It is my great pleasure as current chair of the English Department to announce that Dr. Laura Engel, Dr. Kathy Glass and Dr. Judy Suh were awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of associate professor as of fall 2010. All three began teaching at Duquesne in fall 2004 and have been tremendous additions to the Department. Not only have they proven to be excellent colleagues and teachers (all have taught superb new classes at the undergraduate and graduate levels), each has published engaged and engaging scholarship in their areas of expertise.

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Tenure Granted  
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Megan Swihart Jewell (Ph.D., 2006) directs the Writing Center at Case Western Reserve University, where she is a faculty member (rank of instructor) in the Department of English. Her article, “Between Poet and (Self-) Critic: Scholarly Interventionism in Rachel Blau DuPlessis’s Drafts,” is forthcoming in Contemporary Women’s Writing. In 2009, she was awarded a university fellowship for teaching and presented a paper in the Language Poetry and Pedagogy panel at the Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present Conference at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Rita Kondrath (Ph.D., 2010) presented a “…Perhaps, then, she wasn’t altogether a lady?”: Female Wartime Self-Definition in Between the Acts” at the 20th Annual Conference on Virginia Woolf at Georgetown University, Georgetown, Ky., in June 2010.

Lia Kudless (Ph.D., 2002) started a new position as special assistant to the associate deans at The City University of New York School of Professional Studies, in Manhattan. She also got married this past October to Ned Murphy Campbell.

Timothy Ruppert (Ph.D., 2008) presented “Louisa Stuart Costello and the Fall of Napoleon” at the EC-SECS Conference, which was held in Pittsburgh in November 2010.

Elizabeth Savage (Ph.D., 1998), after waiting a year to receive an “accept with revisions” decision from Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies, agreed to make revisions to the essay if the editors could guarantee a quicker turn-around time, which they did. Yet another year after complying with all reader requests to expand the essay and sending it back, Savage received a “revise and resubmit” decision. It was accompanied by 600 words of new suggestions to expand the essay, suggestions that culminated, ironically, with the editor’s directive to cut 2,000 words. Mysteriously, there was no mention of the prior revisions included in the report. Shortly thereafter, a statistically improbable event happened (not once but twice) when Savage received three rejections from three separate literary journals to which she had offered work at wildly varying times—two weeks, three months, and a year and a half—in her mailbox on the same day. Within a week, as stated, three more rejections appeared simultaneously from three more journals. As she walked from mailbox to house, the phone rang. “Run,” said a voice on the line, “the rejections are coming from inside of the house.”
In July 2010, funded by money from the McAnulty College’s internal NEH grant, Dr. Greg Barnhisel attended the University of Virginia’s Rare Book School (RBS), which offers weeklong courses in bibliography, or the study of books as physical objects.

Bibliography was once a central part of every literature student’s training, particularly on the graduate level.

Much of what we know about Shakespeare’s text, audience and market, for example, comes from bibliographical studies; early twentieth-century bibliographers did the work of comparing the “bad” quarto editions of the plays against the 1623 First Folio and determining which text was more reliable. As late as the 1960s most doctoral students in English programs would have had extensive lab experience learning about how books were printed and bound in the hand-press period (roughly 1455–1830).

Duquesne University has a strong legacy of bibliographical study. Our late colleague Dr. Albert Labriola was trained at the University of Virginia by two of the greatest American bibliographers and textual scholars (Fredson Bowers and Thomas Tanselle) and continued to work in the field, most notably with the John Donne Variorum, throughout his career.

In the 1980s, bibliography met up with social history, business history, sociology and the history of technology, and out of this marriage came a new discipline called “book history.” Book historians look at how printed matter, including books, newspapers, posters and even comic books, is produced, how it circulates, and how it carries and gains meaning in social and historical contexts. Large numbers of literary scholars have started to use its methods, and several of our current faculty, including Linda Kinnahan, Laura Engel, Sue Howard, Tom Kinnahan, Judy Suh and myself, work, at least in part, in book history.

Our graduate students, too, have begun to work in book history. Jess Jost-Costanzo, who successfully defended her dissertation in 2009, wrote on editors’ prefaces to eighteenth-century books. Several current Ph.D. candidates (Marianne Holohan and Greg Harold, for example) are starting projects that are deeply influenced by book history.

