It is my great pleasure as chair of the English Department to announce that Dr. Greg Barnhisel and Dr. Laura Callanan were awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of associate professor as of fall 2009. Both began teaching at Duquesne in fall 2003, two of ten tenure-track hires in the English Department since that time, and both have been fabulous additions to the Department and wonderful colleagues with whom to work.

Dr. Greg Barnhisel was hired in August 2003 as assistant professor of English and director of the First Year Writing Program to replace retiring faculty member John Hanes. After having received a B.A. in English from Reed College in 1992, an M.A. in English from New York University in 1995 and a Ph.D. in English from the University of Texas at Austin in 1999, Dr. Barnhisel served as director of the Writing Center at the University of Southern California from 2001-2003. While serving in that position, he educated himself widely in the fields of composition and rhetoric and of writing center studies. He was, therefore, a perfect candidate for directing the First Year Writing Program at Duquesne. Moreover, his expertise in the fields of American Modernism and book history contribute nicely to the Department’s course offerings as well as to the scholarly development of graduate students working in those areas.

As director of first year writing, Dr. Barnhisel has worked with energy and professionalism to sharpen and retool the core writing courses so they fulfill their crucial aims for today’s college students and support in creative ways the continued development of strong teachers among our graduate students. His teaching within the graduate program has included multiple sections of Teaching College Writing and a section each of Aims and Methods of Literary Scholarship and Literary Theory. In addition, he has taught courses in American Literary Publishing, International Modernism: 1922, and American Modernism. He also serves as a reader on a number of dissertations and is currently directing one dissertation. On the undergraduate level, he has taught multiple sections of the two core writing courses as well as our gateway course to the major, Critical Issues in Literary Studies. In addition, he taught Ethics, Culture and Writing; American Literary Modernism; and The Jazz Age. He has also been active in organizing and teaching in the College’s learning communities and published a widely used textbook, Media and Messages (2004).
Coffee House Reading Series
Fall 2009

All readings take place at 7 p.m. in Barnes & Noble Café, Power Center. Free.

Monday, September 28
Shawn Klocak, student and winner of the Carroll Creative Writing Award
Justin Kishbaugh, poet and Ph.D. candidate

Monday, October 26
Bill Kirchner, fiction writer
Michael Begnal, poet

Thursday, November 19
Susan Kelley-Stamper, creative nonfiction
Rebecca Godfrey, creative nonfiction

Spring 2010

Monday, February 1
Claire Barbetti, poet
John Fried, fiction writer

Tuesday, March 16
Sandy Tseng, poet
Lynn Emmanuel, poet

Monday, April 19
Jill Khoury, poet
Jim Zervanos, fiction writer

Visit www.duq.edu/english and follow the Events link for the dates and times of upcoming presentations.

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In addition to his teaching and service, Dr. Barnhisel has been prolific in the area of literary scholarship. During his time at Duquesne, he has published a book, James Laughlin, New Directions, and the Remaking of Ezra Pound (University of Massachusetts Press, 2005), based on his dissertation work but significantly rewritten and reorganized— including the addition of much archival material gathered in research sponsored by a Stanley J. Kahrl Fellowship in Literary Manuscripts at the Houghton Library at Harvard University. The book focuses on the ways in which publisher James Laughlin remade the literary reputation of poet Ezra Pound after World War II. He also co-edited a collection (with Dr. Cathy Turner, University of Pennsylvania) titled Print Culture in the Cold War (2009). In addition, “Perspectives USA and the Cultural Cold War: Modernism in Service of the State” appeared in the journal Modernism/Modernity and “Ezra Pound and his Publishers” is forthcoming in an edited collection titled Ezra Pound in Context. Currently, he is completing a second book, tentatively titled Cold War Modernists, which examines how modernist literature was used as pro-Western propaganda in the United States during the Cold War by the government, foundations, universities and publishers.

