

Visiting faculty share real-world knowledge in SNL classrooms

Practical knowledge and experiences make a big difference in today's challenging job market, and that's one reason why SNL works hard to make sure students can learn from "practicing professionals." Otherwise known as visiting faculty, instructors who work in varied fields—medicine, business, government and consultancy—bring a high level of creativity, know-how and professionalism to the courses they teach in SNL's undergraduate and graduate programs.

"When SNL was founded, it was very intentional to have practicing professionals teaching for us because of the value we put on experiential learning," Dean Marisa Alicea says. "Practicing professionals are here to help students make meaning from their practical experiences and theory."

Pamela Meyer has been a visiting faculty member for 18 years doing just that. She came to SNL with a background in professional theatre and producing, having developed rehearsal-hall techniques that she wanted to transfer into the classroom. "I was anxious to work with adult students to help them expand their creative process using some of those techniques," she says.

An organizational consultant, Meyer has a Ph.D. in human and organizational systems. She teaches the undergraduate course Quantum Creativity: Improvisation in the Arts, Business and Life, and a graduate course on understanding personal and organizational change. She says her work with organizations consistently gives her new insights about the challenges they face, and that helps keep her teaching fresh.

"Adult learners are bringing much more life experience into the classroom, and they also have a much greater expectation for being able to translate what they're learning into their day-to-day work life," she explains. "The bar is set very high for us working with adult learners, and that's a challenge I jump at."

Mark Enenbach, vice president and chief operating officer for a large community action program, has been a visiting faculty member for 22 years. He has a master's in urban planning and teaches courses on local government, public policy and economic issues. He designed the hybrid course Health Care: Right or Privilege, which combines classroom and online instruction, and taught it this fall at the Oak Forest Campus.

Enenbach draws on several life experiences when he's teaching, he says. "I like to combine theory and practice. I worked in the City of Chicago for seven different mayors. When I teach about different forms of government, I can use my practical knowledge of politics and decision-making." It is this mix of practical knowledge and application with theory that makes learning vibrant.

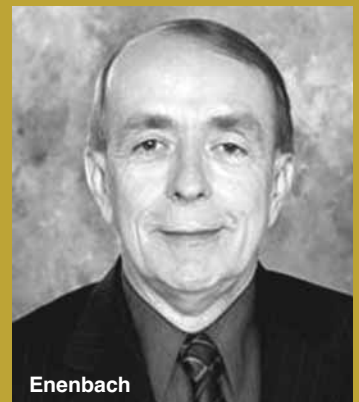
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Meyer

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—Meyer



Enenbach

Visiting faculty come to SNL through several channels. Some are SNL alums. Full-time faculty members refer others. Dentist Patricia Stifter found her way to SNL in 1985 while cleaning a patient's teeth. The patient, a DePaul part-time faculty member, told Stifter that SNL was expanding its part-time faculty and passed her name to the resident full-time faculty member in charge of hiring. "I guess I was networking in the dental chair," Stifter says.

Stifter teaches Nutrition & Biological Development and Brain, Mind & Behavior at the Loop and O'Hare campuses. "I deal with people in a health setting all day, so [teaching at SNL] is a natural extension of that," she says. And, there's the satisfaction she gets from working with adult learners. **"I find adult learners very willing to share their experiences, to bring the topic to a practical application level, so I see myself more as a facilitator than instructor."**

Barbara Donnelly says she had long wanted to teach at SNL—since she was a member of its first graduating class in 1975. She has a doctoral degree in ministry from the University of St. Mary of the Lake and has been on the SNL faculty since 1991, teaching courses on ethics and juvenile justice. Now retired from a career as a high school teacher and director of education for a parish, Donnelly spends time developing SNL courses. During the winter quarter, she is teaching a course she designed, an externship that examines theories and practices in juvenile justice. To keep her skills current, she took a course in SNL's master of arts in educating adults program. "I like teaching at SNL because it focuses on adults who are there to learn, not just get a degree."

