

MELISSA WEHLER

Curriculum vitae

Central Penn College
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Summerdale, PA 17093
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Education

- Ph.D.** English, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA; 2013
M.A. Literary and Cultural Studies, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA; 2007
B.A. English, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA; 2005
B.A. Anthropology, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA; 2005

Professional Appointments

Teaching

- 2015 – Present Professor of English, Central Penn College, Summerdale, PA
2012 – 2014 Associate Professor of English, Central Penn College

Administration

- 2014 – 2019 Dean of Humanities and Sciences, Central Penn College, Summerdale, PA
2013 – 2014 Assistant Dean of General Education, Central Penn College
2012 – 2013 Chair, English Department, Central Penn College

Publications

Edited Collections

- Forthcoming *Pedagogy of Harry Potter*, Marcie Rovan and Melissa Wehler, eds. Jefferson, NC: McFarland.
Forthcoming *Supergirl Anthology*, Tim Rayborn and Melissa Wehler, eds. Jefferson, NC: McFarland.

Book Chapters

- Forthcoming “The Super “It” Girl: A New Brand for a Classic Icon” in *Supergirl Anthology*, eds. Tim Rayborn and Melissa Wehler. Jefferson, NC: McFarland.
Forthcoming “‘Hello, beastly’: Uncompromising Motherhood in Disney’s Maleficent” in [Fourth Wave Feminism in Science Fiction and Fantasy: Essays on Film Representations 2012-2019](#), vol. 1, ed. Valerie Frankel. Jefferson, NC: McFarland.
2018 “The Haunted Hero: The Performance of Trauma in *Jessica Jones*,” in [Jessica Jones, Scarred Superhero: Essays on Gender, Trauma and Addiction in the Netflix Series](#), ed. Tim Rayborn and Abigail Keyes. Jefferson, NC: McFarland.
2018 “We are allies, my dear”: Defining British and American National Identity in *Downton Abbey*” in [Exploring Downton Abbey](#), ed. Scott Stoddart. Jefferson, NC: McFarland.
2014 “‘Be wise. Be brave. Be tricky’: Neil Gaiman’s Extraordinarily Ordinary Coraline,” in [A Quest of Her Own: The Female Hero in Modern Fantasy](#), ed. Lori M. Campbell-Tanner. Jefferson, NC: McFarland. 111-129.

- 2013 "The Haunted Transatlantic Libertine: Edmund Kean's American Tour" in [*Transnational Gothic: Literary and Social Exchanges in the Long Nineteenth Century*](#), eds. Bridget Marshall and Monica Elbert. Farnham, UK: Ashgate. 139-154.
- 2010 "Revising Ophelia: Representing Madwomen in Baillie's *Orra* and *Witchcraft*" in [*Demons of the Body and Mind: Essays on Disability in Gothic Literature*](#), ed. Ruth Bienstock Anolik. Jefferson, NC: McFarland. 110-118.

Blogs and Newsletters

- 2018 "Five Ways to Build Community in Online Classrooms." *Faculty Focus*. Magna Publications. 11 July. <https://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/online-education/five-ways-to-build-community-in-online-classrooms/>
- 2017 "Pause, Play, Repeat: Using Pause Procedure in Online Microlectures" with Judith Dutil. *Faculty Focus*. Magna Publications. 23 October. <https://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/online-education/pause-play-repeat-using-pause-procedure-online-microlectures/>
- 2017 Building an Inclusive Classroom Series *CTE@CPC Blog*, Center for Teaching Excellence, Central Penn College, Summerdale, PA; "[Collaborating in the Classroom](#)," October 31; "[Challenging the Status Quo](#)," October 10; "[Questioning Your Assumptions](#)," September 5; "[Knowing Your Students](#)," August 10; "[Reflecting on Privileges](#)," March 7; "[A Starting Place](#)," February 10
- 2017 "The Medium is the Message: Setting a Foundation for Online Learning" with Judith Dutil. *Noba Blog*. 31 August. <http://nobaproject.com/blog/2017-08-31-the-medium-is-the-message-setting-a-foundation-for-online-learning>
- 2017 "Students' Self-Fulfilling Prophecies: Five Ways to Break the Cycle." *Faculty Focus*. Magna Publications. 5 June. <https://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/teaching-and-learning/five-ways-help-students-break-self-fulfilling-prophecies/>
 Republished in "Top 17 of 2017: Our Most Popular Teaching and Learning Articles." *Faculty Focus*. 15 December. <https://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/teaching-and-learning/top-articles-2017/>
- 2016 "Bringing the 'Back Row Student' to the Front of the Class," *CTE@CPC Blog*, November 3. <http://blogs.centralpenn.edu/cte/2016/11/03/bringing-the-back-row-student-to-the-front-of-the-class/>
- 2016 "Invitation Only: Guest Speakers in Online Classrooms," *CTE@CPC Blog*, July 25. <http://blogs.centralpenn.edu/cte/2016/07/25/invitation-only-guest-speakers-in-online-classrooms/>