Dr. Greg Barnhisel

Dr. Laura Callanan

On the undergraduate level, she served as a faculty member to replace retiring faculty member Dr. Sam Tindall. She received a B.A. in English and Women’s Studies (1989) and an M.A. in English (1993) from the University of Massachusetts in Boston, and she earned a Ph.D. in English with a Graduate Certificate in Women’s Study from Emory University (1999). Dr. Callanan then held three different visiting assistant professor positions—at Emory University, Mount Holyoke College and the University of Alabama—before coming to Duquesne, thus bringing well-honed teaching expertise with a variety of students.

Her teaching in the graduate program has included sections of Aims and Methods of Literary Scholarship and of the general Literary Theory course. In addition, she has taught courses such as Victorians and the Savage “Other,” Victorian Literature, Victorian Poetry, and British Women’s Fiction. She is scheduled to teach Women, Trauma and the Nineteenth-Century British Novel in spring 2010. In addition to serving as a reader on numerous dissertations, she has directed two dissertations to completion and is currently directing three more.

Dr. Laura Callanan was hired in August 2003 as assistant professor of English in the field of Victorian literature to replace retiring faculty member Dr. Sam Tindall. She received a B.A. in English and Women’s Studies (1989) and an M.A. in English (1993) from the University of Massachusetts in Boston, and she earned a Ph.D. in English with a Graduate Certificate in Women’s Study from Emory University (1999). Dr. Callanan then held three different visiting assistant professor positions—at Emory University, Mount Holyoke College and the University of Alabama—before coming to Duquesne, thus bringing well-honed teaching expertise with a variety of students.

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In addition to her teaching and service, Dr. Callanan has been active in the area of literary scholarship. During her time at Duquesne, she published a book, Deciphering Race: White Anxiety, Racial Conflict, and the Turn to Fiction in Mid-Victorian English Prose (Ohio State University Press, 2006), which is based on her dissertation work but significantly rewritten and with an additional chapter. The work explores the Victorian discourse on race in the middle of the nineteenth century through wide ranging textual analyses. In addition, she published “Defining Expertise in the Interdisciplinary Classroom” in the journal Pedagogy and “‘Three Cheers for Eve’; Feminism, Capitalism, and Artistic Subjectivity in Janet Fitch’s White Oleander” in the journal Women’s Studies. Currently, she is working on her second book, tentatively titled Rendering the Trauma of Social Isolation: British Women’s Writing 1790–2007, which examines the continuities that exist between the Victorian period and both the early nineteenth century and the twentieth century.
On Friday, Sept 11, 2009, the English Department in conjunction with the City of Asylum/Pittsburgh presented readings by three international poets: Miloš Djurdjević (Croatia), Meena Kandasamy (India) and Soheil Najm (Iraq).

Djurdjević has published three volumes of poetry, with another forthcoming in 2010. His poems have been included in anthologies of contemporary Croatian poetry and translated into English, Hungarian and German. At the Duquesne reading, he read his poems in Czech, and they were read again in English by Duquesne doctoral student Claire Barbetti.

Kandasamy debuted with the poetry collection Touch (2006) and has a collection of short-stories entitled Black Magic forthcoming later this year. She is a former editor of The Dalit, which reflects the voice of India’s ex-untouchables. Currently, she is a contributing editor to Muse India and writes for the feminist blog Ultra Violet. She came to poetry through social activism, and the poems she read at the Duquesne Reading dealt mainly with love and human rights.

Najm has published four books of poetry, Breaking the Phrase (1994), Your Carpenter O Light (2002), No Window Outside the Window (2008) and the anthology Flowers in Flame (2008). He serves as the editor of the Althaqafa Alajnabia (Foreign Culture) journal in Baghdad. The poetry he read at the Duquesne reading dealt mainly with the political turmoil occurring in his native Iraq.
New Graduate Students

