

**UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES**

January 23	First Day of Class
January 29	Last Day to Add or Drop without instructor permission
February 1	Last Day to apply for May degree
March 10	Mid Term Grades Due
March 10-11	LSJ Conference
March 13-17	Spring Break
March 22	Admitted Students Day
March 24	Williams Prize Entry Deadline
April 10-15	Graduate Student Appreciation Week
April 10-21	Registration for Summer and Fall
April 14	Last day for May doctoral candidates to deliver advisor approved dissertation drafts to CAS Graduate Associate Dean's office
April 18	Last day to drop a class with a "W"
May 5	Last day for May doctoral and masters candidates to electronically upload dissertation or thesis and complete final paperwork
May 5	Last day of classes
May 8	Williams Prize Ceremony
May 9-17	Final Exams Period
May 21	Hooding Ceremony
May 22	University Commencement
July 3	Deadline to apply for September degree

We are pleased to present the **3rd Annual Literature and Social Justice Graduate Conference**, which will take place on March 10th-11th in Williams Hall. This year's theme is Borders and Violence. Dr. Kavita Daiya, Associate Professor and Affiliated Faculty in the Women's Studies Program and Global Women's Institute at George Washington University, will deliver a keynote address entitled "**Modernity, Postcoloniality, and Border Crossings**" on Friday, March 10 at 4:10. Conference panels and a poetry reading will take place on Saturday, March 11. If you are presenting or attending, please register by January 31 on our website <http://lsjlehigh.weebly.com/> and check back soon for updates!



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**Alumni News .**

**Michael Albright** graduated from Lehigh in 2013 with a Ph.D in English. His area of specialty is early modern/Renaissance drama, and his dissertation was entitled: "'You're a teacher because you say you are': Performance, Professionalization, and the Early Modern English Schoolmaster."

**1. What is your current position?**

I am presently an Assistant Professor of English at Southwest Minnesota State University. My primary duties involve working with the university's College Now program, which offers concurrent enrollment courses to high school students throughout the state.

**2. What does a typical day look like for you?**

In any given semester, I have a cohort of around 15-20 high school teachers who serve as instructors of composition or literature classes offered by SMSU. Much of my semester involves traveling throughout the state to observe and interact with these teachers in their classrooms. On campus, I am a member of various university and department committees. I also serve on a statewide, system committee regarding curriculum. In the future, I will teach courses on the ground and online as needed. And, this spring, I am offering a graduate practicum for students who present at an academic conference our university is hosting.

**3. How did you find this position, and what made you a good fit for it?**

Prior to becoming an Assistant Professor, I taught dual-enrollment high school courses at an independent school and a residential, public STEM school. Last fall I did a cursory search online that included the keywords: "high school, English, and Ph.D." From there, I came across a tenure-track position in English that required experience in concurrent enrollment, high school teaching, and college instruction. My qualifications aligned with the desires of the ad almost perfectly, and I applied on a lark. Months later--after having forgotten about the application--I began and succeeded in the hiring process.

This position is the ideal fit for me academically and professionally. I was able to market myself as an academic who was invested in both secondary and higher education from the outset, and I found this tailor-made position several years later that has allowed me to come into my own as a professor.

**4. How did graduate school help prepare you for your current career?**

Lehigh provided great support for me as a grad student. The climate was welcoming and, fortunately, not cut-throat. I also worked with great advisors and professors, such as Dr. Barbara Traister, Dr. Scott Gordon, and Dr. Jenna Lay, who always supported my aims to keep secondary education in my sights. Lehigh's commitment to its composition program and its vibrant Writing Center also armed me with numerous experiences as both a teacher and tutor of writing.

**5. What do you know now that you wish you had learned in graduate school?**

Having been out of grad school for nearly three years, I have found that I am more comfortable with my knowledge and skills as they are now and as they are developing. I wish I wouldn't have been so intimidated in my earliest seminars so that I could have discovered even more possibilities for scholarly inquiry. I know now that it's important to ask questions, to take risks, and to not be held back by others who appear to be more confident in their abilities.