Book Reviews

- 2014 Review of *The Matrimonial Trap: Eighteenth Century Women Writers Redefine Marriage*. Laura E. Thompson. *The Eighteenth-Century Intelligencer*. (2014).
- 2013 Review of *Richard Brinsley Sheridan: The Impresario in Political and Cultural Context*. Edited by Jack E. DeRochi and Daniel J. Ennis. *The Eighteenth-Century Intelligencer*. (2013): 27:3. 23-25.

Awards, Honors, and Fellowships

Teaching

- 2014 Todd A. Milano Faculty Excellence Award, Central Penn College
- 2011 University Graduate Student Award for Excellence in Teaching, Duquesne University
- 2007-2011 Teaching Fellowship, English Department, Duquesne University

Research

2011-2012	College of Liberal Arts Dissertation Fellowship, Duquesne University
2011	Conference Travel Grant, American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS)
2011	University Graduate Student Award for Excellence in Teaching, Duquesne University
2011	S. Eric Molin Prize for Best Conference Paper by a Graduate Student East Central/ Eighteenth Century Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (EC/ASECS)
2006-2007	Humanities and Social Sciences Grant, Carnegie Mellon University

Invited Talks

2019	" The Case for Female Superheroes "; WITF; <i>Smart Talk</i> ; March 8
2018	"Pause, Play, Repeat: Interactive Course Video Workshop"; Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC); CITE 2018 Fall Symposium; October 9

Conference Presentations (selected)

2019	"Feminist Pedagogy in the Era of Hashtag Activism"; EASA SOA Conference; March 29-30
2017	"Pause Procedure and Reflective Learning in the Online Classroom"; Lilly Conference on Evidence-Based Teaching and Learning; June 1-4
2014	"Walking the Boards One Last Time—Again: Bringing Abandoned Research Out of Retirement the Charles Macklin Way"; East Central/American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies (EC/ASECS); November 6-8
2014	"Reading through Other Eyes: Using Peer Reading Groups in the Writing Classroom"; Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA); April 3-6
2013	"In/Sanity: Updating the Eighteenth-Century Gothic for the Millennial Generation"; East Central/American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies (EC/ASECS); November 7-9 (accepted but not presented)
2012	"'his abundant tresses': Master Betty's Hair and the Sexuality of Child Stars"; East Central/American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies (EC/ASECS); November 1-3
2012	"The Public Jordan: Actresses, Caricatures, and Chamber Pots in the Eighteenth Century"; American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies (ASECS); March 22-25
2011	"'ready to burst': Dorothy Jordan, Leigh Hunt, and Restraining Desire"; Awarded S. Eric Molin Prize for Best Graduate Conference Paper; East Central/American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies (EC/ASECS); November 3-6
2011	"The Madwoman in the Classroom: Teaching Matthew Lewis in the 21 st Century"; East Central/American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies (EC/ASECS); November 3-6
2011	"Performing Nationalism: Edmund Kean and Charles Robert Maturin's <i>Bertram</i> "; American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies (ASECS); March 17-20
2010	"The Haunted Libertine: Edmund Kean's American Tour"; East Central/American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies (EC/ASECS); November 4-6
2009	"Revising Ophelia: Joanna Baillie's <i>Orra</i> and the Tradition of Madwoman"; East Central/American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies (EC/ASECS); October 8-11
2009	"'a free and a Christian land': The Role of Christianity in Baillie's <i>Witchcraft</i> "; South Central Society for Eighteenth Century Studies (SCSECS); February 5-8
2008	"A Doorway to Power: Spatial Illusion and the Writing Center"; East Central Writing Center Association (ECWCA); April 11-12
2007	"Writing Across Borders': Writing Centers and English as a Second Language (ESL) Students"; West Virginia University, Writing Center Symposium; October 20