Bridgette Mahan, a certified public accountant with an MBA in finance, was a bank vice president before transitioning to teaching. "I was in a meeting and remember thinking, 'A year from now, I don't want to be having this conversation.'" A former bank colleague who also taught at SNL persuaded her to propose a course on business ethics, and she found SNL a great fit. "What I liked a lot about SNL is that it gives you a chance to develop courses that deal with not only your traditional discipline, but also real-life issues," says Mahan, who has been at DePaul since 2001.

Visiting faculty teach online SNL courses and at all six of DePaul's campuses.

Gregory Gilmore, a 15-year SNL veteran, teaches at the Loop and Oak Forest campuses. He advises students and instructs year-round—in the classroom and online. With 25 years of experience as a CEO and consultant, Gilmore's first SNL course was Cultural Centers: Catalysts for Change, which drew on his background working with cultural centers, downtown development and creating community change.

"A lot of my work has dealt with executive leadership, community development organizations and the development of cultural centers," he says.

What makes teaching at SNL special, Gilmore notes, is SNL's overriding philosophy of educating the whole person. "We're dealing with engaging the mind, the body and the spirit in the educational process."



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"I like teaching at SNL because it focuses on adults who are there to learn, not just get a degree."

—Donnelly



Visiting faculty enhance the SNL student experience

When I talk to alumni and students at various SNL events, they often cite as one of the highlights of their SNL experience the great faculty members with whom they took or are taking classes and the SNL courses they completed under their tutelage. For this reason, and since so many of our courses are taught by practicing professionals, I thought it important that we include in this issue an article that focuses on the visiting or part-time faculty who teach for us and the courses they offer. Those highlighted in this issue of Common Knowledge represent only a small number of the many talented part-time faculty who teach for SNL.

Together with our resident faculty, visiting faculty (under the guidance of campus directors and SNL's full-time faculty) offer a wonderful array of interdisciplinary courses—many of which are based on real-world student needs and present ideas, concepts and theories that students can apply to their lives.

Indeed, SNL was founded with the idea that many of our courses would be taught by practicing professionals. Our visiting or part-time faculty not only bring to the classroom a wealth of workplace learning and experience, but also much formal education. Many have completed such terminal degrees as Ph.D.s, law or medical degrees or have continued to take courses and complete certificate programs beyond their graduate work.

Part of what we offer visiting faculty in return are professional development opportunities—Blackboard training, learning opportunities that assist them in developing assignments, and strategies aimed at helping students develop their writing skills. Our visiting faculty committee and graduate and undergraduate directors and coordinators also organize and offer professional development opportunities for part-time faculty aimed at helping them better understand SNL's competence-based degrees, its graduate and undergraduate programs, and assessment. SNL and DePaul also offer faculty opportunities to enhance their skills in designing and teaching online courses.

On another front, five new full-time faculty members officially joined us this past summer and fall. Gretchen Wilbur joined SNL as our new assessment director, and Joseph Chen and Ed Paulson joined the resident faculty as instructors. Chen has a Ph.D. in psychology and brings much experience designing online learning experiences. Paulson, who has taught for SNL as a part-time faculty member for many years, earned his Ph.D. at Indiana University in technology management (digital communications). Arieahn Matamonasa and Akilah Martin will continue with SNL in their new roles as tenure-track faculty members at the assistant professor rank.

We also welcomed two full-time writing instructors—Steffanie Triller and Kathryn Wozniak (See related news brief, p.6). Together with Michelle Navarre Cleary, our writing coordinator, their work and efforts will further enhance our writing program by helping students develop their writing skills and by enhancing our faculty's abilities to support that development. We welcome and congratulate these colleagues. We are confident they will help enhance SNL's program and the student experience.

We are grateful for the service that visiting faculty provide SNL through their work with our students and the work that our resident faculty and directors do to prepare these practicing professionals for teaching in our program. **It is because of their efforts that I often get unsolicited comments from colleagues across the university about the rich and robust courses and curriculum we offer.**

DePaul recognizes two SNL faculty for outstanding performance

This fall, two SNL faculty members received awards for their work in supporting DePaul's teaching and mission goals.

Susanne Dumbleton, Spirit of DePaul



Susanne Dumbleton, professor and former SNL dean, keeps her focus on two areas at the heart of DePaul's mission: expanding educational access and building partnerships.

