

The Drowning

FALL 2013

WELCOME! The fall semester began with the arrival of nine new graduate students into the English Department. If you have not had the opportunity yet, please extend a warm welcome to the following students:

Kyle Brett

Jeremy Davidheiser

Caitlin Edwards

James Hamill

Michael Harrison

Dana McClain

Avi Setton

Jessica Snyder

Joshua Tonkay

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES FALL 2013



October 1	Deadline to apply for January degree
October 14-15	Pacing Break
October 16	Mid Term Grades Due
November 4-15	Registration for Spring 2014
November 12	Last day for January Ph.D. candidates to deliver advisor approved dissertation drafts to Dean
November 12	Last day to drop a class with a "W"
November 27-29	Thanksgiving Break
December 6	Last day of classes
December 6	Last day to drop a class or withdraw with WP/WF grades
December 6	Last day for January M.A. candidates to electronically upload thesis and deliver final paperwork to the Registrar's Office
December 6	Last day for January doctoral candidates to complete all degree requirements
December 10	Final Exams Begin
December 18	Final Exams End
December 26	Grades Due

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>Welcome</i>	1
<i>Upcoming Important Dates</i>	1
<i>Alumni News</i>	2
<i>Job Hires, Publications, Presentations, Awards</i>	4
<i>Summer Softball</i>	4
<i>Announcements</i>	4

Visit the English Department
on Facebook



Alumni News . . .**Featured alum: Keat Murray**

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?

I entered Lehigh with an M.A. in 1999 and finished with a Ph.D. in 2008, working as a part-time student through that time. My major fields of interest were Early American and Antebellum literature (with minors in American Realism/Naturalism and British Romanticism), and I did get a tenure-track job in my major fields at California University of Pennsylvania.

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.

My teaching experience has been quite varied, including secondary education and higher education. I taught high school English for twenty-one years, and my teaching positions in higher education have included a number of institutions on a part-time basis: Visiting Assistant Professor, Swarthmore College (three-year term, 2010-13); Adjunct Professor, Penn State York (2010-11); Adjunct Instructor, Harrisburg Area Community College (2010-13); Adjunct Professor, Lehigh University (2009); Adjunct Professor, Immaculata University (2008-11).

I have taught various composition classes (101s, advanced comp., research writing, writing seminar), and introduction to literature courses. In my major fields, I have taught surveys in American Literature (to 1865), special topics courses in early American Literature (cross cultural lit in early America, Native America and early American fictions, American travel literature), Cultures of American Humor.

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?

Because I was a part-time student at Lehigh, my experience was, I surmise, different from full-time students who work as Teaching Assistants in the English Department. I held a full-time day job teaching high school as I pursued my studies and taught in the evenings at colleges/universities. Although my part-time status often left me feeling somewhat dislocated from the English Department and the TA life of most students, I never felt neglected in any way. Faculty members were always willing to make accommodations to my schedule and my needs, and they were very helpful. My examiners were especially helpful in preparation for exams and in shaping my thinking about my dissertation. There is little doubt that my dissertation director, Dawn Keetley, did much more than I could have expected to support me through the dissertation process (ouch!) and in the *several subsequent years on the job market*. She was magnificent, absolutely magnificent! Other professors who were especially helpful and supportive were Scott Gordon, Seth Moglen, and Ed Whitley. The administrative staff was also so wonderful; Joann Deppert was especially helpful in sending dossier materials for many, many job applications over the years.

I took something important from each of my classes, and every one of my professors challenged me, cultivating an environment for me to pursue my own line of thinking within the scope of the class. I also received a kick in the pants when I needed it; a case in point is something Professor Moglen told me one day, “Keat, you seem to have trouble seeing the forest for the trees.” Professor Keetley echoed this observation on occasion, and she also shared with me a very helpful analogy for writing a complex academic argument. Apparently, analogies in forestry and greyhound racing paid off, as my dissertation won the Dean of College of Arts and Sciences Award in 2008, though I have a suspicion that some well-crafted letters of support from faculty were very instrumental in that award.

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

I haven't begun my job at California University at this point, so I can't comment on it. I can, however, identify rewarding parts of my work elsewhere. Writing my own special topics courses and first-year seminars has been especially enjoyable and rewarding, as it keeps me looking for fresh ideas and approaches. I also enjoy helping students pursue their own questions and find their own way in their studies, which is something that the Lehigh faculty helped me to do. Another crucial aspect of my work that brings joy and satisfaction is creating archival student research projects and directing their work as research assistants. In short, the most rewarding aspect of my work has been participating in intellectually-rich academic communities.

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.?

Listen, learn, explore, take risks, advocate for yourself (with humility).

Getting a Ph.D. is one thing; getting a job is another. Work, work, work, work, and work some more on growing and diversifying your c.v.

Seek and make opportunities for yourself. When an opportunity arises, think “yes” first rather than “I don't have time” or “maybe.” New opportunities and directions often come with risks (and sleeplessness).

Do things in a timely manner; meet deadlines rather than postpone them.

Take as many interviews and campus visits as you can; each one will teach you something and prepare you for success.

Expect rejection, expect no explanation for rejection, expect frustration and various degrees of demoralization, *and* expect success.

JOB HIRES

Keat Murray (Ph.D.'08), Assistant Professor, California University of Pennsylvania

Wes Atkinson (M.A.'05, Ph.D.'13), Assistant Professor, Austin Peay State University

AWARDS

James Speese, Senior Teaching Fellow and Ph.D. Candidate received the Lehigh University Teaching Assistant Award, April 2013.

PRESENTATIONS

Ed Simon presented his paper "The Massachusetts Bay Psalter and Transatlantic Puritanism in the Construction of American Identity" at the conference Psalm Culture & the Politics of Translation at the Queen Mary's College, The University of London, July 2013.

Ed Simon presented his paper "Cotton Mather's Heterodox Puritanism and the Construction of America" at Trinity College, Dublin Ireland for the conference Catholics and Puritans in the trans-Atlantic world, 1500-1800, September 2013.



**Drowners Softball Team
3-7 in the Regular Season
First Playoff Win in Drowner History**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to **Katie Burton, Robb Fillman, and Christy Wenger** (Ph.D.'11) on the births of their babies this past year!

Nicole Batchelor (M.A.'03, Ph.D.'11) and **Robert Kilker** (M.A.'01, Ph.D.'09) were married on May 31, 2013.