Fall 2009

Master of Arts
Maria Barron (Duquesne University)
Sean Bullock (Knox College)
Michelina Cerarosimo (Duquesne University)
Abigail Conard (University of Pittsburgh)
Glencora Cowan (University of Dallas)
Johanna Dreyfuss (Seton Hill University)
Michael Farina (Duquesne University)
Jill Geisler (Delaware Valley College)
Angel Keller (Duquesne University)
Ashley Kubic (Point Park University)
Rebekah Mitslein (St. Cloud State University)
Jill Quinto (St. Vincent College)
Margaret Sikora (Gannon University)
Jon Vanfossen (Fairmont State University)

Doctorate
Rachel Luckenbill (Villanova University)
Mary Parish (Duquesne University)
Emily Rutter (North Carolina State University)

Doctoral Program Graduates

Fall 2008

Sean Martin, Ph.D.
Dissertation: “H.P. Lovecraft and the Modernist Grotesque
Anne Brannen, director; Laura Callanan, first reader; Linda Kinnahan, second reader

Kristianne Kalata Vaccaro, Ph.D.
Laura Callanan, director; Linda Kinnahan, first reader; Laura Engel, second reader

Stephen Wells, Ph.D.
Frederick Newberry, director; Thomas Kinnahan, first reader; Constance Ramirez, second reader

Spring 2009

Patricia Callahan, Ph.D.
Dissertation: The Reader of Milton’s ‘Higher Argument’ in Paradise Lost
Albert Lubrano, director; Bernard Beranek, first reader; Anne Brannen, second reader

Rosemary Scanlon McTier, Ph.D.
Frederick Newberry, director; Elaine Parsons assistant professor of history, Duquesne University, first reader; John Dolis, professor of English, Pennsylvania State University, second reader; Linda Kinnahan, third reader

Summer 2009

Richard Clark, Ph.D.
Dissertation: Fitzgerald in the Late 1910s: War and Women
Linda Kinnahan, director; Frederick Newberry, first reader; Greg Barnhisel, second reader

Jessica Chainer Nowacki, Ph.D.
Magali Cornier Michael, director; Laura Callanan, first reader; Kathy Glass, second reader

Fall 2009

Claire Barbetti, Ph.D.
Dissertation: Ekphrastic Medieval Visions: A New Discussion in Ekphrasis and Interarts Theory
Anne Brannen, director; Linda Kinnahan, first reader; Bernard Beranek, second reader

Shayne Confer, Ph.D.
Dissertation: “Falling to a Devilish Exercise”: The Occult and Spectacle on the Renaissance Stage
Bernard Beranek, director; Stuart Kurland, first reader; Laura Engel, second reader

Jessica Jost-Costanzo, Ph.D.
Susan Howard, director; Laura Engel, first reader; Anne Brannen, second reader

Julie Kloo, Ph.D.
Dissertation: The Architecture of the Great House in the Contemporary Postcolonial Novel
Magali Cornier Michael, director; Laura Callanan, first reader; Judy Suh, second reader
Timothy Bintrim (Ph.D. 2004) presented two papers during summer 2009: one at the American Literature Association Conference in Boston on Rebecca Harding Davis’s story “The Harmonists” and another at the Cather International Seminar in Chicago on dandyism in “Paul’s Case.”


Cara Cilano (Ph.D. 2000) edited the collection From Solidarity to Schisms: 9/11 and After in Fiction and Film from Outside the US, published by Rodopi Press in fall 2009. She authored the collection’s “Introduction: From Solidarity to Schisms” as well as an essay titled “Manipulative Fictions: Democratic Futures in Pakistan.”

Danette Dimarco (Ph.D. 1995) has been a full professor of English at Slippery Rock University since 2005 and currently serves as the faculty coordinator for the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Educational Technology. In spring 2009 she received the university’s President’s Award for Outstanding Scholarship. Some of her individually authored publications have been included in Papers on Language and Literature, Mosaic, Teaching English in the Two-Year College, The Subject is Writing (Heineman) and What Really Works (Christopher-Gordon). Co-written works include a chapter in Eloquent Images (MIT Press), a recent article in Mosaic on the bhahamadakila in contemporary British film and a September 2009 feature article on mapping as deep frame in the teaching of argument in Teaching English in the Two-Year College. She continues to thank her lucky stars that she studied under a nurturing faculty at Duquesne.

