Power Center on Forbes Avenue. Organized and sponsored by Duquesne University’s English Department, the series aims to develop the creative writing and arts community on Duquesne’s campus by inviting established writers to present their work alongside the work of students and other emerging writers. You can view the current semester’s schedule of readings below. For more information, contact friedj@duq.edu

ALL READINGS WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE BARNES & NOBLE CAFÉ, POWER CENTER, at 7:00 pm

Thursday, October 3
Jenny Johnson (poetry)
Sarah Gerkensmeyer (fiction)

Tuesday, November 12
Samantha Leon (poetry)
Sherrie Flick (fiction)

Monday, December 2
Lorena Williams (Creative Nonfiction)
Anne Brannen (Creative Nonfiction/poetry)

Monday, February 3
Krista Mann (fiction)
Cameron Barnett (poetry)

Tuesday, March 18
Clint Benjamin (creative nonfiction)
Karen Dietrich (creative nonfiction)

Wednesday, April 9
Seth Taggart (fiction)
Karen Dwyer (fiction)

Theater Arts Alumnus Receives Prestigious Fred Ebb Award

On December 2, 2013, English and Theater Arts alumnus, Christopher Dimond (BA, 2001) was awarded the Fred Ebb Award for aspiring musical theater songwriters. The award is named in honor of the late award-winning lyricist Fred Ebb and recognizes excellence in musical theatre songwriting, by a songwriter or songwriting team that has not yet achieved significant commercial success.

The prize includes a $50,000 award and a one-night-only showcase of the winner’s work. Dimond (above left), along with writing partner Michael Kooman, were presented with the award by Broadway legend Joel Grey.

This was just the latest of many awards Dimond and Kooman have received for their work. The team is currently working on the following productions: the original musicals “The Noteworthy Life of Howard Barnes” (developed at the O’Neill Music Theater Conference and the Village Theater), “Orphie & The Book of Heroes” (commissioned by the Kennedy Center and set to premiere in February, 2014), and “Judge Jackie Justice” (commissioned by the Pittsburgh CLO, and scheduled to open in early 2014).

(Source and Photo Credit: Jennifer Broski, BroadwayWorld.com, December 3, 2013)

Much Ado
On Thursday, November 7, our Department hosted a visiting speaker, Heather Love, R. Jean Brownlee Term Associate Professor and Associate Chair of the English Department at the University of Pennsylvania. Professor Love addressed a room packed to capacity with English majors, graduate students, and faculty from English and Sociology at Duquesne, and from other area universities. Her presentation, “Reading the Social: Erving Goffman and Sexuality Studies” was taken from her new book project on readings methods inspired by microsociological observation in the work of Erving Goffman. Prof. Love urged literary critics to consider the benefits of approaching literature as description of observable human behaviors, or “thin description,” as opposed to the more familiar “thick description,” which entails speculations on (invisible) interiority and depth. By analyzing the classic sociological work, Tearoom Trade by Laud Humphreys, she traced the importance of thin description in the history of queer studies. The following day at breakfast, Prof. Love led a lively discussion with English faculty and grad students on her essay, “Close but Not Deep.”

Faculty and students attend Heather Love’s presentation.
Nimick Forbesway Foundation Graduate Diversity Teaching Assistantship

by Magali Cornier Michael

I am thrilled to announce that the English Department has been working to create an endowed fund to create a Graduate Diversity Teaching Assistantship and that the Pittsburgh based Nimick Forbesway Foundation awarded us a $100,000 grant in June 2013 to establish the fund in response to a grant proposal we submitted. We thank the foundation for their generous gift and support of a graduate diversity teaching assistantship.

The English Department has hired thirteen new faculty members on the tenure-track over the past ten years, which has resulted in greatly enriched course offerings and has revitalized the department as a whole. Moreover, the Department actively and successfully sought to increase the diversity of its faculty through these hires. At the same time, the Department has also worked to diversify its curriculum so that English majors and graduate students become familiar with canonical literary texts; literary texts written by writers from ethnic and racial minorities, women writers, and working class writers; and literary texts from countries around the world.

Efforts at diversifying our graduate student population have been less successful, which is a problem since a diverse student body enriches the learning environment for all. While our faculty and curriculum is now much more diverse, which is crucial to attracting a diverse student body, our graduate student population is not as diverse as it needs to be given the demographics of the United States. Part of the problem is that many strong Ph.D. programs in English offer special Teaching Assistantships with large stipends that target U.S. minorities. Although Duquesne’s doctoral Teaching Assistantship stipends in English have risen to $16,000 per year for doctoral students and $15,000 for M.A. students, this dollar amount cannot compete with the much higher stipends with which many universities are recruiting the top American minority applicants.

Given this situation, the English Department sought to create an endowed fund to supplement the stipend of one of our existing Teaching Assistantship so as to make it more attractive to the relatively small pool of strong applicants from ethnic/racial minorities. With the help of the Nimick Forbesway Foundation, the fund has been established and will allow us to offer a Diversity Teaching Assistantship with a stipend of $20,000 as of fall 2015. We hope that more donors will make gifts to the fund so that it can eventually fund the full assistantship.

If you wish to contribute to the fund, please send your donation with the Nimick Forbesway Fund listed on the memo line of your check to James Miller, University Advancement, 405 Administration Building, Duquesne University, 600 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15282.
Upcoming Events

Third Annual Lexicon Art Show
Tuesday, March 25
Noon-9 p.m.
Power Center Ballroom
The Art Show will feature artists and performers from around the Duquesne Community and be open to the public. The show is on Tuesday, March 25th on the fifth floor of the Power Center. An Open Mic will be held at 7:30 in the Shepperson Suite, and performances will be ongoing throughout the entire day; a schedule will be posted on :lexicon’s website sometime in early March. Anyone interested in participating should contact :lexicon staff at ArtsAtDuquesne@gmail.com. Admission is free, though donations toward future events are much appreciated!

Visiting Speaker, Jim Daniels
Wednesday, April 2
7-8:30 p.m.
Power Center Ballroom
Jim Daniels is a Creative Writing Professor at Carnegie Mellon University, with expertise in the areas of poetry, fiction and screenwriting. He has received the Brittingham Prize for Poetry, two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, and two from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and his poems have appeared in the Pushcart Prize and Best American Poetry anthologies.

Modernist Studies Association Conference: Confluence and Division
Hosted by Duquesne University with co-sponsor University of Pittsburgh
November 6-9, 2014
Omni William Penn Hotel
Keynote Speakers and Panels:
Rachel Blau DuPlessis
Meta DuEwa Jones
David Trotter, Colin McCabe, and Laura Marcus
For more information, email msasixteen@gmail.com.