For her leadership and service in those two areas, she received the Spirit of DePaul Award at the university's fall academic convocation. Receiving the award was deeply meaningful because "it's so tied to mission and includes people from across all of DePaul," she says.

During her 14 years at DePaul, Dumbleton engaged in broad university service, including strategic planning, the presidential search and many other contributions. She was SNL dean for 11 years.

She has returned to teaching writing and literature and is researching a book on women and leadership that focuses on "three major leaders of social justice of our time," including Sister Helen Prejean and Wangari Maathai. Her research has allowed her to spend time with

Prejean, a leading advocate for dignity for all people impacted by murder—perpetrators as well as victims' families. Her efforts were captured in the film "Dead Man Walking." Dumbleton worked on the SNL program in Kenya and met with Maathai, the Kenyan environmentalist honored with the Nobel Peace Prize for initiating the Green Belt Movement.

Reflecting on her award, Dumbleton says, "I was touched and humbled to receive the award, for it made me even more aware of the opportunities DePaul has offered to me to do work that matters to me. I've had the chance to lead efforts to enable faculty and students to provide meaningful service to Chicago community organizations; to expand DePaul's reach to adults who are boxed out of higher education by offering all parts of the degree online; and to integrate more international ideas into the college."

Dumbleton attributes the award to her being in SNL. "There is a natural link within SNL to the essential ideas of Vincent de Paul—his desire to welcome people across all cultures, incomes and ages and to affirm rather than send people away, to say 'yes,' rather than 'no.'"

Zaya Khananu, Excellence in Teaching



Since earning a master's degree in computer science from DePaul in 2005, Zaya Khananu went on to teach courses in information technology and mathematics and discovered his passion for teaching. In return, DePaul honored Khananu at the university's fall convocation with an Excellence in Teaching Award, which recognizes significant achievement in teaching and commitment to the teaching mission.

"What I like most about teaching," Khananu says, "is when I'm engaging with the students as they are learning in class. Their learning objectives motivate me as a teacher."

What makes him most effective in the classroom, Khananu explains, is having the supportive network of educators he works with at DePaul. "It's not only me that makes me successful, but it's my students and my colleagues."

Khananu, who recently applied to the university's College of Computing and Digital Media's doctoral program, has immersed himself in the DePaul community since his student days. He works full time in SNL, overseeing all of its information technology needs, and as a part-time instructor, teaching IT and math courses at SNL and LA&S. Last year, he designed the Introduction to Information Technology course for DePaul's Adult Bridge program with Truman College.

At the recommendation of Tangaza Program Director Derise Tolliver, Khananu traveled to Kenya to conduct technology training for faculty in DePaul's program at Tangaza College. While there, he investigated the technology resources at the college, completing a report for Provost Helmut Epp on hardware and software upgrade needs.

CAEA conference: About 145 SNL alumni, students and adult learning practitioners from the business, non-profit, government, health care and higher education sectors attended the Center to Advance Education for Adults (CAEA) “Thriving in Transition” conference on Sept. 22. “The topic was particularly appealing as so many of our students and alumni are experiencing change due to the current economic situation. They loved the chance to reconnect with each other, favorite faculty members and mentors, and DePaul resources,” said CAEA Director Pamela Meyer. In addition to hearing from keynote speaker and author Margaret Wheatley, participants attended a panel discussion with alumni and community partners sharing stories of how they are thriving in transition, followed by a number of workshops to help participants rediscover their capacities to flourish in times of change and uncertainty. “Each of the sessions was designed to give participants a chance to tap their own wisdom and resources for transition, and many reported leaving inspired and re-energized for the challenges and opportunities ahead,” Meyer said. SNL sponsored students, alumni and community members who were unable to afford the conference fee and offered a WebEx connection for participants outside the Chicago area.

Conference resources and photos are available online at snl.depaul.edu/About/Centers/CAEA_Consulting.asp and caeacommcon.ning.com.

Denver alumni reception: Dean Marisa Alicea joined Pat O’Donoghue, vice president for alumni outreach and engagement, at an Oct. 20 reception with Denver-area alumni. The event is one of several receptions O’Donoghue is hosting across the country during the academic year to meet alumni and share new ideas and initiatives.

