Tenure Granted to John Fried

by Magali Cornier Michael

It is my great pleasure as current chair of the English Department to announce that John Fried has been awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor beginning fall 2013. He was hired on a tenure-track line in fall 2006 to enhance our undergraduate creative writing as well as film offerings and has been a wonderful addition to the department. Not only has he proven to be an excellent colleague and teacher but he also has published a number of excellent short stories in a variety of literary journals.

Fried received a B.A. in psychology from the University of Michigan in 1991, an M.A. in cinema studies from New York University in 1995, and an M.F.A. in fiction writing from Warren Wilson College in 2004. He teaches our Fiction Writing Workshops, levels one through four, as well as a number of film courses that have included Introduction to Film, Film Noir, Horror Film, and Kubrick & Film Genre.

Moreover, he has contributed a great deal of time and energy to the department’s endeavor to develop a community of creative writers at Duquesne among students and faculty/instructors. His intimate knowledge of the field of creative writing makes him an outstanding and invaluable mentor for Duquesne undergraduate students interested in writing. He is on campus daily and always willing to engage in conversations about writing with students and colleagues alike, to discuss the teaching of creative writing, and along with a number of his colleagues, to do the work necessary to organize the highly successful Coffee House Reading Series. The series consists of monthly readings throughout the academic year that bring published writers to Duquesne as well as showcase the work of Duquesne students and faculty members. In addition, Fried serves as the faculty advisor for lexicon, the Duquesne University literary magazine.

On the publication front, Fried has published seven short stories and one piece of creative non-fiction prose over the past seven years in a variety of literary journals, including the particularly well-regarded The Gettysburg Review, The Minnesota Review, and The North American Review. His journal publications demonstrate that he is producing work that has been recognized consistently by his peers as high quality writing. He is also working on completing two book projects. The Martin Chronicles is a novel-in-stories that will consist of 10 linked short stories, three of which have been published in journals. The second book project is also a collection of 10 short stories titled This Treatment Isn’t In Any Way Cruel. Three of the stories in the collection have been published, and he is presently working on the others.
Faculty Spotlight

Greg Barnhisel Receives NEH Fellowship

Dr. Greg Barnhisel was awarded a highly competitive National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship for 2013, as well as two other smaller research grants, to fund the completion of his book Cold War Modernists. NEH Fellowships provide awardees with funding of up to $50,400 for a year, allowing them to focus entirely on writing and scholarship. Because of this grant, Dr. Barnhisel will be on leave from Duquesne until January 2014.

Cold War Modernists describes the programs of the State Department, United States Information Agency and private organizations to employ modernist art and literature as pro-U.S. propaganda in the Cold War era. These cultural diplomats sought to present modernism, which previously had a radical reputation, as evidence of the power of Western freedom and individualism. These projects refuted Soviet claims of American cultural sterility and, at the same time, domesticated modernism. "Through art shows, radio programs, covertly funded magazines and books, and tours by performers like Louis Armstrong," Barnhisel explains, "Cold War modernism established the legitimacy of American culture abroad, and turned a threatening movement into the house style of the American cultural establishment."

The book, scheduled for publication in 2014 from Columbia University Press, relies heavily on unique sources housed in archive libraries across the country. "This kind of work requires a lot of research travel," Barnhisel explains, "and I'm very grateful for all of the generous support I've received."

In addition to the NEH award, Barnhisel received fellowships from the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library in Abilene, KS, and the Princeton University Libraries, and he will conduct research in both places. Barnhisel has been working on the book for almost 10 years and has previously received grants from the NEH, the University of Texas, and Duquesne University that have funded work at the Harry Ransom Center in Austin TX, the Lilly Library at Indiana University, the American Library Association archive at the University of Illinois, the National Archives, the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution, and the University of Arkansas Libraries.

