

# The Drowning

SPRING 2014

## UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES - Spring 2014

March 3-7	Spring Break
April 4	Last day for May doctoral candidates to deliver advisor approved dissertation drafts to Dean
April 8	Last day to drop a class with a "W"
April 7-18	Registration for Summer and Fall
April 25	Last day for May doctoral candidates to complete all degree requirements
April 25	Last day for May masters candidates to electronically upload thesis and deliver final paperwork to the Registrar's office
April 25	Last day of classes
April 25	Last day to drop a class or withdraw with WP/WF grades
April 29	Final Exams Begin
May 7	Final Exams End
May 10	Grades Due
May 19	University Day Commencement

## **2014 Graduate Student Appreciation Week**

### Monday, April 7

Ice Cream Social at Mountaintop from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, April 8

Pizza Taste Off at Lamberton from noon to 1:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, April 9

Dean's Awards Reception, Wood Dining Room, Iacocca Hall, from 12:00-1:30 p.m.

### Thursday, April 10

Paraffin Hand Dip and Hand Massages at Packer House from noon to 2:00 p.m.

### Saturday, April 12

Graduate Student Picnic at Saucon Village from noon to 1:30 p.m.

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Daylight Saving Time begins  
Sunday, March 9, at 2:00 a.m.



***Alumni News . . .*****Featured alum: Rick Albright**

1) When did you attend Lehigh University and what degrees did you receive? What were your areas of interest? Are those areas different from what you are currently teaching?

After originally graduating from Lehigh with a B.A. in 1973, I returned to the graduate school in 1997, graduating with my Ph.D. in 2002. My major was nineteenth-century British literature, with minors in Medieval literature and composition and rhetoric. I also developed a course in science fiction. I teach in most of those areas currently.

2) Where are you currently teaching and what is your title? How long have you been there? Where have you previously taught? Please indicate the genre you are currently teaching, the undergraduate/graduate courses you are teaching, and the average number of students in your class(es), etc.

I am an associate professor at Harrisburg Area Community College, where I have been teaching full-time since 2005. I am also the Interim Chair of the English Department (until June 30, 2014). I primarily teach composition, honors composition, British literature, and world literature, and I also team-teach a multi-disciplinary blended course on Zombies in American Culture. HACC has a large number of online courses, and a fairly large presence on Apple's iTunesU. We've recently launched a Mobile Learning Project in collaboration with Apple Computer, and I will be developing one of my British literature courses as in iBook.

We're a community college, so these are first- and second-year courses. Our classes are fairly large—26 students in our composition classes, 23 in the online courses.

3) Please describe your experience while at Lehigh University (including faculty and other grad students, etc. that influenced you). What did you acquire at Lehigh University that was most beneficial when job searching? Also, what was acquired from Lehigh University that has made a difference in your teaching and association with other students?

Having had two separate Lehigh experiences a generation apart was rather unique, and there were actually three professors whose courses I had both as an undergraduate and a graduate student, as they were still there when I returned: Addison Bross, Pete Beidler, and the late Jim Frakes. Barry Kroll was a major influence on me and my teaching, especially as I served a year as his Writing Program Assistant. Rosemary Mundhenk and Scott Gordon were my dissertation co-directors and really mentored me through that process. In fact, as editor of the Lehigh University Press, Scott encouraged me to develop my dissertation into a book, which was published by the press in 2009. (*Writing the Past, Writing the Future: Time and Narrative in Gothic and Sensation Fiction*. Copies are still available!).

4) What is the most rewarding part of your job?

Getting to do new things! Although HACC is a community college and we don't get to teach some of the courses or conduct the level of research that you might see at the MLA convention, there are always opportunities to innovate; for me these have included the mobile learning initiative or the Zombies in American Culture course that I mentioned.

In my current position as department chair, my biggest rewards have been in two major areas. One is getting around to our five campuses to do faculty observations and seeing truly inspiring teaching. The other is in helping to implement some good ideas in developmental education put forward by faculty who aren't afraid to try new approaches.