For more information or to register for an upcoming reception in your area, visit alumni.depaul.edu/events/EventCalendar.aspx.

Dean receives award: In recognition of National Literacy Month in September, Maria Pappas, Cook County treasurer, presented Marisa Alicea, dean of the School for New Learning, with an award for her devotion to continuing education and lifelong learning.

Enrollment record: Despite the troubled economy, DePaul University set a record for enrollment this fall, surpassing 25,000 for the first time. This year, SNL enrolled 2,012 undergraduate and 119 graduate students, compared with 1,992 undergraduate and 135 graduate students for fall 2008. Total university enrollment increased nearly 3 percent to 25,072 this year.

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Keynote speaker and author Margaret Wheatley and CAEA Director Pamela Meyer.



Participants reported they left “Thriving in Transition” inspired and re-energized, CAEA Director Pamela Meyer said.

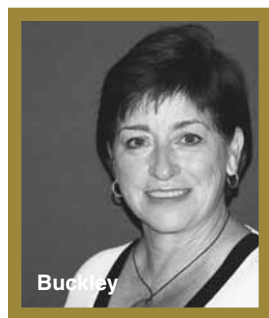


Donna Wicker (B.A. ’83), a software engineer at Sun Microsystems in Louisville, Colo., and SNL Dean Marisa Alicea.



Dean Marisa Alicea and Candace Lothian (B.A. ’95), facilities manager at CB Richard Ellis in Greenwood Village, Colo.

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SNL alum heads university Alumni Board: Transplanted to Chicago from New York City, DePaul University alumna Veronica (Roni) Buckley (B.A. '01) took the opportunity to reinvent herself—from investment bank vice president to adult student. Though she had a successful career in the banking industry and a number of college credits under her belt, Buckley had never finished her college degree. In early 2000, she went back to school to earn her bachelor's degree from the School for New Learning. Since then, she's remained involved with DePaul in numerous ways, serving as a visiting faculty member, professional and academic advisor, facilitator and volunteer. On July 1, 2009, she became president of DePaul's Alumni Board and looks forward to building stronger connections between her alma mater and fellow alumni.

Writing program instructors: Katie Wozniak (LAS B.A. '05, M.A. '07) and Steffanie Triller (LAS M.A. '06) joined SNL's writing program as instructors in the fall quarter. Wozniak worked at DePaul's University Center for Writing-based Learning (UCWbL) while she completed her undergraduate degree in English with a minor in women's and gender studies and her graduate degree in writing. Since completing her M.A., she taught writing at SNL part time while also working as a copy-writer/layout artist at a catalog publishing company. Prior to coming to DePaul to complete her master's degree in English, Triller earned a B.A. in English and religious studies with a writing minor from Washington University in St. Louis. Since completing her master's degree, she was the development director for Amate House while also teaching writing as an adjunct instructor at Truman College and doing freelance consulting on a writing handbook for Bedford/St. Martin's. "They both bring experience as professional writers, Katie in publishing and Steffanie in development, as well as experience teaching writing to adult students, Katie at SNL and Steffanie at Truman College," says SNL Writing Coordinator Michelle Navarre Cleary. "They have helped us to improve the effectiveness of our writing placement process. We are now able to give each incoming student a thoughtful assessment of their writing from an experienced writing teacher." In addition, Wozniak will use her professional writing experience to develop an online professional writing class, while Triller will teach an advanced writing class, *Write Where You Are*, in summer. Both instructors also will explore how best to provide writing support for suburban campus students in addition to that already provided by the UCWbL.



SNL Professor Ann Stanford and Don Sorsa (B.A. '92), director of online learning at the Adler School of Professional Psychology, at SNL's Oct. 16 reception and open house.

Open house: About 150 alumni, students, faculty and friends attended SNL's Oct. 16 reception and open house. The event celebrated SNL's move to its new home in the 14 E. Jackson Blvd. building. Guests toured the new state-of-the-art facilities, and alumni had a chance to catch up with each other and faculty members.