Given that graduate students and faculty members are increasingly working in book history, I felt it was time to develop a seminar in the field in order to help students employ book history methods to their research. Rare Book School offered a class on Teaching the History of the Book, a class that looked even more attractive to me when I learned that it was going to be taught by Michael Suarez, the editor of the Oxford Companion to the Book and one of the most eminent book historians in the world.

In the class, I learned an enormous amount about how books were composed, printed, sold and read in the preindustrial era, a time about which I know relatively little. I have developed some hands-on activities to help students learn to “reverse-engineer” a hand press-period book, understand typesetting, use the vocabulary of bibliography and decipher a genetic text.

While RBS was work, in a way it was a vacation, as well. The University of Virginia (UVA) has a beautiful campus (I am supposed to call it “Grounds”), and Charlottesville, although oven-hot and humid, has a lovely location in the Shenandoah Valley. I stayed in a room on The Lawn, the dormitory area designed by Thomas Jefferson and built in 1817, and had the chance to immerse myself in Charlottesville’s and UVA’s overwhelming Jeffersonianness.

This was a wonderful opportunity and I am extremely grateful to the College for making it possible. Moreover, I am very pleased to say that we will be offering a graduate seminar in book-history methods in the near future.
Visiting Speakers

Annual Speaker Series
N. Katherine Hayles

As part of its Annual Speaker Series, the English Department hosted renowned literary scholar Katherine Hayles, November 11–12, 2010.

Dr. N. Katherine Hayles, professor and director of graduate studies at Duke University’s Program in Literature, has published widely in the areas of post-humanism, the intersections of literature and science, and electronic literature. Her award-winning scholarship includes Writing Machines, from MIT Press, which won the Susanne Langer Award for Outstanding Scholarship, and How We Became Posthuman: Virtual Bodies in Cybernetics, Literature and Informatics, from University of Chicago Press, which won the Rene Wellek Prize for the Best Book in Literary Theory for 1998–1999.

During her visit Professor Hayles spoke with Dr. Jim Purdy’s Theories of Composition graduate class regarding her work, particularly her ground-breaking book How We Became Posthuman. She also discussed strategies for using new digital technologies to teach writing and reading with the faculty, particularly the use of collaborative interdisciplinary projects and laptop carts.

Her visit culminated with a presentation titled “How We Read: Close, Hyper, Machine,” in which she discussed three important modes of reading in the digital age (“close, hyper, and machine”) as well as her belief that English teachers need to meet students where they are in terms of digital technologies and her vision for the English Department of the future to be organized around what she terms “Comparative Media Studies.” Hayles’ talk attracted a standing-room-only crowd made up of everyone from first-year students to faculty, including attendees from the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University, all of whom found her ideas to be thought provoking, insightful and forward looking.

Her many awards include a Guggenheim Fellowship, two NEH Fellowships and a fellowship at the National Humanities Center. She received a Distinguished Scholar Award from the University of Rochester, the Medal of Honor from the University of Helsinki, a Distinguished Scholar Award from the International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts and the Luckman Distinguished Teaching Award.

Her recent work includes Electronic Literature: New Horizons for the Literary (she also wrote the accompanying CD), published by University of Notre Dame Press, which offers the first systematic survey of the field of electronic literature, and My Mother Was a Computer: Digital Subjects and Literary Texts, published by University of Chicago Press, which explores the influence of code on language.

Reading by Poet and Novelist Linda Hogan

On Tuesday, October 12, 2010 Duquesne University hosted visiting writer Linda Hogan, who read her work to a packed Power Center Ballroom crowd and interspersed her readings with personal anecdotes and environmental concerns.

A prolific writer, Hogan works across genres and has to date published novels, poems, essays and a memoir. Hogan, who lives in Oklahoma and is currently the writer-in-residence for The Chickasaw Nation, has been called the “quintessential eco-novelist,” as environmental issues are the major focus in all of her writing and teaching.

She has received a prestigious Lannan Fellowship, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, a Guggenheim and the Lifetime Achievement Award from both the Native Writers Circle of the Americas and Wordcraft Circle. She has also received the Mountains and Plains Lifetime Achievement award and has been inducted into the Chickasaw Hall of Fame.

