

THE DROWNING

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2011

WELCOME! The fall 2011 semester began with the arrival of eight new graduate students into the English Department. If you have not had the opportunity yet, please extend a warm welcome to the following students:

Sarah Bruno
Lauren Calabrese

Rachel Heffner
James McAdams

Belinda Peterson
Cary Runowski

Sara Snyder
Jamie Wheatcroft

JOB HIRES, PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, and AWARDS

Devin Donovan

Recently presented a paper entitled "ReNaming the Names: The Many Faces of Dublin Town U.S.A." at the *Reconstructing the Revival* conference at University College, Dublin in Dublin, OH, September 8 and 9, 2011.

Ed Simon

Presenting a paper "Merrymount as 'City on a Hill': Morton's Textual Construction of an Alternative American Utopia" at the Society for Utopian Studies, 36th Annual Meeting at State College Pennsylvania, October 20-23, 2011.

Presenting a paper "The Bureaucratization of the Sacred in Milton and His Pop-Culture Descendents" at the 2011 South Atlantic Modern Language Association Conference in Atlanta, Georgia November 4-6, 2011.

E-book Pilot Program

This semester, LTS is running an e-book pilot program in several Lehigh classes. Here in the English department, the program includes an English 1 course in which traditional print resources have been replaced with the Barnes & Noble "nook" e-reader. With the nook, students have been able to annotate their texts as they would traditional print books; they have also been able to store and read PDF files on the device instead of having to print out the documents. The nooks have provided new options for interacting with texts and, thus far, have encouraged students to approach reading in new ways.

The nooks will be returned to the library after this semester, and will be available for future classroom use. If anyone is interested in using the e-readers in your class, you can contact Heather Simoneau for more information at hms207@lehigh.edu. If you want to know more about the English 1 e-book class, you can contact Abby Aldrich at aja205@lehigh.edu.

- Abby Aldrich

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Alumni News . . .**Featured alum: LISA M. VETERE**

1) Indicate when you attended Lehigh, areas of interest (is this different than what you are teaching?), degrees you received.

I was at Lehigh from 1995 to 2004, when I graduated with a Ph.D. with a specialization in nineteenth-century American literature—which is exactly what I am teaching right now.

2) Where you are currently teaching, how long you've been there, title, and where you previously taught. Indicate the genre you are currently teaching, undergraduate/graduate courses you are teaching, average number of students in your class(es), etc.

I'm currently an associate professor of English at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, NJ, where I've been since 2005. Right after finishing up the Ph.D. at Lehigh, I spend a year as a visiting professor of English at the University of Southern Mississippi before getting the tenure-track position at Monmouth the next year (returning to the northeast just in time to miss Hurricane Katrina by just a few weeks!). At Monmouth, I teach courses at all levels: from graduate courses (such as this semester) in Critical Theory and Early and 19th-Century American literature to undergrad upper-level seminars on Nathaniel Hawthorne, sophomore surveys in American lit, and even first-year English composition courses. For example, this semester, I have 20 students in my EN101 class, eleven in my graduate seminar, and 23 in my undergraduate Lit & Criticism class.

3) Your experience at Lehigh (people who influenced you including faculty and other grad students, etc), and what you acquired from Lehigh that was most beneficial when job searching as well as what you acquired from Lehigh that has made a difference in your teaching and association with other students.

I had a very special and very rewarding experience at Lehigh and am glad that I graduated from their program. High are the list of those who influenced me were Dawn Keetley and Seth Moglen, both of whom served on my dissertation committee and were simply incredible: supportive, inspiring, and even challenging. I honestly would not have finished nor gotten this position if it weren't for them. Their participation in my dissertation group really made a huge difference too. That group consisted of Chris Robé, Tracey Cummings, John Lennon, Tony Bleach, Bob Kilker, and Harry Brown. I still talk about what a positive experience that group was for me and my work. I'm also really grateful for the composition theory course that I took with Barry Kroll (and to John Woznicki for insisting upon such a course); it changed my approach to comp teaching, and taught me so much about pedagogy. At Monmouth now, I teach comp courses even though I don't have to because I enjoy them so much.

What I learned at Lehigh that has been invaluable is that culture is everything in a graduate program—and that grad students have enormous power to create and shape that culture themselves. I witnessed the culture change in the program from when I started in 1995 to when I finished in 2004, and I attribute much of that change to grad students themselves. We fought for health insurance, started work groups and events such as the Drown Writers' Series, ran the workshops ourselves, and thus taught each other. It was an incredible community, and the more I talk to colleagues who graduated from other programs, the more I discover that I had a rare and precious experience there.