Instructors Receive the Duquesne Creative Teaching Award

Ava Cipri, director of the Personae learning community and instructor of Writing in English, Thinking and Writing Across the Curriculum, collaborated with Marcia Rapchak, instructor of UCOR 030C, Research and Information Skills, as part of a pilot last year. Both instructors innovatively aligned student learning across their courses within Personae. The cumulative engagement of these practices garnered favorable results when assessing both direct and indirect evidence of their similar learning outcomes. This was achieved through scaffolding assignments across classes and team-teaching activities that allowed students to integrate research into their writing that worked toward the final projects in both classes.

Cipri and Rapchak are the first Creative Teaching Award winners not only to have featured a McAnulty learning community but to have piloted a project that will be implemented across all the first-year learning communities in the College in fall 2013. Aside from presenting at the annual Celebration of Teaching Excellence where the awards were conferred by the provost, they will participate in a Center for Teaching Excellence panel discussion in the fall.

The purpose of the Creative Teaching Award is to recognize faculty members who have implemented innovative ways of teaching and have assessed the impact on student learning. Winners receive $1,000 at the annual Celebration of Teaching Excellence.

College of Liberal Arts Faculty Excellence Awards

Congratulations to Anne Brannen, a 2013 recipient of the Faculty Award for Excellence in Service to the Mission, and to Daniel Watkins, a 2013 recipient of the Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching!
Alumni Updates


Lori Campbell (Ph.D. 2002) announces the forthcoming publication of her second book, *A Quest of Her Own: The Female Hero in Modern Fantasy*, by McFarland, in the summer of 2014. This collection of essays explores the female hero as a distinct character type in works published from the 1950s through the present, starting with J.R.R. Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings*.


Sally Rosen Kindred’s (M.A. 1998) new chapbook of persona poems about the girls of Never Land, *Darling Hands, Darling Tongue*, was released in May 2013 by Hyacinth Girl Press (http://hyacinthgiripress.com/). Recent poems have appeared in *Linebreak, Jabberwock Review, Through the Gate,* and *Heron Tree*. One of her poems has been nominated for a 2012 Pushcart Prize, and she has three poems forthcoming in the 2013 Rhysling Anthology: *The Best Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror Poetry of 2012*.

Kara Mollis (Ph.D. 2006) presented “Alice Sebold’s Lucky: Rewriting the Language of Rape” at The Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900 in Louisville, Kentucky in Feb 2013.

Bill Racicot (Ph.D. 2010) presented a paper on the influence of the Medieval dream vision genre on “Peter Pan” at the 48th International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Michigan, in May 2013.

Eileen McGrath Smith (Ph.D. 2002) presented with some Pitt colleagues at the recent Countering Contingency Conference in Pittsburgh on the topic of “Nurturing Your Creative Writing During the School Year.” She has poems forthcoming in the journals *Bayou, Cimarron,* and *Death Hums*. Her poem “The History Channel” will be published in the fall 2013 anthology of television-inspired poems, *Rabbit Ears*, edited by Joel Allegretti. Her review-essay of Judith Vollmer’s *The Water Books* is forthcoming from *Pleiades*.

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 awarded $150.

Congratulations to the 2013 recipients of the O’Donnell Excellence Awards:

**Excellence in the English Major:**
Kellie Brickner, Hillary Cox and Jacki Weaver

**Excellence in Theater Arts:**
Alexis Jabour

**Excellence in Fiction Writing:**
Keeley Teslik

**Excellence in Poetry Writing:**
Karl Jancart and Duncan McCay

**Excellence in Playwriting:**
Madeline Lylo

**Excellence in Service:**
Hillary Cox

**Best Writing Center Consultant:**
Jacki Weaver
Graduate Student News
English Graduate Organization hosts (anti) Foundations Conference
by Shannon Richter, Ph.D. student

On March 15-16, the English Graduate Organization welcomed students from across the country to present at its biennial conference, (anti) Foundations. Undergraduate and graduate students had the opportunity to share their research and gain feedback from scholars from various disciplines, including psychology, English, theology and philosophy. EGO members moderated 13 panels holding a total of 35 compelling speakers.

