The Artist with the Soul of a Teacher
by John Lane

She started out as my mentor. She had been assigned to help me through the first year of my full-time employment at Duquesne, to walk me through the 3rd year review and tenure process, and to give general advice about teaching and navigating the world of academia. Who knew that the sage words from the wise new-age goddess would mentor me through hard times, good times, and anything the world could throw at me.

Anne Brannen is one of the most complex women on the planet. She is part teacher, part mother, part lover, part mentor, part poet, part wife. She is part actress, artist, activist, blogger. She is part comedian, tea lover, knitter of bandages for lepers. Part Texan, Irish, Wiccan, and Corgi owner. She is part Medievalist, Modernist, Realist, Transcendentalist, Naturalist, and Romanticist.

I had the enormous pleasure of working with some of the many sides of Anne Brannen. I directed her in the great late medieval/early Tudor comedy, Gammer Gurton’s Needle, where she showed the world her comedic and dialect skills. I again directed her years later in The Threepenny Opera where she brought down the house with her singing abilities. And I was incredibly fortunate to share the stage with her in Whose Afraid of Virginia Woolf, where she brought me to tears every night in one of the most difficult roles of the American Drama.

She was brilliant in all her theatrical adventures because Anne gave every ounce of herself to those projects. Just as Anne gave every ounce of herself to her students and to anyone else that asked her for assistance. That is what made life with Anne in the department so special — she cared deeply for all who crossed her path. She was always there for support, a wise word, a comforting word, or a nice spot of tea.

And now she is moving on to discover other parts of herself. She is becoming part New Mexican, part Life Coach, part retiree, and part explorer. I know she will be as successful in all her new adventures as she has been in her time here at Duquesne.

She is a woman whose whole is so much greater than the sum of her parts.
On the Retirement of Dr. Daniel P. Watkins
by Kathy Glass

The English department celebrates the accomplishments of Dr. Daniel P. Watkins, who retired in 2013 after nearly 30 years of dedicated service to the university. When Dan joined the English department in 1985, he quickly became a valuable colleague, a productive scholar, and a respected teacher. Over the years Dan served as Director of Graduate Studies (twice) and as Director of Undergraduate Studies; he served on the University Promotion and Tenure committee for 12 years; on the College Promotion and Tenure committees for four years, and he served on many other departmental, College, and university committees during his time at Duquesne.

A model scholar, Dan published five single-author books, co-edited two volumes, and published nearly two dozen articles and essays. His most recent book, Anna Letitia Barbauld and Eighteenth-Century Visionary Poetics, was published in 2012 by the prestigious Johns Hopkins University Press.

Dan was also a popular and versatile professor who taught courses in Romanticism, nineteenth-century British Literature, African American Literature, Literary Theory, and Literature and Culture of the 1960s. Students flocked to both his classes and to his office hours. Whenever I passed Dan’s office door, I invariably saw a student or two who’d dropped in to discuss course readings, or merely to shoot the breeze. The consummate teacher who respects and revels in ideas, Dan welcomed them all. During one of our chats, Dan reflected on his “abiding respect for his students.” He’d appreciated and learned from them all—the undergraduate and graduate students, alike.

On a personal note, Dan was my mentor and remains a good friend. I’m sad to see him go but I’m happy that he is now pursuing his hobbies full time. Dan has retired, but he continues to read good books, listen to live jazz, and make music with his drum set.

We all wish Dan well in these endeavors, and extend our sincere gratitude for his contributions to the department.