Campus Talks (selected)

2018	Best Practice for Assessing Communication, Academic Affairs, Central Penn College (CPC)
2018	Teaching Philosophies Workshop, Center for Teaching Excellence, CPC
2017	Helping Students to Break Self-Fulfilling Prophecies, Center for Teaching Excellence, CPC
2017	Using Rubrics in Assessment, Center for Teaching Excellence, CPC
2017	Building Inclusivity in the Classroom, Center for Teaching Excellence, CPC
2016	Leadership equality: The roles women and men play in achieving balance, Office of Alumni Engagement, CPC
2016	Student-Centered Teaching, Office of Academic Affairs, CPC
2015	The Write Way: Creating Writing Assessments, Office of Academic Affairs, CPC
2014	Instructional Objective Workshop, Office of Academic Affairs, CPC
2013, 2014	Writing Anxiety Workshop, Student Workshop Series, CPC
2014	What is the Role of General Education?, Office of Academic Affairs, CPC
2013	English Assessment Process: Lessons Learned, Office of Academic Affairs, CPC
2010	Strategies for Effective Mentor Teaching, Graduate Student Development Session, Duquesne University (DU)
2010	Developing an Effective Writing Syllabus, Graduate Student Development Session, DU

Courses Taught (selected)

Central Penn College, Summerdale, PA

Writing	College Writing Skills; English Composition I and II
Cultural Studies	Feminism: Impact and Evolution (online), Cultural Anthropology (online, traditional); Race and Radicalism in American Film; Fashion, Media, and Culture; Freshman Seminar; CPC Foundations; Documenting Social Justice; Documentary Film and "The Truth"; Greek Literature Goes to Hollywood; A (Super) Hero Complex: Superheroes on the Small and Big Screens
Seminars	Culminating Experience Capstone Course (online); Special Topics: Campus Leadership and Engagement; Honors Studies (online, traditional)

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

Writing	Thinking and Writing Across the Curriculum (instructor of record); Imaginative Literature and Critical Writing (Gods and Monsters, The Gothic Imagination, Fantasy and Reality) (instructor of record)
Literature	Introduction to Drama: Love and Madness (instructor of record)

Professional Projects

2017	Online Learning Toolkit . Open access resource developed to support the needs of educators who want to create engaging online courses.
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Leadership Activities

Dean of Humanities and Sciences

Responsibilities

Create an academic vision and strategic plan for the School, including conducting a regular review of its mission, objectives, and programming; supervise the assessment and review of all academic programs, general education programs, Immersion Studies program, and co-curricular programs; maintain an assessment calendar and cycle for all programs; manage budget for the School; work with chairs to recruit and retain exceptional faculty members; conduct annual reviews of chairs; meet with chairs to review and

approve faculty annual evaluations; respond to faculty grievances; work with chairs on progressive discipline and improvement plans; write letters of acknowledgement for teaching, service, and advising excellence; recommend annual merit raises to the Vice President of Academic Affairs; mentor chairs.

Key Initiatives

- Supervised the review and assessment of the college's general education curriculum, presented and implemented the new general education competencies and standards, and supervised the teach out and implementation of the new program
- Successfully argued for budget increases for faculty development and the creation of five additional faculty lines using assessment results and successfully proposed Communication to be incorporated into the School as its flagship major
- Collaborated with chairs and faculty to create a School-wide strategic plan and retention plans for all programs in the School
- Worked with chairs and faculty to create a repository for faculty resources, including policies, processes, and forms and created resources for faculty on topics such as teaching philosophies, teaching portfolios, and academic rigor
- Created co-curricular opportunities, such as Immersion Studies, a service-learning honors course, and an internship experience with the Washington Institute and worked with Student Services and Residence Life to create student honors housing; promoted student clubs and organizations such as the undergraduate creative writing journal and the student podcasting and news club and attended activities
- Collaborated with faculty to create an assessment workbook, including curriculum mapping templates for general education and elective programming and a schedule for assessment and oversaw the College's and School's first comprehensive assessment cycle

Assistant Dean of General Education

Responsibilities

Supervised full-time and part-time faculty and director of the Writing and Learning Center; conducted teaching observations of faculty members on three platforms (face-to-face, online, and blended); supervised the curriculum review, mapping, and assessment of the general education program; and assessed the consistency of course offerings across platforms and to address inconsistencies through support and training.

