

**UPDIKE IN PENNSYLVANIA:  
THE FIRST BIENNIAL JOHN UPDIKE SOCIETY CONFERENCE**  
Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Publication of *Rabbit, Run*  
Alvernia University, Reading Pa., Oct 1-Oct. 3

**PROGRAM (pp. 1-4)-REGISTRATION (pp. 5-6)-TRAVEL/HOTEL (pp. 6-10)**

**FRIDAY, OCT. 1**

**7:45 & 8:30am—Shuttle buses** leave hotel

**8am-1pm—Registration** table open. Bernadine Hall

**8-9am—Coffee** near registration table; shuttles from hotel to Alvernia

**9-9:50am—Plenary Session: “Updike in Pennsylvania”** Jack De Bellis (Lehigh University) and Dave Silcox (independent scholar). Bernadine Hall.

**10-10:50am—Family Panel:** Mary Weatherall, Elizabeth Coblach, Miranda Updike, and Michael Updike; James Plath (Illinois Wesleyan University), moderator. Conference Center.

**11:00-2pm—Tour of Plowville/Reading** (bus tour includes lunch at Weaver’s); Hospitality Center open at the Library for those who choose not to do the tour.

**2:30-4:15—Academic session: Updike’s Pennsylvania.** Bernadine Hall.  
“Mapping Pennsylvania.” Ed Allen (The University of South Dakota)  
“Updike’s Lifetime Homage to Pennsylvania.” Sylvie Mathé (Université de Provence, France)  
“When Shillington Shines: On the Innocence of Updike’s Objects.” Scott Daniel Dill (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill)

Moderator: Laurence W. Mazzeno (President Emeritus, Alvernia University)

**4:30-5:30pm—Keynote Speakers: ANN BEATTIE & LINCOLN PERRY.** Francis Hall.

Beattie, the Edgar Allan Poe Professor of Literature and Creative Writing at the University of Virginia, is the author of 15 novels and short story collections, among them *Secrets and Surprises*, *Where You'll Find Me and Other Stories*, and, forthcoming, *Walks with Men*. Her story, "Janus," was selected by Updike for his *Best American Short Stories of the Century* collection. She will talk about Updike's short fiction from the perspective of a short story writer. Lincoln Perry, who completed and exhibited a series of paintings inspired by the Rabbit tetralogy, is a painter of national reputation and Distinguished Visiting Artist at the University of Virginia. His work has been featured in solo exhibitions in New York, Washington, D.C. He will show images and talk about the Rabbit series.

**6-8pm—Alvernia University reception** with hors d'oeuvres and drinks, hosted by Alvernia University President Tom Flynn, a Society member. Location TBA.

**8:30—Last shuttle bus** for return to hotel.

## **SATURDAY, OCT. 2**

**7:45—First shuttle** leaves for Alvernia from hotel.

**8am-12:15pm—Registration.** Bernadine Hall

**8-9am—Coffee** near registration table

**9-10:45am—Concurrent academic sessions.** Bernadine Hall.

### **Panel 1: Reading Rabbit**

"One Big Swamp of Miserable Humanity: Philadelphia, Urban Decline, and the 'Rabbit' Novels." Richard Martin (University of London, England)

"'Getting' Rabbit: Teaching the Tetralogy in Post-9/11, Multicultural, Urban America." Jason Dubow (St. Francis College)

"*Rabbit, Run* and Translation." Biljana Dojcinovic (Belgrade University, Serbia)

Moderator: Jeffrey Ludwig (University of Rochester)

### **Panel 2: The Pennsylvania Influence**

"How Updike Creates Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania Creates Updike." Robert Batchelor (Kent State University)

"Reading/Reading (Pa.)." Richard Androne (Albright College)

"Rabbit, the Pennsylvania Dutch, and Updike's Early Fiction." Bradley Rogers (independent scholar)

Moderator: Susan Guay (Alvernia University)

**11-11:50—Classmates panels.** Bernadine Hall.

Featuring Updike's Shillington H.S. classmates. Part 1: Jackie Hirneisen Kendall and Joan Venne Youngerman; Part 2: Harlan Boyer, Emerson Gundy, and Jimmy Trexler; Dave Silcox (Updike's Shillington contact), moderator

**12-3pm—Tour of Shillington/Reading** (includes box lunch); Hospitality Center in Library open for those who choose not to take the tour.