Jeff Stoyanoff, a doctoral candidate and technical adviser for the conference, said, "(anti) Foundations was a great interdisciplinary discussion and dialogue. We all learned a lot and expanded our horizons for the relationships between disciplines as we progress into the 21st century." Both presenters and attendees felt the benefit of being exposed to so many different perspectives. Jo Sullivan, a Ph.D. student, observed, "It was a great opportunity not only to present my own scholarship but to engage in the scholarship of graduate students across disciplines. The outpouring of support from faculty was overwhelming and really helped make the experience memorable."

On the first night of the conference, nearly 50 people gathered at the conference’s Creative Reading. John Fried, associate professor of English, began the evening with an amusing short story. Joshua Zelesnick, an adjunct, kept the evening’s energy up with his militant and surreal poetry. Sharon Cebula, a graduate student from the University of Akron, shared her haunting but hopeful nonfiction piece about ethnic difference and crime. Craig Bernier, full-time instructor of writing, finished the evening by humorously documenting a difficult topic with his short story, "A Manual for Heavy Drinking." Ian Butcher, a doctoral candidate, said, "I felt that all readers were both interesting and entertaining, and they interacted well with the audience."

On the second day of the conference, a host of EGO volunteers transformed the College Hall lobby into a used book and record store. After picking up a dog-eared copy of a classic or two, presenters resumed the interdisciplinary discussions that had begun the previous day.

The conference ended with the keynote address delivered by Dr. Danielle A. St. Hilaire, assistant professor of English. Her presentation, "Against Justice: Pity in Shakespeare’s King Lear," embodied the conference’s goals in questioning the foundations of language and social structures. Her enthusiastic and engaging talk captured the audience’s attention and brought together threads of conversation that had been inspired and broached throughout the conference.

Stoyanoff, who introduced St. Hilaire’s keynote address, said, "Danielle St. Hilaire’s talk was thought-provoking and highlighted the conference’s interdisciplinary theme."

Butcher added, "Her challenging reading of King Lear proved how useful the project of (anti) Foundations could be."

Attendees left the conference enriched by the overall project and experience. "It was a fun experience," Jen Kane, a master’s student, said. "I really loved the panel I was on and moderated. The papers were super interesting, and the conference was really well organized."

As conference co-director with Mary Parish, a doctoral candidate, I was overwhelmed by the willingness of so many EGO members to devote so much time to this really wonderful event. Every part of the conference ran smoothly because of the collegiality of the graduate students, faculty, and staff. The people who attended the conference were pleased with the caliber and variety of the presentations, and we, as an organization, are looking forward to the next successful conference.

Center for Teaching Excellence Awards

L-R: Linda Kinnahan, Emily Rutter, Provost Ralph Pearson

Congratulations to Ph.D. student Emily Rutter, a recipient of the 2013 CTE Graduate Student Award for Excellence in Teaching! Congratulations, also, to the following English graduate students who received a CTE Certificate of University Teaching: Jade Higa, Jennifer Kane, Rachel Luckenbill, Mary Parish, and Emily Rutter.
Poet Toi Derricotte Visits Campus

On April 4, award-winning poet Toi Derricotte gave a reading before a packed crowd of more than 700 attendees at the Power Center Ballroom. Derricotte is the author of five collections of poetry, including Tender (U. of Pittsburgh Press, 1997) and Natural Birth (Firebrand, 2000). Her memoir, The Black Notebooks (W.W. Norton, 1997) won the 1998 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award for Non-Fiction and was a New York Times Notable Book of the Year.

