



## **THE 3RD BIENNIAL JOHN UPDIKE SOCIETY CONFERENCE, Oct. 1-4 2014**

**Celebrating the Society's acquisition of The John Updike Childhood Home**

**Sessions hosted by Alvernia University, Reading Pa.**

**Receptions hosted by Alvernia University and Albright College**

**Official hotel: The historic Abraham Lincoln, Reading, Pa.**

**Conference directors: Sue Guay and Maria Mogford**

### **WEDNESDAY, OCT. 1**

**7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**—Registration and reception (Abe Lincoln, Washington Room)

### **THURSDAY, OCT. 2**

**8 a.m.**—Shuttle from the Abe Lincoln Hotel to Alvernia University

**8 – 8:30 a.m.**—Registration/refreshments (Francis Hall Atrium)

**8:30 – 9:30 a.m.**—Plenary Session: “Chatterbox and the Young JU,” Don Greiner (University of South Carolina) (Francis Hall Auditorium)

**9:45 – 10:45 a.m.**—Academic Sessions

**Panel 1: Francis Hall 402** - Moderator, Peter J. Bailey (St. Lawrence University)

“Mail Chauvinism: John Updike’s Fascination with the USPS and the Decline of American Community,” Yoav Fromer (New School and Tel Aviv University, Israel)

“Reconciliation with Nature: Alexandra’s Overcoming the Predicament of Old Age in *The Widows of Eastwick*,” Kazuko Kashiwara (Kansai Gaidai University, Japan)

**Panel 2: Francis Hall 403** - Moderator, James Plath (Illinois Wesleyan University)

“Emerson’s Influence on *S.*,” Joseph McDade (Houston Community College)

“Adultery Ritualized: Textual/Sexual Pleasure in Updike’s *A Month of Sundays*,” Pradipta Sengupta (M.U.C. Women’s College, India)

**11:00 am– 12:15 p.m.**—Lunch w/ticket (Student Center Cafeteria)

**12:15 p.m. (optional)**—Shuttle available for return to Abe Lincoln Hotel; will not return until 6:15 p.m.

**12:30 – 1:45 p.m.**—Academic Session: Francis Hall Auditorium - Moderator, Bob Batchelor (Thiel College)

“Updike and the Taste of Pennsylvania,” Scott Dill (Case Western Reserve University)

“New York Intellectual—from Shillington, Pennsylvania,” Yoav Fromer (New School and Tel Aviv University, Israel)

“Locating Rabbit Angstrom,” Matthew Koch (Tarrant County College)

**2 - 3:15 p.m.**—Plenary Session: David Updike on “Family Archaeology: pictures, objects, words” (Francis Hall Auditorium)

**3:30 – 4:45 p.m.**—Academic Session: Francis Hall Auditorium - Moderator, Laurence W. Mazzeno (Alvernia University)

“New Directions in Updike Studies: A Conversation,” Bob Batchelor (Thiel College), D. Quentin Miller (Suffolk University), James Schiff (University of Cincinnati)

**5 p.m.**—Shuttle to Abe Lincoln Hotel

**6:15 p.m.**—Shuttle to Alvernia University

**6:30 – 8 p.m.**—Welcoming Reception for John Updike Society Members, hosted by Alvernia University and Dr. Tom Flynn (Franco Library, Bonaventure Room)

**8-9 p.m.**—Keynote Speech: Chip Kidd, the Knopf artist responsible for numerous John Updike book designs (Francis Hall Auditorium)

**9:15 p.m.**—Shuttle to Abe Lincoln Hotel

## **FRIDAY, OCT. 3**

**8 a.m.**—Shuttle from Abe Lincoln Hotel to Alvernia University

**8 – 8:30 a.m.**—Registration/Refreshments (Bernardine Hall Lobby)

**8:30 – 9:30 a.m.**— Plenary Session: Ward Briggs (University of South Carolina) and Biljana Dojčinović (Belgrade University, Serbia) “John & Blaga: The Bulgarian Poetess (an illustrated talk)” (Bernardine Lecture Hall)