5) Is there any advice that you can give our current graduate students, i.e. what to learn and take with them, what to expect when searching for a job, and what to expect when you start a new job, etc.?

I remember Patty Ingham telling us that if you don't get a particular job, it may not always be about you, as there may be other factors in play, and that is good to keep in mind, to keep perspective. It's also important to maintain positive relationships with colleagues, both when starting a new job and later. Much of our preparatory work (research, dissertation writing, etc.) is solitary and I know that I sometimes had a tendency to be too much of a hermit. Relationships are really important.

And find something you really enjoy about your work. For example, needing to decompress after my doctoral exams in 1999, I stumbled across *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, which was first a guilty pleasure, until I discovered that there is a vast body of inter-disciplinary scholarship on *Buffy* and all the other works by writer/director Joss Whedon ("the Whedonverses"). This group of scholars from the U.S., U.K., and Australia do conferences that feature serious academic work but are great fun as well. As the community college teaching load is 5-5, there isn't much time for research, but if it's something you really love doing, it's easier to figure out how to make time for it.

## **JOB HIRES**

Becca Martin, Assistant Professor of English at Northampton Community College.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Katie Burton presented her paper "Coal Mines and Virtuous Signs: Canary Evidence in the Nineteenth-Century" at the North American Victorian Studies Association 2013 Conference: "Evidence," Pasadena, CA, October 23-27, 2013.

Jason Cash presented his paper "'Ye're not men at all': Nationalism, Masculinity, and Xenophobia in Kate O'Brien's *The Land of Spices*" at the American Conference for Irish Studies, Mid-Atlantic Meeting, Rochester, NY, November 15, 2013.

Brian Crowe presented his paper "Entitled to Hunger: Frederick Douglass's View of the Famine Irish" at the "Ireland, Anti-Slavery, Empire" Conference, University College, Dublin, Ireland, October 24-25, 2013.

David Fine presented his paper "*Anamnesis: Love and Rebecca West's Saint Augustine*" at the Rebecca West: Celebrity, Publicity, Memory Conference, New York University, New York, NY, September 20-21, 2013.

David Fine presented his paper "Modernist Ascetics: Rebecca West's Mystical Inheritance" at the "We Speak a Different Tongue": Maverick Voices and Modernity, 1890-1939 Conference, Durham University, Durham, UK, July 5-6, 2013.

Dashielle Horn presented her paper "Mary Astell and her Anonymous Eighteenth-Century Heirs: Singleness and Social Change" at the University of British Columbia's Graduate Conference, "Endnotes", Vancouver, May 2013.

Dashielle Horn presented her paper "Layers of Imprisonment and Masculine Domination in Mary Wollstonecraft's The Wrongs of Woman" at the International Conference in Romanticism, Oakland, MI, September 2013.

Jenny Hyst presented her paper "Not Entirely Secular, Not Entirely Sacred: May Sinclair, H.D., and Modernism's Religious Remainder" at the Modernist Studies Association Conference, Brighton, England, August 29-September 1, 2013.

Jenny Hyst presented her paper "Feminist Visions and Religious Revisions in May Sinclair's *Mary Olivier*" at the LeMoyne College Religion and Literature Forum, Syracuse, NY, September 26-28, 2013.

Dana McClain presented her paper "'Spiritual' Retirement in Defoe's *Roxana*" at the East Central American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies, Philadelphia, PA, November 7, 2013.

Emily Rau presented her paper "Relocation and Colonization as Dispossession: Stowe's and Delany's Spatial Fantasies" at PAMLA, San Diego, California, November 3, 2013.

Edward Simon presented his paper "Cotton Mather's Heterodox Puritanism and the Construction of America" at the "Catholics and Puritans in the Trans-Atlantic World, 1500-1800" Conference, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, September 2013.