**3:30-4:45—Concurrent academic sessions.** Bernadine Hall.

**Panel 1: Updike and the Short Fiction/Novellas**

“‘Tracks of His Ancestors’: Personal Archaeology in John Updike's Later Pennsylvania Stories.” Robert Luscher (University of Nebraska at Kearney)

“Faith and ‘Fundamental Anxiety’ in John Updike's *The Maple Stories*.” Avis Hewitt (Grand Valley State University)

“Motifs as structure and theme in narratives of loss in *The Afterlife and Other Stories*.” Brian Duffy (Dublin City University, Ireland)

Moderator: Jack De Bellis (Lehigh University, emeritus)

**Panel 2: *Rabbit, Run* and Its Progenitors**

“*Rabbit, Run*: A Maslovian Reading.” Amulya Kishore Purohit (GM College, Sambalpur University, India)

“Updike's Great Ambivalence: Rabbit and Emersonian Romanticism.” Joseph McDade (Houston Community College)

“Wild about Harry: Popular Music in John Updike's Rabbit Tetralogy.” Adam Sexton

Moderator: Peter Bailey (St. Lawrence University)

**5 & 5:15pm—Shuttle buses** leave for hotel.

**6:15—Shuttle buses** leave for reception.

**6:30-8:30pm—Reception at The Reading Public Library**, with buffet and entertainment sponsored by The Reading Public Library and The John Updike Review; playlets from the Rabbit novels performed by The Reading Community Players Theatre, and the cover of the first issue of *The John Updike Review* unveiled.

**7pm—First shuttle bus** to hotel.

**7:30pm—Last shuttle bus** to hotel.

**SUNDAY, OCT. 3**

**8am—Shuttle bus** leaves for Alvernia.

**9-10:45—Plenary Session.** Bernadine Hall.

“On the Road with Updike.” Donald J. Greiner (University of South Carolina)

**11-12:45—Concurrent academic sessions.** Bernadine Hall.

**Panel 1: Other Aspects of Updike's World**

"The Hamiltons on John Updike: Introducing a Religious Perspective." John McTavish (independent scholar, Ontario, Canada)

"More than Just Looking: Updike's Personal and Poetic Relationship with Art." James Plath (Illinois Wesleyan University)

"Engendering Pleasure: Srn' 'gara Rasa in John Updike's *S*." Pradipta Sengupta (M.U.C. Women's College, Burdwan, India)

Moderator: Mary Carol Fee (independent scholar)

**Panel 2: Rabbit Restive**

"The Conscience of Rabbit: Innocence and Guilt in the Portrayal of Harry Angstrom." Jerry Blair

"John Updike's 'Rabbit' Tetralogy: Motion without Detection, and Searching without Finding." Randall Wambold (independent scholar)

"Rabbit Running on the Road." Daniel Quentin Miller (Suffolk University)

Moderator: Matthew Shipe (Washington University)

**1-1:50pm—Lunch at Alvernia.** Student Center.

**2-3:45—Concurrent academic sessions.** Bernadine Hall.

**Panel 1: Rabbit Pursuits**

"Women and Rabbit." James Schiff (University of Cincinnati)

"Harry Angstrom's Attempts at Self-Deification in Updike's *Rabbit, Run*." William Neal (Campbellsville University)

"Play as Paradox in *Rabbit, Run*." Nelvin Vos (Muhlenberg College, emeritus)

Moderator: Marshall Boswell (Rhodes College)

**Panel 2: Rabbit Rests**

"On the Links: From Eagle to Triple Bogey in the 'Rabbit' Tetralogy." Peter Bailey (St. Lawrence University)

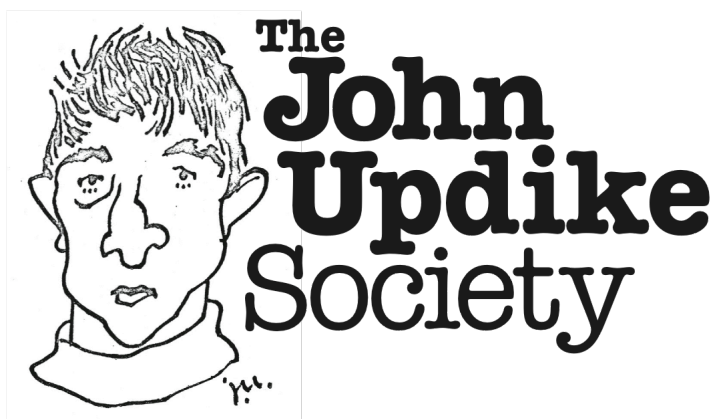
"Accepting Aging in an Ageist Society: Aging in John Updike's Fiction, from *Rabbit, Run* to the Later Short Stories." Kazuko Kashiwara (Kansai Gaidai University, Japan)

"The Long Goodbye: Historicizing Pennsylvania in *Rabbit Remembered* and *My Father's Tears*." Matthew Shipe (Washington University)

Moderator: Takashi Nakatani (Yokohama City University, Japan)

**4-5:00pm—Business meeting** of The John Updike Society, with closing remarks and announcement of 2012 conference site. Bernadine Hall.