Farewell to Laura Callanan
by Greg Barnhisel

Dr. Callanan came to Duquesne in 2003 and immediately became a student favorite. In her classes, she combined scholarly rigor and high expectations with a deeply rooted kindness and care for her students. Although she has produced highly regarded scholarship in 19th century British literature, over her years at Duquesne she began studying and writing in other areas, particularly memoir and creative nonfiction. She published, and she brought these new interests to her students. I could always deduce what Laura was reading and thinking about in any given year, because she so infectiously conveyed her enthusiasm to her classes—trauma theory and life writing are the two examples I remember best—that I could tell just by listening to the excited conversations among students in the TA lounge and the sixth-floor hallways. Laura never stops exploring; her curiosity and her desire to critically understand the world have been a wonderful model for our students, and they’ll make her a good and compassionate lawyer. We will miss her greatly.
Department Update
Greg Barnhisel, Department Chair

The academic year 2013-14 brought more than its share of changes to Duquesne’s English department. Several members of our faculty have moved on: Dr. Daniel Watkins and Dr. Anne Braninnen to retirement, and Dr. Laura Callanan to law school and a new career. We welcomed Dr. Faith Barrett (19th century American literature) and Dr. Anthony Adams (medieval literature) to the department, as well as writing instructors Dr. Matthew Ussia and Michael Begnal. Dr. Jim Purdy earned tenure and promotion to associate professor.

We saw six new Ph.D.s graduate, as well as a truly remarkable class of seniors finish their degrees. Marianne Holohan (Ph.D. 2013) won the ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award for Duquesne University and is being considered for a national honor, while Emily Rutter (Ph.D. 2014) had her dissertation solicited for the prestigious issues in Critical Investigation Manuscript Competition. Duquesne graduates Jessica Jost-Costanzo, Danette Dimarco, Steve Wells, and Megan Swihart Jewell returned to campus in March to talk to current students about career opportunities in academia, and alumnus Jim Domino offered a career-coaching session for undergraduates as well in February.

Eminent writer Jim Daniels read from his stories in the UCOR 102 annual visiting-writer series and the Coffeehouse Readings series continued to feature professional and student writers, while the Red Masquers staged the Three-Penny Opera, Awakenings, and a very popular night of one-acts by Strindberg. Perhaps most exciting, in April ground was broken for the “Genesius Project”: an actual black box theater!

Alumni Spotlight

WINKYFACE ;) Learning & Teaching YouTube Composing
by Laurie McMillan (Ph.D. 2004)

How did I end up acting the parts of Katniss, Dracula, Ophelia, and Prufrock? No, it wasn’t for theater training or a fan fiction convention. It was just part of my foray into new media writing—the kind of multimodal composing that I’ve found increasingly compelling in the last several years.

My current new media project is a YouTube channel, WinkyFace, a collaborative effort with a Comm Arts colleague, Dr. Lindsey Wotanis. (For those of you who experienced the marriage and divorce of Duquesne’s English and Comm departments, you’ll be happy to know that healthier relationships are possible...)

WinkyFace videos depict parodies of faculty life, interviews with fictional characters, and behind-the-scenes commentary. We blog about our work and use social media to build community.

The question you might be wondering is, “Why?”.

It started with a conference presentation in Philadelphia in 2010. Bump Halbritter of Michigan State said something like, “If we are going to teach students to write using new media, we need to be using it ourselves.”

After experimenting with a recreational how-to vlog and doing research on YouTube gender dynamics, I wondered why more students weren’t developing social media expertise that would be fun and would contribute to post-graduation success. They could even make money along the way! (I’ve earned $300 from YouTube for my incredibly unprofessional How To videos. I’m no super star. But money is money. WinkyFace earnings will be donated to a non-profit such as Global Girl Media.)

Lindsey and I decided to work to make a successful YouTube channel so that we’d be equipped to teach students how to do so. Drawing on the YouTube Creator Playbook, our areas of expertise, and the help of campus colleagues, we filmed eight official videos this semester as well as several outtakes. Our audience is small but growing.

Right now, students earn credits for independent studies while helping with production. In the future, Lindsey and I will co-teach classes on composing for YouTube, and we hope to publish a textbook once we have more experience under our belt.

In the meantime, I am learning every day. It turns out that I needed to start composing with new media not simply so I could teach students how to do so but also so I could remember how difficult—and how fun—it can be to develop new skills.

FOLLOW WINKYFACE! ;)
YouTube: www.youtube.com/winkyfacetimes2
Blog: www.wordpress.com/winkyfaceX2
Facebook: www.facebook.com/winkyfaceX2
Twitter: @WinkyFaceX2
Instagram: winkyfaceX2

Much Ado
Alumni Spotlight (cont.)