SNL, SOE offer joint degree: Beginning this autumn, a group of teacher candidates began their journey toward Illinois early childhood teacher certification (Type 04, which prepares the candidates to teach young children from birth to age 8). The B.A. in early childhood education (BAECE) program capitalizes on life experience and prior knowledge and skills, while preparing candidates with the training, skills and dispositions necessary to be highly qualified early childhood teachers. In addition to the BAECE program, 14 teachers and teacher assistants began a special limited-enrollment program with scholarships from the Department of Family Support Services of the City of Chicago. Both

projects are a joint effort between SNL and DePaul's School of Education (SOE). "Many teachers working in Head Start and other child care programs in Chicago and the metro region are interested in obtaining a bachelor's degree to enhance their professional credentials," says Gayle Mindes, an education professor. The program offers the advantages of SNL's competency-based approach for adult learners with focus area courses from SOE's early childhood education program. "We aim to connect new college-level learning with the adult student's rich prior, current and, hopefully, future experience working in the early childhood education field," says Dana McDermott, an associate professor in SNL.



Vineyard owner grateful for business training she received at SNL

Residences:

Chicago and Santa Rosa, Calif.

Occupation:

Mack is co-owner of Jemrose Vineyards and assists in the marketing of Jemrose wines for the viognier, syrah, merlot, grenache and blend varieties.

Education:

Mack graduated in 1971 from Immaculata High School, an all-girls, Catholic high school. Two years later, she earned an associate degree from Mayfair College Nursing School. She did undergraduate course work at Loyola University Chicago and DePaul. She earned her degree from SNL in 1979. She also attended Rush University, where she worked on a master's in health systems management.

Vital stats:

Mack has worked in a variety of positions in the health care field. She worked as a registered nurse at Weiss Memorial Hospital, in a management position at Blue Cross Blue Shield, as director of utilization management at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center, and as a co-owner of Health Systems Review, a management consulting firm. She is married to Edwin James Mack, and they have two adult children: Jamie Erin, 23, and Erica Justine, 21.

What I like most about my job is:

"I love being in the beautiful wine country of Sonoma Valley. I enjoy meeting people from all over the world who have the same passion for wine. I also like the farming aspect of my job. Being out amongst the vines and working on the grapes puts you in a Zen-like state. It is very peaceful in Bennett Valley and is a slice of heaven. I welcome all DePaul alumni, staff and faculty to visit us. Go to jemrosevineyards.com for more information."

The biggest challenge I face is:

"Worrying about things I cannot control in the wine-making process, such as the weather and its impact on the grapes. Also, traveling between Chicago and California is difficult because I always want to be in both places. I still have my family and many friends in Chicago."

My SNL experience helped me by:

"Exposing me to various aspects of the business world. SNL allowed me to design my own program, which allowed me to take business classes that I now am using in my real life."

The words I live by are:

"Focus on the moment."

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Alumni benefits aplenty



DEPAUL UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

A DePaul degree is not the only benefit of being a graduate of the university. Alumni are eligible for many perks, including automatic enrollment in the DePaul Alumni Association and access to a network of nearly 140,000 fellow graduates through career networking opportunities and social media groups such as Facebook and LinkedIn.

Attractive discounts also are available through the university and DePaul partners and sponsors. Graduates with an alumni identification card can receive discounts on memberships to the Ray Meyer Recreation and Fitness Center at the Lincoln Park Campus, as well as discounted tickets to performances by The Theatre School and School of Music. The ID card also enables alumni to check out books and materials from the Loop and Lincoln Park libraries and utilize reference and research services.

All DePaul graduates also have access to discounts from our nationwide partners, including special pricing for movies, restaurants and online shopping through Working Advantage, a company that offers savings on a wide array of products. A discount on computers from Dell is another benefit.

If you are planning a vacation, consider the special rates offered through Travel Leaders Vacation Club or check out the car rental discounts offered through Avis, Budget, Enterprise and Hertz. A wide variety of medical and life insurance packages also are available to alumni and their families, including long-term and short-term coverage, as well as discounts on car insurance through GEICO.

For a full list of alumni benefits and information on how to obtain these discounts, visit the alumni and friends Web site at alumni.depaul.edu/benefits.