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

While I've begun to find great satisfaction in my scholarship, teaching will always be the most rewarding part of my job. It's where I feel that I can make the biggest difference.

5) Any advice you can give our grad 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.

It's a different market now, I know, than it was in 2004, but I do want to emphasize the cliché of doing what you love. Because I was so fascinated with my dissertation topic (and Dawn Keetley so enthusiastic too), I wrote about something (witchcraft narratives in 19C America) that I still care about, something that was interesting also to those schools that interviewed and ultimately hired me. I didn't go for market value and don't regret it.

As far as advice about starting a new job, I do have to say that it's not much like grad school. As you're writing your dissertation and getting really excited about ideas and theory and criticism, you're surrounded by people at the same stage as you are. However, when you start a job, you are surrounded by people who are at totally different stages of their careers, and, especially if you're not at a research 1 institution, by people who might not care at all about what you've passionately cared about for the last few years. Some will appreciate your energy and some won't. Just be patient with institutional and cultural differences. If you want to replicate what you've loved about Lehigh somewhere else, you might have to do it yourself.

SUMMER SOFTBALL



The Drowners are safe and secure in the dugout after their most successful season in years (maybe ever?). The team had some great additions to its stalwart core this year, and a great time was had by all. Highlights include Wiggins standing in RF with a broken hand, the smooth double play combo of Crowe, Luke and Brad, and the Drowners' bats taking three of an opponent's pitchers out with line drives up the middle in a single game. Congrats to the Drowners of '11, we look forward to the 2012 season with players new and old. So get ready to chant "Man, that's one great steak!" (Sponsorship from JackCreek Steakhouse and Cantina pending).

-Devin Donovan

The Drown Writers Series

The Drown Writers Series is back. Have you got original, creative work you want to share in an informal environment with a supportive audience? Contact djd208@lehigh.edu if you'd like to read at a future meeting. We heart new readers in a big bumper sticker kind of way. Would you rather feast your ears' eyes on the literary pyrotechnics? We always welcome new audience members. Creativity + free lunch + you =DWS. Dates for DWS meetings this semester are Sept. 16, Oct. 7, Oct. 28 (Spooky DWS), Nov. 18, and Dec. 9. So put us on your calendar and we hope to see you there.

-Devin Donovan

Halloween: Where It All Began



In Ireland, where Halloween originated, the day is still celebrated much as it is in the United States in rural areas, bonfires are lit as they were in the days of the Celts, and all over the country, children get dressed up in costumes and spend the evening trick-or-treating in their neighborhoods. After trick-or-treating, most people attend parties with neighbors and friends. At the parties, many games are played, including snap-apple, a game in which an apple on a string is tied to a doorframe or tree and players attempt to bite the hanging apple. In addition to bobbing for apples, parents often arrange treasure hunts, with candy or pastries as the treasure. The Irish also play a card game where cards are laid face down on a table with candy or coins underneath them. When a child chooses a card, he receives whatever prize is found below it.

A traditional food eaten on Halloween is barnbrack, a kind of fruitcake that can be bought in stores or baked at home. A muslin-wrapped treat is baked inside the cake that, it is said, can foretell the eater's future. If a ring is found, it means that the person will soon be wed; a piece of straw means that a prosperous year is on its way. Children are also known to play tricks on their neighbors, such as knock-a-dolly, a prank in which children knock on the doors of their neighbors, but run away before the door is opened.

<http://www.history.com/topics/halloween-around-the-world>

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES - Fall 2011



- Nov. 1 Deadline to apply for January degree
- Nov. 7-18 Registration for Spring 2012
- Nov. 15 Last day for January Ph.D.s to submit advisor approved dissertation drafts to dean
- Last day to drop a class with a "W"
- Nov. 23-25 Thanksgiving break
- Dec. 9 Last day of classes
- Last day to drop a class or withdraw with WP/WF grades
- Last day for January MA candidates to submit unbound thesis copies to Registrar's office
- Last day for January Ph.D. candidates to complete all degree requirements
- Dec. 13 Final exams begin
- Dec. 22 Final exams end

NEXT PUBLICATION OF THE DROWNING:

November/December 2011

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

October 31, 2011