Marianne Holohan, Distinguished Dissertation Award Winner

Congratulations to 2013 Ph.D. alumna, Marianne Holohan, who won Duquesne University’s Distinguished Dissertation Award for the Humanities and Fine Arts. By winning the award, Marianne also became Duquesne’s nominee to the National Council of Graduate Schools ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award.

Marianne’s dissertation, “Scenes of Reading: Forgotten Antebellum Readers, Self-Representation, and the Transatlantic Reprint Industry,” looks at what she calls “underground literacy,” the ways that marginalized populations such as American slaves, New England millworkers, and the working class in Northern England accessed and used printed materials. Although it is generally assumed these populations were largely illiterate and ignorant of literary culture, Marianne compellingly shows that these assumptions are wrong.

Alumnus Brian Tierney Named Wallace Stegner Fellow at Stanford University

In March, Brian Tierney—who earned his B.A. and M.A. in Duquesne’s English department—was named a Wallace Stegner Fellow at Stanford University for 2014-2016. The Stegner Fellowship is one of the most prestigious awards for young creative writers, affording them time and guidance (as well as health insurance and a living stipend) to complete long-term projects and advance into the next stages of their careers.

“When I was busting my hump as an undergrad English and Journalism major at Duquesne, I never dreamed I’d evolve from scribbling down odd, clunky lines in my various dorm rooms, to getting paid to write poetry and evolve among like-minded peers,” Brian said. “The chances of such a thing happening are cosmically bad. It’s the Holy Grail for young poets. I feel very lucky.”

The Stanford Creative Writing Program awards Stegner Fellowships to five poets and five fiction writers each year, for two-year terms.

Starting this September, Brian will begin his two-year term at Stanford, where he will attend a three-hour weekly workshop with other fellows regarded, by the Stanford Creative Writing Program, as “working artists, intent upon practicing and perfecting their craft.” There are no curricular requirements other than workshop attendance and writing.

Graduate Student Achievements

Emily Rutter, Award for Excellence in Scholarship

Emily Rutter, who completed her Ph.D. in English in 2014, received the Duquesne University Graduate Student Award for Excellence in Scholarship for the year 2014-15. Her dissertation, Constructions of the Muse: Blues Icons and Tribute Poems in Twentieth and Twenty-first Century Poetry examines the tradition of poems written about blues singers and musicians. Emily demonstrates a deep understanding of the blues as a musical and poetic form but also a great breadth of knowledge of poetry of the last hundred years. Her dissertation was so accomplished that it was solicited by “Issues in Critical Investigation,” a national competition for book manuscripts.

Emily’s scholarly record would be impressive for an assistant professor, but it is truly remarkable for a graduate student. She has already published three articles in major journals, with a fourth recently accepted. She will be teaching at Oberlin College in Ohio in the fall.

Ashley Kunsar, Award for Teaching Excellence

Congratulations to Ph.D. student Ashley Kunsar, a recipient of the 2014 CTE Graduate Student Award for Teaching Excellence! At least one English graduate student has now received this award ten out of the last eleven times it was presented.

Ashley with Dean James Swindal and Provost Timothy Austin
Teaching in Rome

Professors Linda and Tom Kinnahan spent the fall 2013 semester teaching at Duquesne's Italian campus. They took advantage of their location by integrating Rome's many resources into their classes.

For instance, Linda Kinnahan’s creative writing course, “The Writer’s Sketchbook,” met each week in different areas of the city for writing, drawing, discussion, and Italian coffee. Locations included the Pantheon, the Spanish Steps, the Janiculum, and St. Peter’s Square, as well as outdoor markets, cobblestone streets, and random discoveries. Over the term, students compiled sketchbooks and journals as the class explored Rome’s fascinating visual sites through words and images.