Elien Foster (Ph.D. 2005) has received tenure and been promoted to associate professor of English at Clarion University-Venango Campus. She co-presented (with Melissa Homestead, University of Nebraska-Lincoln) “From Clarence Hervey to Gertrude Clarence: Catharine Sedgwick’s Americanization of Maria Edgeworth’s Belinda” at the Society for the Study of American Women Writers Conference in Philadelphia in October 2009.

Douglas King (Ph.D. 2002) received tenure and was promoted to associate professor of English at Gannon University in Erie, Pa. He currently serves as director of the University Writing Center.

Timothy Ruppert (Ph.D. 2008) currently holds the position of visiting instructor at Slippery Rock University. He published “Time and the Sibyl in Mary Shelley’s The Last Man” in the summer 2009 issue of Studies in the Novel.

Mary Ann Tobin (Ph.D. 2006) has been named the first member of the faculty-in-residence at the Center for Teaching Excellence of Triton College in River Grove, Ill. She published “From Sham to ‘Gentle Christian Man’ in Great Expectations” in the Great Expectations volume of Salem Press’s Critical Insights series.

Alumna Elizabeth Savage (Ph.D. 1998) is serving as the new poetry editor of the literary journal Kestrel. Begun in 1993, Kestrel has earned its reputation for publishing established as well as emerging artists and writers in all genres and in translation. Last fall, Fairmont State University’s Department of Language and Literature unanimously agreed to continue guardianship of Kestrel: A Journal of Literature & Art under new editorial direction.

With Donna Long as the new editor-in-chief, Suzanne Heagy as fiction editor, Marian Hollinger as art editor and Savage as poetry editor, the new editorial board is committed not only to Kestrel’s eclectic tradition but also to exercise what they see as a feminist mission to treat writers and artists with respect. To that end, they have instituted manageable reading periods and submission guidelines that permit timely, humane responses to contributors.

In spring 2009, the new editorial board published its first issue under the new masthead and anticipates the fall issue, including poetry by Lisa Samuels, Robert Dana, Sally Rosen Kindred and Lesley Wheeler; fiction by Ann Stewart and Dixon Hearn; and extracts of Pierre-Albert Jourdan’s The Straw Sandals, translated by John Taylor, to be available by early November.

The spring 2010 issue will be the first theme issue, “Border States,” which will feature work from artists living in states literally bordering West Virginia as well as works investigating metaphorical understandings of the theme. The journal welcomes writing and artwork of all styles for this and other future issues of Kestrel.

To submit to Kestrel, please contact Elizabeth Savage at kestrel@fairmontstate.edu. For more information, visit www.fairmontstate.edu/publications/kestrel/default.asp.
Craig Bernier co-presented “The World is What We Make It: Teaching Working Class Students in the Creative Writing Classroom” (with Dr. Vince Samarco of Saginaw Valley State University) at the 2009 Working Class Studies Association Conference in June.

Anne Brannen has published the following poems: “Open House” in Witches & Pagans; “Letter to a Woman in Albuquerque, 1977” in The New Mexico Poetry Review; and “Diana Gets a Corgi” in the Cardigan Corgi Club of America Bulletin.


John Fried published the short story “This Treatment Isn’t In Any Way Cruel” in the Minnesota Review in Dec. 2009.


Susan Howard, director of graduate studies, presented “Maria Edgeworth’s Blended Families in Fact and Fiction: Castle Rackrent and Belinda as Bookends in the Debate on the Union Between England and Ireland” at the Midwest British Studies Conference held at the University of Pittsburgh in Oct. 2009.

Linda Kinnahan presented “The Poetry of Mina Loy, The Catholic Worker, and Radical Representations of Poverty” at the Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Catholic Social Thought: First Annual Paluse Lecture Series in October 2009, as one of four recipients of the new Paluse Faculty Research Award for research in the area of social justice sponsored by the Duquesne University Center for the Study of Catholic Social Thought. Dr. Kinnahan also presented “Photographic Witness in Mina Loy’s Late Poetry” at the annual Modern Studies Association Conference in Montreal in Nov. 2009.