Key Initiatives

- Collaborated with faculty to create new forms for teaching observations for the three platforms
- Conducted the first holistic review and assessment of the general education program and offerings and worked with faculty to update curriculum based on assessment findings
- Collaborated with the Mathematics department to review and assess the mathematics program and offering and successfully co-authored a proposal for holistic curriculum adjustments based on assessment findings
- Reviewed and revised the Academic Integrity policy, processes, and forms with Faculty Senate Committees

Chair, English Department

Responsibilities

Supervised full-time and part-time faculty members and the director of the Writing Center; created a course schedule and assigned faculty; created position advertisements, conducted searches, completed interviews, and extended offers; conduct annual reviews and recommend annual merit raises to the Dean of General Education; provide conflict resolution; and mentor new full-time and part-time faculty.

Key Initiatives

- Created an orientation process for new English faculty, particularly part-time faculty members; conducted teaching observations of faculty members on three different platforms (face-to-face, online, and blended); offered college-wide training for faculty on creating writing prompts, creating writing rubrics, and commenting on student writing

- Revitalized the undergraduate creative writing journal and created an online blog and social media presence for it
- Successfully proposed a Writing and Learning Center based on assessment data and mentored the new director of the Writing and Learning Center and trained student tutors
- Received several commendations from the accreditation visiting team for the assessment of the writing cycle

Service to the Institution (selected)

Planning

2016 – 2019	Alumni Leadership Conference Planning Steering Committee, Member
2016 – 2018	Academic Master Plan Steering Committee, Member
2016 – 2017	Educate Strategic Plan Committee, Co-Chair
2015 – 2017	Academic Council, Co-Chair

Assessment

2016 – 2019	Assessment Committee, <i>ex-officio</i>
2014 – 2016	Faculty Rank and Promotion Process Review <i>ad hoc</i> Committee, Co-Chair
2014 – 2016	<i>Faculty Handbook</i> Review <i>ad hoc</i> Committee, Co-Chair
2014	Academic Freedom Statement <i>ad hoc</i> Committee, Chair
2013	Institutional Learning Objectives (ILO) <i>ad hoc</i> Committee, Member

Student Engagement

2014 – 2017	Retention Committee, Member
2015	Capstone and Internship Taskforce, Member

Faculty Development

2014 – 2019	Faculty Excellence Award Selection Committee, Chair
2016 – 2018	Center for Teaching Excellence Steering Committee, Member and Chair
2012 – 2016	Online Committee, Faculty Senate, Member

College Service

2014 – 2019	Honorary Doctorate Committee, Co-Chair
2018 – 2019	Investiture Sub-Committee, Presidential Inauguration Committee, Chair
2013 – 2014	Investiture Sub-Committee, Presidential Inauguration Committee, Chair

Department Service

2016 – Present	First-Year Writing Journal Planning Committee, <i>ex-officio</i>
2012 – Present	First-Year Writing Cycle Assessment Committee, <i>ex-officio</i>
2018 – 2019	General Education Taskforce and Steering Committee, <i>ex-officio</i>
2016 – 2017	Writing Bootcamp <i>ad hoc</i> Planning Committee, <i>ex-officio</i>

Student Service

2018 – Present	Gamma Beta Phi Society, Advisor
2012 – 2016	<i>The Central Pen Literary Magazine and E-zine</i> , Advisor

Professional Skills and Certifications

2018	Apple Teacher, Apple Education Certification, Apple, Inc.
2017	Crisis Communication, Office of the President, Central Penn College (CPC)
2017	Servant Leadership, Leadership Harrisburg Area, Continuing Professional Education credit
2017	Online Teaching Certification, Center for Teaching Excellence, CPC
2013	Safe Zone Certification, Office of Student Services, CPC

2013 Online Teaching Certificate, Office of Distance Learning, CPC
2013 Women's and Gender Studies Graduate Certificate, Women's and Gender Studies Department,
Duquesne University (DU)
2012 Blackboard Certification, Office of Distance Learning, CPC
2011 Advanced Graduate Student Certificate of University Teaching, CTE, DU
2010 Graduate Student Certificate of University Teaching, Center for Teaching Excellence, DU