Tom Kinnahan’s course, “Food, Hunger, and Ethics in Contemporary Literature,” included a visit to restaurant Spirito Divino, where noted chef Eliana Catalani spoke to students about the Slow Food movement, which is dedicated to preserving traditional cuisines, encouraging healthy eating, and promoting sustainable agriculture. The class also met with Fr. Ken Thesing, a representative of religious communities at the U.N.’s World Food Organization, which is based in Rome.

The Kinnahans accompanied students on both of the campus’s three-day excursions. September’s southern excursion included a tour of ancient Pompeii and Paestum guided by retired Duquesne classics professor Ann Wilkins and her husband, art historian David Wilkins. Other visits included Mt. Vesuvius and the isle of Capri. The northern excursion later in the semester included stops in Sienna, San Gimignano, Lucca, and Pisa.

The Kinnahans also joined students for tours of St. Peter’s Basilica and the Vatican Museums, as well as a public audience with Pope Francis.

The Kinnahans are very grateful to the International Programs office and the campus staff for their guidance and support, especially campus director Michael Wright, assistant director Alana Sacriponte, and assistant resident directors Sam Celotto, Jason Bertocchi, and Kelsey Sobecki, all of whom are Duquesne alumni.

Dr. Magall Michael will spend the spring 2015 semester at the Rome campus, where she will teach courses in travel writing and World War II fiction.

Alumni who wish to visit Italy are encouraged to contact the Office of International Programs for information about university-sponsored tours offered each year.

Visiting Speaker, Jim Daniels

On Wednesday, April 2, writer Jim Daniels gave a reading of his work before a crowd of several hundred attendees in the Power Center Ballroom. Daniels is the Thomas Stockham Baker Professor of English at Carnegie Mellon University. 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. He has published more than a dozen collections of poetry including Birth Marks (BOA Editions, 2013), All of the Above (Adastra Press, 2011), and Having a Little Talk with Capital P Poetry (Carnegie Mellon University Press, 2011). His poems have appeared in both the Pushcart Prize and Best American Poetry anthologies. His book Street (Bottom Dog Press, 2005), a collection of poems accompanying the photographs of fellow CMU professor Charlee Brodsky, won the Tillie Olsen Prize from the Working-Class Studies Association. He has written books of short stories and three produced screenplays, including “Mr. Pleasant” which debuted at the 2010 Three Rivers Film Festival.

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. Daniels read many selections from both poetry and fiction and talked about how and where he comes with ideas. During the question and answer period, he spoke in detail with the audience about how he adopts personal experiences from his own life and turns them into creative works.
Theater Productions

Summer Company
July 10-12 and 17-19
“The Lion In Winter”
by James Goldman
directed by Jacob Wadsworth

August 21-23 and 28-30
“Bus Stop”
by William Inge
directed by Justin Sines

All shows take place at 8:00 pm 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

2014-2015
Red Masquers’ Season
October 2-4 and 9-11
“I Am Camera”
by John Van Druten

November 1
“Starlight Room Cabaret”

December 3-6
“Premieres XXXVIII”
Student-written and directed

February 5-7 and 12-14
“A Chaste Maid in Cheapside”
by Thomas Middleton

April 16-18 and 23-25
“Album”
by David Rimmer

April 29
“One Acts for Charity”

Alumni Updates

Cameron Barnett (B.A. 2011) is currently pursuing an MFA in Poetry at the University of Pittsburgh. During the spring 2014 semester, Cameron had poems published in two different journals—Blast Furnace and Lines + Stars—with a third forthcoming in Off the Coast. Additionally, Cameron has had several poems published over the last few years in Lexicon Magazine, Tipton Poetry Journal and Shadow Road Quarterly. Cameron also won the University of Pittsburgh’s Academy of American Poets/Graduate Poetry Award in spring 2014.

Christine Gipko (M.A. 2006) accepted the position of Communications Director for the Musuneggi Financial Group.


Sally Rosen Kindred (M.A. 1998) won a 2014 Individual Artist Award in Poetry from the Maryland State Arts Council. Her second full-length poetry collection, Book of Asters, was released by Mayapple Press in February. Recent poems have appeared in TAB and Goblin Fruit. Her next reading in Pittsburgh will be at ModernFormations Art Gallery in July.