While visiting a junior level memoir-writing course, Hogan spoke of an organic relationship to writing and to genre, emphasizing to students the importance of the work and of just getting words down on paper. Describing her as “luminous,” one student asked how she stays positive in the face of so much cultural and environmental tragedy—Hogan responded that it is our job as individuals and writers to stay optimistic and hopeful.
Writer Farhad Manjoo Visits Campus

Technology columnist and cultural critic Farhad Manjoo visited campus on Nov. 16, 2010, and spoke on “Living in a Post-Fact Society.” Manjoo, a contributor to Slate.com, the New York Times and National Public Radio, gave his presentation at the Power Center Ballroom.

Manjoo took the provocative title for his talk from his 2008 book True Enough, which argues that contemporary communications technology and today’s fragmented media landscape promote “truthiness”—the idea that facts are what one wants to believe, rather than what can be proven. The viral spread of information through channels such as blogs and Facebook, Manjoo suggests, allows false ideas to spread quickly among audiences who limit themselves to “facts” that confirm their own beliefs.

“Truthiness,” he concludes, is coming to dominate our political debates to the degree that Americans cannot even agree on basic facts about the world. Asked by students in both the afternoon and evening session what we can do to combat this trend, Manjoo said he tries not to be pessimistic but thinks it is getting worse. However, he added, our new media age is in its infancy, and it is impossible to predict what the world will look like in five years, much less in the long run.

In addition, he sat in on two sections of an Honors College seminar (IHP 104) and fielded questions from the one hundred or more students enrolled in these writing classes. His visit was sponsored by the Provost’s Office, the office of the Dean of the McAnulty College and the Honors College.
**Faculty Updates**

**Greg Barnhisel** presented “Encounter Magazine, Literary Modernism, and the Roots of Neoconservatism” at the Cold War Cultures Conference in Austin, Texas, in October 2010.


**Anne Brannen** published the following poems: “Vasilissa’s Doll” in Literary Mamas (fall 2010) and “Mnemosyne: Meeting Stephanie for Dinner” in Fickle Muses (November 2010).


**Susan Howard** edited Waverly, by Sir Walter Scott, which was published in July 2010 by Broadview Press.

**Linda Kinnahan** presented “Photojournalism & War in the Documentary Surrealism of Mina Loy and Lee Miller” at the ESSE-10 (European Society for the Study of English) Conference in Turin, Italy, in August 2010. She also presented “The Politics of Traditional Forms in the Proletariat Poetry of Lola Ridge” at the Modernist Studies Association Conference in British Columbia, Canada, in November 2010.


**Stuart Kurland** presented “Loyal Service? Political Transgression at Court and on Stage” at the Staging Transgression in the Early Modern Period Conference at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, in August 2010.

**Magali Cornier Michael** published “Narrative Multiplicity and the Construction of a Multi-layered Self in Margaret Atwood’s The Blind Assassin” in Margaret Atwood: The Robber Bride, The Blind Assassin, and Oryx and Crake, edited by Brooks Bouson (Continuum Press, fall 2010).


**Judy Suh** volunteered this past summer for the Silk Screen Asian American Film Festival at Pittsburgh Filmmakers, selling tickets and collecting audience feedback. She also had an article, “Women, Work, and Leisure in British Documentary Realism,” accepted for publication in Literature/Film Quarterly in 2011. She researched the article in London this past summer, a trip made possible by an NEH grant from Duquesne’s McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts.
Upcoming Events

March 12, 2011
Jane Austen Festival of Pittsburgh
The Pittsburgh Chapter of the Jane Austen Society of North America
Visit www.janeaustenpgh.org for more information

March 18-19, 2011
Echoes: Across Disciplines, Texts, and Times
Graduate Student Conference
Keynote speaker: Dr. Linda Kinnahan
See the department website for details about the call for papers

April 4, 2011
Terrance Hayes
7 p.m., Power Center Ballroom, Duquesne University
Pittsburgh poet and Carnegie Mellon University faculty member
Recipient of the 2010 National Book Award for Poetry for Lighthead