The public reading, sponsored by the English Department, First-Year Writing Program, and Office of the Provost, brought in students and faculty from all over the University as well as alumni, students from surrounding universities and colleges, and local residents. Derricotte read many selections from her latest work, The Undertaker’s Daughter (U. of Pittsburgh Press, 2012) as well as some of her earlier poetry. The reading was truly interactive as well; for one poem, Derricotte read several lines of a poem and then had different groups of audience members shout out the remaining lines. Derricotte’s discussion during the question-and-answer period focused on her inspiration as a poet and the craft of writing.

Derricotte is a professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh and has been the recipient of two Pushcart Prizes and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation. She cofounded Cave Canem—a writer’s center with a focus on African American authors—and serves on the Academy of American Poets’ Board of Chancellors.

Pittsburgh Marathon

For the second year in a row, the English department was represented in the Pittsburgh Marathon. The English department’s relay team—consisting of undergraduate major Adele Ferris, graduate students Ian Butcher and Bryon Williams, alumnus Jason Vanfosson, and professor Greg Barnhisel—had another good showing in 2013, taking 39th place (out of 600 co-ed teams) in a total time of 3:27:08. And don’t they look fantastic in this 6 a.m. photo!
On March 12, artists and performers from across Duquesne’s campus took over the fifth floor of the Power Center. Two sections of the ballroom were devoted to showcasing the art of Duquesne artists while the third section served as a performance space for attending actors, dancers, and musicians. In the Shepperson Suite directly outside of the ballroom, artists and attendees were welcomed to relax, enter a writing contest, enjoy refreshments and a catered reception, and attend an open mic reading in the evening, just before the night closed with a performance from the band, Matt Otis and the Sound. The campus-wide event was the culmination of two years of planning.

In the spring of 2011, the staff of :lexicon began considering what it would take to pull off a campus-wide art show. Their reasoning was simple: somebody had to do it. Each semester, the staff reviews submissions of photographs of paintings, sculptures, sketches, and even murals. Particularly that semester, two things were tortuously clear: first, Duquesne’s community held many talented artists whose work was entirely unknown on campus, and second, photographs in the school’s literary journal—even great photographs—just could not do that work justice. :lexicon’s staff began attempting to figure out the logistics of what an art show would look like, spurred by the realization that Duquesne had no studio art program whatsoever. Mostly writers, the staff hoped there would be enough interest to fill one section of the ballroom and envision a show that would feature artists, musicians, and an open mic reading (since they were a literary organization, after all).

That fall, the real planning and paperwork began. With their advisor, John Fried, supporting the project, and with the English Department as co-sponsor, :lexicon planned an art show for that coming spring. Because of red tape and scheduling difficulties, however, the show was quickly scaled down to only include artists and an open mic reading. In the end, the date for the show was not finalized until December, and the show was to be held less than two months later. Artists would have one hour to set up and one hour to clear out; the staff of :lexicon begged and borrowed easels from all across campus, advertised, and fielded queries from more than 40 interested artists. In the end, approximately 17 artists showed their work, with many others dropping out because of time constraints. Thus, everyone knew that the next show needed to be an all-day affair, not only to allow more time for the artists to set up and take down their work, but also so that people who had evening commitments could still come see the show at whatever moment they had free.

Yet, despite the :lexicon students being on entirely new ground, and despite difficulties with scheduling the Power Center, the show was an undeniable success. The greatest immediate pay-off was community. Many of the artists had been working and thinking entirely in isolation from one another—with no studio art program on campus, the artists had simply never crossed paths or met one another. Over the short night, quick meetings turned into discussions of art and friendships that would last well beyond the evening. By the end of the night, watching a group of some 30 attendees enjoy the open mic reading, everyone understood that the show had to happen again, and had to grow.