Jessica Nowacki, visiting assistant professor for 2009–2010, presented “Returning with Special Light: Trauma, Native Masculinity, and the Near-Death Experience in Linda Hogan’s People of the Whale” at the Native American Symposium held at Southeast Oklahoma State University in Nov. 2009.


Judy Suh is currently serving the first year of a three-year term as director of undergraduate studies. This past summer she presented “Listening to Britain: British Autoethnographic Documentary Films” at the Space Between Society Conference held at the University of Notre Dame and “The Female Adventuress in Agatha Christie’s The Man in the Brown Suit” at the Middlebrow Cultures Conference in Glasgow, Scotland. She also presented “Teaching Film in the British Survey” at the Midwest British Studies Conference held at the University of Pittsburgh in Oct. 2009.
Visiting Professors

The Department is again pleased to welcome three visiting professors this year: Claire Barbetti, Jessica Nowacki and Gerra Bosco. Each has a one-year appointment as assistant professor.

Dr. Claire Barbetti received a B.A. in English from the University of Dallas in 1996 and an M.A. and Ph.D in English from Duquesne University in 2004 and December 2009, respectively. Her dissertation examined ekphrasis and the relationship of the verbal arts to the visual arts in high and late medieval British literature. A published and working poet, she has been a teaching fellow and adjunct instructor for the last six years.

Her research interests concern secular and sacred texts of the high to late European Middle Ages but also extend to contemporary poetry and poetics in North and South America. She has recently begun a new project on medieval ekphrasis and representations of food, from recipes in the Forme of Cury and by such authors as Hildegard of Bingen, to representations of slaughter and preparation, feasting halls and dishes in a number of high and late medieval works. This spring 2010 she will have the opportunity to teach a course in Chaucer as well as the Poetry Workshop I.

Dr. Jessica Chainer Nowacki received a dual B.A. in English and psychology from Grove City College, a course of study that precipitated her love of literary criticism. In the summer of 2009, she completed her Ph.D. in English at Duquesne. Her dissertation, “The Blessed of the Earth”: Trauma, Transformation, and the Near-Death Experience in Contemporary Ethnic American Women’s Novels, focuses on issues of American identity at the turn of the 21st Century.

Currently, she is editing her dissertation chapter on Linda Hogan’s The People of the Whale for publication in an edited collection of essays called Stories the Land Holds. In 2009, she published an essay about Native women’s literature and cultural healing in Louise Erdrich’s The Antelope Wife in an edited collection. She is very excited to put her expertise in ethnic American literature to use in her Twentieth-Century Ethnic American Literature and Women’s Fiction courses that she will be teaching in spring 2010.

Dr. Gerra L. Bosco worked for two years as a visiting faculty member for the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. She is teaching three sections of Science Writing in both fall 2009 and spring 2010. Her goals for the Science Writing course are to improve the scientific acumen of her students while empowering them with the tools to take their writing to the next (i.e. professional) level.

A writer and a scientist, she studied both molecular biology and poetry as an undergraduate at the University of Pittsburgh, during which time she worked as an undergraduate researcher and the poetry editor for the University Honors College art and literary magazine, Thirst (now the Three Rivers Review). After receiving a doctorate in biochemistry from the University of Chicago, she began working as a science writer for an independent tutoring company in Chicago and teaching Biochemistry for Northwestern University School of Continuing Studies. She worked as the assistant director of the Collaborative Learning and Integrated Mentoring in the Biosciences (CLIMB) Program at Northwestern University before deciding to move home to Pittsburgh. Since coming to Duquesne, she has taught Biochemistry, Immunology, General Biology II, Advanced Integrated Lab and Science Writing. She also works as a science writer for the Regenerative Medicine Partnership in Education here at Duquesne, where she collaborates to design enjoyable science education materials for young learners—like the immunology-based board game You Make Me Sick.