**9:45 – 11 a.m.**—Academic Sessions

**Panel 1: Bernardine Hall 001** - Moderator, Dennis P. Ledden (Butler, Pa.)  
“Making Amends: Updike’s ‘Gesturing’ and ‘Killing,’” Peter J. Bailey (St. Lawrence University)

“The Ambiguous Ending in ‘Nakedness,’” Avis Hewitt (Grand Valley State University)

“Changing Names and the Keys to Memory in Updike’s ‘Walter Briggs,’” Rob Luscher (University of Nebraska at Kearney)

**Panel 2: Bernardine Hall 005** - Moderator, Sylvie Mathé (Aix-Marseille University, France)

“Hidden Dialogs between Two Americas: Brazilian and North American Histories in Updike’s *Brazil*,” Carla Ferreira (Federal University of São Carlos, Brazil)

“Updike in China,” Yue Wang (Suffolk University)

“Energy Crisis: Toyota and the Three Mile Island Accident in Updike’s *Rabbit Is Rich*,” Takashi Nakatani (Yokohama City University, Japan)

**11:30 a.m.**—Shuttle to The John Updike Childhood Home

**11:45 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.**—Our large group will be broken up into two smaller groups for 1) “A Soft ‘October Afternoon’ in Shillington” walking tour, and 2) a tour of the house and a picnic in the side yard of the Updike house at 117 Philadelphia Ave., featuring a performance of “Talkin’ Rabbit (Harry Angstrom’s Blues)” by member Jonathan Houlon. Groups will switch at midpoint.

**2:45 p.m.**—Shuttle to the Reading Public Museum, which Updike wrote was a profound influence on him, where members can tour the museum on their own and view a special exhibit of objects described by Updike that were brought out of storage especially for this occasion

**3 – 5:30 p.m.**—Tour of museum and gardens (including *The Drinking Girl*); Remarks on John Updike’s connections to Albright College by Prof. Richard Androne at a reception hosted by Albright College

**5:45 p.m.**—Shuttle to Abe Lincoln Hotel

**6:00 or later**—Dinner **on own** at restaurants within walking distance of hotel; restaurant suggestions will be provided, among them the Peanut Bar, where Updike hung out when he worked at the Reading Eagle

## **SATURDAY, OCT. 4**

**8 a.m.**—Shuttle from Abe Lincoln Hotel to Alvernia University

**8 – 8:30 a.m.**—Registration/refreshments (Bernardine Hall Lobby)

**8:30 – 9:15 a.m.**—Plenary Session: Jack De Bellis (*John Updike's Early Years*) interviews Updike classmates (Bernardine Lecture Hall)

**9:30 – 10:45 a.m.**—Academic Sessions

**Panel 1: Bernardine Hall 001** - Moderator, D. Quentin Miller (Suffolk University)

“Metamorphosis: Ovid and John Updike’s *The Centaur*,” Richard Androne (Albright College)

“Updike, Melville and the Domestic Novel,” Christopher Love and Jeffrey Pusch

**Panel 2: Bernardine Hall 005** - Moderator, Marshall Boswell (Rhodes College)  
David Porter, “Teaching Updike’s Early Pennsylvania Short Stories, his Pennsylvania Poetry, and the Rabbit Tetralogy to Senior Citizens,” David Porter (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Penn State)

Adam Sexton, “Experience of *The Centaur* in the Design School Classroom”

**11:00 a.m. – 3 p.m.**—Local flavor bus tour. Will include brief stops at Plow Cemetery and church, the Pagoda, land once owned by the Updikes, a drive past the Poorhouse wall, City Park and local cemetery, and a tour of a small local pretzel factory. Lunch on the road **on your own**.

**3:45 p.m.**—Return to Abe Lincoln

**4 – 5 p.m.**—All are encouraged to attend **The John Updike Society Annual Membership Meeting**, when the next conference location will be announced (Abe Lincoln Hotel, Madison Room)

**6 p.m.**—Closing dinner at the historic Abraham Lincoln Hotel, with Keynote Speaker Adam Begley, author of the recently published and universally acclaimed biography *Updike*. (Presidential Ballroom)