Beth Buhof Runquist (Ph.D. 2011) accepted the position of Assistant Coordinator of Tutoring for Off-Campus sites at Butler County Community College.

Melissa Wehler (Ph.D. 2013) was appointed to the position of Assistant Dean of General Education at Central Penn College.
Faculty Updates

**Faith Barrett** presented a paper entitled “And Terrors Broke from Hill to Hill: The Civil War Poems of George Moses Horton” in January at the Modern Language Association, as part of a panel on black soldiers and the war. In March, she delivered “Parody, Protest, and Deference in Phoebe Cary and Joshua McCarter Simpson” at C-19: Society for Nineteenth Century Americanists, in Chapel Hill, NC.

For May 2014, she will be a Stephen Botein Fellow at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, MA, doing research on the cultural work of mid-nineteenth century poetry for her next book project. Additionally, in July of 2014, she will be doing research at the Maine Women Writers Collection, at the University of New England, Portland, ME, with the support of an MWWWC travel grant.

**Michael S. Begnal** presented the paper, “‘more gleaming, than skein of metal’: Haniel Long’s Pittsburgh Memoranda and the 1930s Political Poem” at the Louisville Conference on Literature & Culture since 1900 in February.

**Laura Engel** published the article “The Secret Life of Archives: Sally Siddons, Sir Thomas Lawrence, and The Material of Memory” in ABO: Interactive Journal for Women in the Arts, 1640-1830: Vol. 4: Iss. 1, Article 2.

**John Fried** presented “When Workshop Doesn’t Work: Alternative Models of Creative Writing Instruction” at the Association for Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) annual Conference in Seattle in March. He also presented “Show Us the Gun: Suspense Versus Surprise in the Short Story” at the Suffolk County Community College Creative Writing Festival in Long Island, New York in April.

**Susan Howard** published “‘Living Proof’: Frances Burney’s Court Journals and Letters, Volumes I and II” in Eighteenth-Century Life in the winter of 2014.

**Magali Michael** presented a conference paper: “A Twist on Characterization in Jon McGregor’s If Nobody Speaks of Remarkable Things” at the International Narrative Conference held in Boston in March 2014. Additionally, she was appointed Director of Graduate Studies for the 2014 calendar year and elected as Vice-President of the Duquesne University Faculty Senate for a two year term from 2014-16.

**Frederick Newberry (Professor Emeritus)** has the essay “Hawthorne by the Way.” forthcoming in the spring issue of the Nathaniel Hawthorne Review. Additionally, he will present the paper, “Early Hawthorne Forgotten,” at the Nathaniel Hawthorne Society conference in the Berkshires in June.

**Danielle A. St. Hilaire** presented a conference paper “Love, Sex, and Hoarding in Books 3 and 4 of Spenser’s Faerie Queene” at the annual meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, held this year in New York, New York.

---

**Marathon News**

The English department fielded a relay team in the Pittsburgh Marathon for the third consecutive year. Professors Anthony Adams, Emad Mirmotahari, and Greg Barnhisel joined Ph.D. candidate Ian Butcher and 2012 alumna Lauren Boehm to run the marathon in 3:45, putting them in 60th place out of 825 co-ed teams.

---

**Doctoral Graduates**

**Spring 2014**

**Gina Bessetti, Ph.D.**
- Dissertation: “Women and the American Wilderness”
- Tom Kinnahan, chair; Linda Kinnahan, first reader; Kathy Glass, second reader

**Rebecca Cepek, Ph.D.**
- Dissertation: “Stages of Belief: The Nature of Audience Response in Medieval and Early Modern Drama”
- Anne Brannen, chair; Laura Engel, first reader; Stuart Kurland, second reader; John Lane, third reader

**Susan Howard**
- Published “‘Living Proof’: Frances Burney’s Court Journals and Letters, Volumes I and II” in Eighteenth-Century Life in the winter of 2014.

**Magali Michael**
- Presented a conference paper: “A Twist on Characterization in Jon McGregor’s If Nobody Speaks of Remarkable Things” at the International Narrative Conference held in Boston in March 2014.