**5:30-7pm— (Additional fee required) Closing Dinner at the Peanut Bar**, where Updike frequently ate when he worked for the *Reading Eagle*, with Richard Davison reading from *Rabbit, Run*, as well as Updike's descriptions of Reading, Shillington



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## **REGISTRATION FORM**

**Name:**

**Guest name(s):**

**Affiliation:**

**Address:**

**Email:**

**Telephone:**

**As part of an agreement with Alvernia, the keynote speaker and both panels will be open to local residents and students, but full conference participation requires registration.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Conference registration (\$85 per person if paid by July 1, 2010, \$120 after July 1; includes all sessions, tours, lunches, and receptions *except* for Peanut Bar final dinner)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Dinner at the Peanut Bar, Sunday, Oct. 3 (\$30 per person—we must get 50 people or this event will be cancelled and refunds given)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **John Updike Society membership (if not already paid for 2010; \$25 regular, \$20 for students and retirees)**

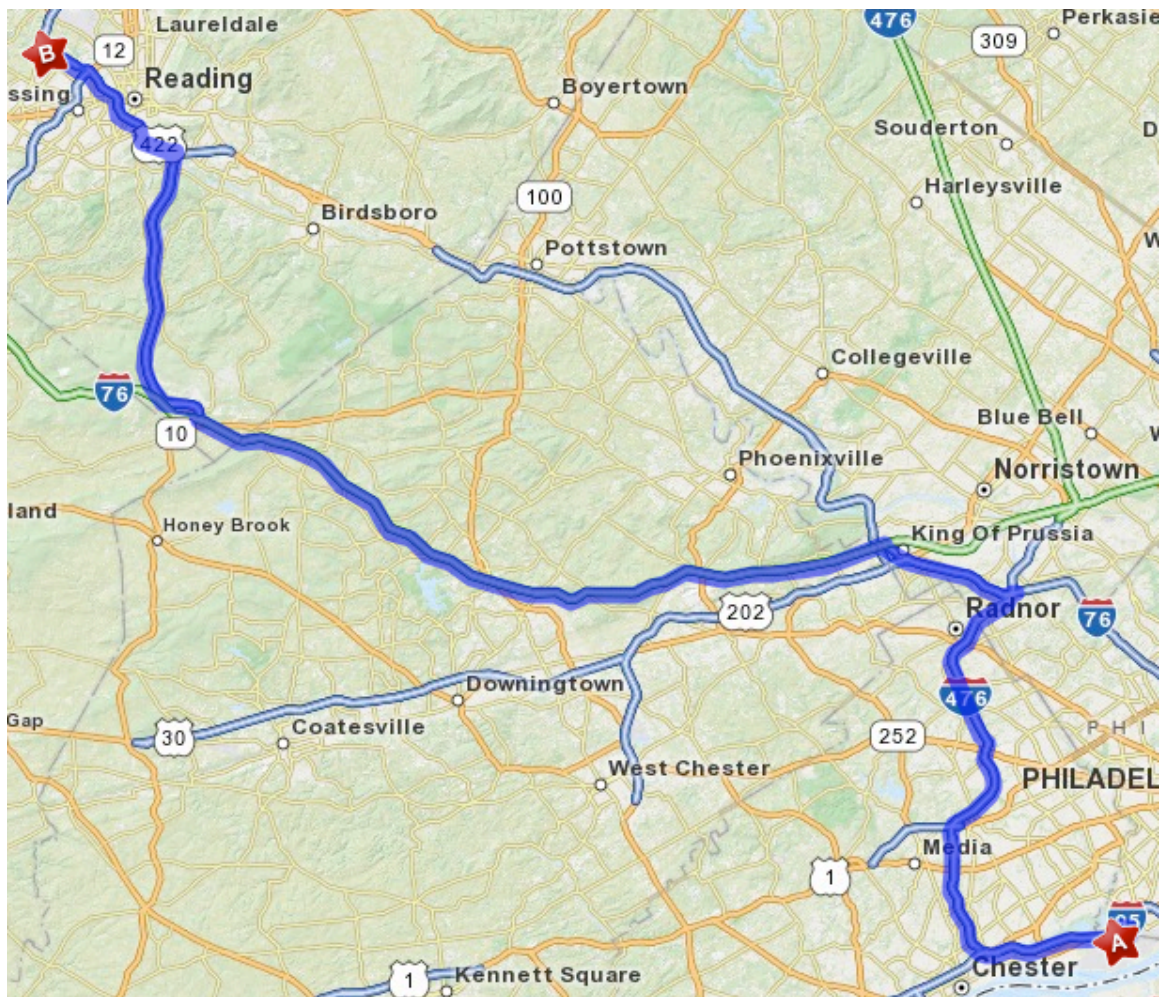
\_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL (Make check payable to The John Updike Society; sorry, but no credit cards accepted. Contact James Plath to make other arrangements if check is difficult/impossible)**