### *News from the Chair*

We are happy to announce the Digel/Jones Memorial Gift, offered to the department in the name of two former Lehigh students.

The Digel/Jones Memorial Gift honors the lives of William A. Digel (B.A. 1959, M.A. 1964) and Barry O. Jones (B.S. 1960) by providing support to students in the English Department of Lehigh University. The Fund will be administered by the Chair of the English Department.

Bill Digel (Lehigh '59) majored in English at Lehigh, and for a time was also in the 5-year Arts/Engineering program. After military service he continued as a graduate student and also as an instructor in English, receiving an M.A. in 1964 with a thesis on John Donne. But he had also always had an interest in science generally, and especially in how “things” worked; his collection of old radio parts was a particular delight, both of his and his friends. After he received his M.A. he in effect combined his interests in science, technology, and writing, beginning a long career as a technical writer with Dupont. He served in that capacity until retirement and continued as a consultant until his death in 2010. For his contemporaries in the Theta Xi fraternity Bill was a reassuring (and inspiring) example of a life that could be lived outside the precincts of engineering and business.

Barry Jones (Lehigh '60) received a degree in accounting from Lehigh, but did so only because it afforded a clearer path to earning a living. His first loves had always been literature and writing, and after military service he was able to pursue them. He took up graduate studies in English at Rutgers, with the encouragement of Lehigh's Carl Strauch and the counsel of Paul Fussell of Rutgers; he received an M. A. from Rutgers and was subsequently an instructor in English there, an editor of Rutgers publications, a consultant in business communications, and an editor for Bloomberg News. His notable service to the Lehigh chapter of Theta Xi fraternity included a ten-year as secretary of its alumni association, during which time his annual *Eta News* won an award from the national fraternity. His memoir of his service in the peacetime U.S. Army, *Honest John: Adventures of a Reluctant Cold-Warrior*, was published in 2006.

### **Congratulations to Brian & Brigid Reese!**

Meet Evelyn Frances Reese, outspoken feminist critic and milk connoisseur. Shares an October 16th birthday with Oscar Wilde and Eugene O'Neill--her temperament is somewhere between the two.





## PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Joanna Grim and Dana McClain presented their paper, "Collaboration in the Composition Classroom and Beyond" as part of a panel on Teaching as Theoretical Practice at the Modern Language Association annual convention, January 2017.

Rachel Heffner-Burns presented her paper "Queer Eco-poetics: Angelina Weld Grimke's *"Grass Finger"* & Walt Whitman's *"Song of Myself"*" at the Modern Language Association annual convention, January 2017.

Brenda Martinez is presenting her paper, "Intersectional Resistance in Anne Spencer's *"Letter To My Sister"* and the Letters to Ourselves" at the Notre Dame Intersectional Inquiries Conference, March 2017.

Dana McClain presented her paper, "An 'Undescribable' Feeling: *The Power of Sympathy* in Eighteenth-Century America" at the East Central American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, October 2016.

Sara Snyder presented her paper, "His Notebook Grew Orchids & Weeds": Language, Burial, & Recovery in Anne Michaels' *Fugitive Pieces*" at the Modern Language Association annual convention, January 2017.

Robb Fillman published his poems, "The Optimist" in *Off the Coast*, "The Art of Writhing," in *Pembroke Magazine*, "Once by the Atlantic" in *Evening Street Review*, and "The Garden" in *Chiron Review*.

James McAdams published a poem, "Like Talking to a Priest (in Javascript 1.5)," in *Matador Review*, and the short stories "Gio's Arm" in *Belletrist Magazine*, "Monads with Windows" in *Rum Punch Press*, "Estar sin Blanca" in *River River*, and "Theory of Mind" in *Menacing Hedge*. He also has two peer-reviewed articles published or shortly forthcoming: "I Did a Nice Thing": David Foster Wallace and the Gift Economy" in *English Studies in Canada*, and "David Markson's Postmodern Turn: Wittgenstein's Mistress and Minor Literature" in *Rhizomes*.

**Be sure to keep up with the English Department's Graduate Student Blog at <https://lehighgrad.wordpress.com/>**

**You can also follow us on Twitter @LehighEnglish**



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