This year, John Fried and myself, the editor of :lexicon, enlisted the help of Dean James Swindal. Based on write-ups and pictures from last year’s show, and on the clear need for such a project, Dean Swindal agreed that the College of Liberal Arts would co-sponsor the 2013 show. With the College’s backing, :lexicon began putting out calls for artists and performers and arranging for advertisement and catering. Led by Jennifer Collins, Bekah Zook, and Katie Auwaerter, and with the help of John Fried and the Dean, :lexicon’s staff organized a show that would end up featuring the work of more than 20 Duquesne artists, all students. Simultaneously, the show featured a full schedule of performances. For nine hours, attendees explored the show at their leisure, viewing the many artists’ displays, chatting with the artists who happened to be on hand at any given moment, watching one-acts and Irish dancing performed courtesy of the Red Masquers, or even relaxing and enjoying live performances from the harpist, Sophie Graf, or the guitarists Eavan Kadan, David Estes, and Ben Parry. While attendance was difficult to track, the staff of :lexicon estimated that more than 300 members of Duquesne’s community attended the show.

In the end, the day was truly a celebration of the arts, engineered by students and enjoyed by the whole community. Artists were invited to showcase their work, engage with their community of artists within Duquesne’s community, and celebrate artistic inspiration. By all accounts, the show was a gigantic success, proving that creativity and artistic community truly are a part of Duquesne’s campus, even if sometimes hidden.
Faculty Updates


Laura Engel presented “Sex, Lies, and Celebrity: Eighteenth-Century Actresses as Queer Subjects” at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference in Cleveland, Ohio, in April 2013. She also gave an invited lecture, “All About Austen,” at the Upper St. Clair Country Club in April 2013.

Sue Howard presented “The Curious Case of Charlotte Lennox: or, How to Conduct a Professional Literary Life Outside the Bluestocking Circle” at the American Society for 18th Century Studies in Cleveland, Ohio, in April 2013.

Bettina Jones presented “The Vanishing Black Guy” in AMC’s The Walking Dead” at the PCA/ACA Conference in Washington, D.C., and “The Primacy of the Past in August the Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900 in Louisville, Kentucky, in Feb 2013.


Jim Purdy published The New Digital Scholar: Exploring and Enriching the Research and Writing Practices of NextGen Students, a collection he co-edited with Randall McClure and that includes his chapter “Scholarliness as Other: How Students Explain Their Research-Writing Behaviors.” The book is part of the American Society of Information Science and Technology monograph series with Information Today, Inc. His article “Liminal Spaces and Research Identity: The Construction of Introductory Composition Students as Researchers,” co-written with Joyce R. Walker, appeared in the journal Pedagogy: Critical Approaches to Teaching Language, Literature, Composition, and Culture. In addition, he presented the paper “Challenging Public Perceptions: Why First-Year Writing Students Select Research Resources as Their Favorite” at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in Las Vegas in March 2013. At the same conference, he also served as discussion leader on the roundtable “Evolving IP Policies for Journals” for the Intellectual Property in Composition Studies Caucus.


Beth Runquist presented “It’s the end of the world as we know it: Sustainability and the American suburbs after the housing crisis in Tom Perrotta’s The Leftovers” at the From the Outside In: Sustainable Futures for Global Cities and Suburbs Conference at Hofstra University in March 2013.

Theater Productions

**Summer Company Productions**

June 6-8 and 13-15
“State of the Union” by Russel Crouse and Howard Lindsay

July 18-20 and 25-27
“A Slight Case of Murder” by Damon Runyon and Howard Lindsay

August 22-24 and 29-31
“Cat on a Hot Tin Roof” by Tennessee Williams

All shows take place at 8 p.m. in the Peter Mills Auditorium, Rockwell Hall

$15 General Admission
$10 for Students/Seniors

Reservations can be made through the Gemini Theater Company at 412-243-6464.

**Fall 2013 Productions**

October 3-5 and 10-12
“The Threepenny Opera” by Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill

December 4-7
“Premieres XXXVII”
Student-Written
Student-Directed

All shows take place at 8 p.m. in the Peter Mills Auditorium, Rockwell Hall

$10 General Admission
$5 Students/Seniors
FREE with DU ID, Red Masquers card, or Carlow ID