**Send your registration and payment to: James Plath, Dept. of English, Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL 61702-2900**

## **TRAVEL & HOTEL INFORMATION**

Berks County has a population of 373,638, and Reading is the county seat. Overlooking the city is Mount Penn (called Mount Judge in the Rabbit novels). Reading, “The Pretzel City” and home to the Reading Phillies, is also the birthplace of artist Keith Haring, poet Wallace Stevens, and country singer Taylor Swift. Daniel Boone’s birthplace is near Reading, and the March King, John Philip Sousa, died here in 1932. Crystal Cave Park, the most popular natural attraction in Pennsylvania, is in nearby Kutztown, and it’s a short drive to Amish country. It’s beautiful in the fall.

The Reading/Shillington area is about a one hour and fifteen-minute drive northwest of Philadelphia, the closest major airport. There are no regional buses, so you’ll need to rent a car or make arrangements with other conference goers to share rides. It’s Pennsylvania Dutch country, and conference participants will enjoy the drive.



DIRECTIONS from Philadelphia International Airport (A on map) to Homewood Suites-Reading, 2801 Papermill Rd., Reading (B on map):

1. Merge onto I-95 S via ramp on the left toward I-476/Delaware (5.7 miles)
2. Merge onto I-476 N via Exit 7 toward Plymouth Meeting (16.4 miles)
3. Merge onto I-76 W via Exit 168 toward Valley Forge ; toll (33.4 miles)
4. Merge onto Morgantown Expressway/I-176 N via Exit 298 toward Morgantown/Reading (11.7 miles)
5. Merge onto US-222 N via the exit on the left, toward Allentown (1.6 miles)
6. Take Spring Ridge Drive Exit, and turn left onto Spring Ridge Drive (.1 + .1 miles)
7. Turn left onto Papermill Rd. The conference hotel is on the left.

There is also a smaller regional airport at Allentown which places you 51 minutes from Reading, or Reading itself, but flights into those airports are limited. It's easier flying into and obtaining rental cars in Philadelphia, and cheaper as well.

Conference participants wishing to coordinate rides might start a discussion on the Society's Facebook page (accessible on the left menu of the website, <http://blogs.iwu.edu/johnupdikesociety>) or use the comment feature on the website story announcing these program details.



## **HOMEWOOD SUITES BY HILTON-READING**

**2801 Papermill Rd.  
Reading, PA 19610  
(610) 736-3100**

The official hotel for the First Biennial John Updike Society Conference is Homewood Suites by Hilton, in Wyomissing, Pa. The Society has reserved a block of rooms, and members can book rooms at any time through a special conference reservation website or by phoning (610) 736-3100.



It's a beautiful facility that's conveniently located near Shillington, and as a special courtesy the hotel will provide space, a free dinner, and 20-cent beer and wine from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, September 30, so arriving members can meet and greet each other. A complimentary breakfast is included, and the hotel has a pool, basketball court, and fitness room. There are two computers available with high-speed Internet access, so you'll be able to print out your boarding passes for the return flight.

The conference rate is \$119 per night, plus local taxes of approximately \$13, and you can get the conference rate by booking as late as September 2. They are taking reservations now. You can book online by pasting this link into your browser and visiting this special website:

[http://homewoodsuites.hilton.com/en/hw/groups/personalized/RDGPAHW-JUS-20100930/index.jhtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](http://homewoodsuites.hilton.com/en/hw/groups/personalized/RDGPAHW-JUS-20100930/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG). Right now the site has a glitch, so if you're staying the night of October 3 as well (as many will be doing, since it's the night of our closing dinner) you have to book the three nights to get the discount and write a memo asking for the fourth night. They're trying to get this fixed.