**Emily Rutter, Ph.D.**
- Linda Kinnahan, chair; Tom Kinnahan, first reader; Kathy Glass, second reader; Laura Engel, third reader

**Summer 2014**

**Lee Ann Glowzenski, Ph.D.**
- Dissertation: “‘The fullest possible account’: Knowledge and Exceptionalism in Post-9/11 Literature”
- Magali Michael, chair; Laura Callanan, first reader; Judy Suh, second reader

---

**Master of Arts Graduates**

**Spring 2014**

**Lindsey Albracht**
- Samina Ali
- Marla Anzelone
- Katie Bienas
- Joel Frehn
- Robert Heim
- Lauren Kelley
- Morgan Larchuk
- Ethan Lennox
- Nicholas Talotta
- Paige Volek
Confluence and Division: The Sixteenth Annual Modernist Studies Conference

Birthplace of Gertrude Stein, home to the young Willa Cather, scene of jazz greats, and environment for Andy Warhol’s youth, Pittsburgh boasts a richly diverse modernist legacy that spans the first half of the twentieth century. Scholars of modernist studies will be converging in the city in November when Duquesne University hosts Confluence and Division: The Sixteenth Annual Modernist Studies Conference, to be held at the Omni William Penn in downtown Pittsburgh from November 6-9. The conference is generously supported by the English Department, the McAnulty College, and the Office of the Provost, in conjunction with the Modernist Studies Association. The University of Pittsburgh is a generous co-sponsor of the event, and the local host committee is comprised of faculty from Duquesne who include Linda Kinnahan, Judy Suh and Greg Barnhisel, and from Pitt, Gayle Rogers. The Modernist Studies Association is an interdisciplinary organization devoted to the study of the literature, culture, and the arts in the modernist period and the configurations of modernity that arise in the early twentieth century.

The conference theme of Confluence and Division draws upon the place of Pittsburgh. Sitting at a powerful natural confluence of rivers, the city’s geographic conjunction speaks to the its history and character, marked in distinctive ways by convergences, collisions, and confluences that simultaneously function as splits, severances, and divisions: the meeting of East Coast and Midwest, of urban streets and rural Appalachia, of capitalist splendor and worker resistance, of Gilded Age mansions and depleted communities, of stunning natural beauty and equally stunning environmental degradation. The conference theme encourages a focus on the confluences and divisions of plural modernisms, especially as they resonate within forces of modernity underlying cultural shifts that powerfully conjoin and pull apart aspects of the twentieth century’s socio-economic and cultural fabrics. What forces come together and what emerges as unexpected realms interact – “high” and “low” culture, wealth and poverty, ethnic and racial diversities, capital and labor, environmental and industrial, etc.? How can modernist practices, aesthetics, and formations be situated within or in relation to modernity’s energies, imagined as layers, structures, and figures of confluence and division?

We are pleased to be hosting an exciting group of plenary speakers, including Rachel Blau DuPlessis, who will speak on modernist poetry; Meta D. Jones, who will consider conjunctions of music and African-American poetics; and David Trotter, Laura Marcus, and Colin MacCabe, who will join together to discuss modernist film. Special events include readings by Terrance Hayes and Dawn Lundy Martin, and a “Poets’ Conversation and Reading” by British experimental poets Caroline Bergvall, David Marriott, and John Wilkinson. Walking tours of modernist downtown Pittsburgh will be led by the Pittsburgh Landmarks and Historical Foundation, and DU alumni Tim Bintrim and Jim Jaap have organized a special Willa Cather walking tour. The conference will include multiple panels, roundtable discussions, digital exhibits, and seminars on a wide range of topics and areas within modernist studies.

We hope to see many of our Duquesne alumni at the conference. Seminar sign-ups are open, and volunteers are welcome!

If you would like more information or would like to register, please see our website: http://msa.press.jhu.edu/conferences/msa16/

Contact us by email at msasixteen@gmail or through Linda Kinnahan (kinnahan@duq.edu).