

FACULTY & STAFF

Dr. Robert Porter Tribute Leaves Behind a Legacy of Art and Influence

Dr. Robert Porter was a man of passion. His life as an artist, art historian, teacher and mentor deeply influenced many people at Queens University of Charlotte. The Queens family lost a beloved friend on December 29, 2002, when Bob Porter lost his long battle with cancer.

Known for his generosity, quick wit and love of life, Porter will be remembered by many for his insistence that "art is not a 'thing' to be observed passively, but also requires a creative act by the 'observer.'" He influenced many young artists and loved to see his students develop passion for their work.

Porter was born on July 14, 1936, in Harlan County, Kentucky. He received a degree in psychology from Princeton and later became an investment banker in Richmond, Virginia. After years in the banking world, Porter quit to attend UNC Chapel Hill, where he received a graduate degree in art history. He began an art history program at Virginia Tech and was the first art historian at that university.

During his 15 years at Queens, Porter's mission was to teach people to "relearn how to see the world," a quote from the French philosopher Merleau-Ponty, whom Porter admired. Known for his laid-back style and humor, Porter urged his students to be innovative and to take risks with their art. Emily Benton, a rising senior who had Dr. Porter for pre-renaissance art history says, "I found his artwork to be inspiring while I was studying concepts for my design theory class. He really knew how to draw the viewer into his work, and I enjoyed having him as a teacher. He was a distinct character, and there are a lot of people who miss him."

Porter found humor in life and in art. He used that humor to help students see that anything could be art, be it scraps of metal formed into sculpture,

abandoned sinks or even plain blocks of wood. He loved teaching and sharing his wit and love of art with others.

Dr. Norris Frederick, vice president for academic affairs, remembers Porter as his mentor upon arriving at Queens: "Through good fortune for me as a new faculty member, Bob was assigned as my mentor. He soon told me with a smile that his previous two mentees never lasted beyond one year at Queens. So I told him his advice would be invaluable: I would do exactly the opposite of what he advised me to do!" Frederick says he also remembers Porter saying, "A work is not a statement by the artist of who he is, but part of the search by the artist as to who he might be."

As much a philosopher as an artist, Porter believed that, in the words of Jean Tinguely, "Life is play, movement, continual change. Only the fear of death makes us want to stop life, to 'fix' it impossibly forever. The moment life is fixed, it is no longer true; it is dead, and therefore uninteresting."

Porter's passion and love for art and for life will continue to be deeply felt by those who knew and loved him. His influence on Queens will be felt for years to come, especially through the newly established Porter, Crown, Johnson art scholarship.





Norris Frederick named V.P. for Academic Affairs

At the conclusion of a national search, Dr. Norris Frederick has been named vice president for academic affairs. Frederick previously served as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. An active philosophy professor at Queens since 1990, Frederick has received three major teaching awards from the University.

"Norris has demonstrated both excellent performance and unwavering commitment to the educational mission of our University. He has been a strong advocate for faculty, for high quality academic programs, and for our students," stated President Dr. Pamela S. Lewis.

Frederick is a graduate of Davidson College and holds a master's degree and doctorate in philosophy from the University of Georgia.

"Queens provides a transforming educational experience for our students, and I am excited to be a part of the strategic direction of the University and our academic programs," stated Dr. Frederick.

Frederick replaces Ms. Catherine Anderson, who will return to the faculty in a full-time teaching position in the McColl Graduate School of Business at Queens. Dr. Mike Tarabek has been named interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Tarabek is an associate professor of mathematics.

Professors Receive Recognition for Speeches

A speech by Dr. Charles M. Reed, William S. Lee Professor of History at Queens, entitled "The Place of the Liberal Arts in the Residential College" has been published in the May 1, 2003 edition of *Vital Speeches of the Day*. This publication has collected over 15,000 speeches since 1934,



feeling it important to preserve and record the addresses of important leaders of public opinion, as these words best represent contemporary thought in America. Dr. Reed delivered his address on March 31, 2003, at "A Symposium on the Educational Contributions of the Residential Liberal Arts College to Today's Students" to the students, faculty and trustees of Catawba College, Salisbury, North Carolina.

On November 1, 2001, *Vital Speeches of the Day* also published an address given by Dr. Frances McClain, Livingstone Professor of Music at Queens. McClain delivered her speech, "The Music in Your Soul: A Celebration of Life" on September 18, 2001, to the Queens students, faculty and staff at Fall Convocation. Just recently, this speech was chosen to be included as a model speech in the latest edition of *Public Speaking: Connecting You and Your Audience* by Andrews and Andrews.

The following is an excerpt from Dr. Reed's speech. For the complete version, visit www.queens.edu/odyssey.

The Place of the Liberal Arts in the Residential College

by Dr. Charles M. Reed

Some of you are old enough to have seen on TV one of the elaborate ceremonies surrounding the British monarchy. Oh, do they know how to do it up right – a coronation, a funeral, a wedding – all of them glittering spectacles with horse-drawn carriages, footmen in bright livery, music that makes you want to stand at attention in front of the TV throughout the entire ceremony.

We Americans love it even more than the British, who after all have to pay for it. Our response: Gosh, tradition is a wonderful thing – all those hal- lowed, ageless customs.

It therefore comes as a surprise to learn that most of those ancient-looking ceremonies were invented within the last century and a half. Interesting idea, that we can invent tradition.

What about another tradition, the tradition of the Liberal Arts? What does that term call to mind? A constant in the midst of change? Surely old? Maybe too old? Maybe a dinosaur, hopelessly out of sync with our fast-changing world?

Today, in the first half of the program, we on the panel will approach the liberal arts in a historical context, and for a very good reason: the liberal arts you know are even newer than the ceremonies surrounding the British monarchy.

I mean that what we call a Liberal Arts education today is worlds away from the liberal arts prior to the Civil War.

Our goal today isn't just a trip down memory lane; rather we want to see if there are elements of older models worth retrieving. I've been asked to begin all the way back, with the ancient Greco-Roman model of the liberal arts. Permit me, please, to dwell more on the "spirit" of the earliest liberal arts than on the "letter."

2003 Faculty Award Winners

Dr. Robert W. Whalen

Professor of History
Hunter Hamilton Love of Teaching Award

The Hunter-Hamilton Love of Teaching Award seeks out and honors teachers whose way of life uniquely inspires the full potential of each student. This award is given to a Queens University of Charlotte faculty member judged by his or her peers to display an exemplary love of teaching. The award is given by the late Dr. James Pressly Hamilton and Grey Hunter Hamilton '62 to honor their parents.

Dr. Donald Wallace

Associate Professor of Business Administration
J. B. Fuqua Award

Dr. William Sparks

Assistant Professor of Communication and Management
J. B. Fuqua Award

Ms. Cathy Smith Bowers

Assistant Professor of English and Artist-in-Residence
J. B. Fuqua Award

The J. B. Fuqua Foundation, based in Atlanta, has selected Queens University of Charlotte as one of a number of elite institutions that recognizes outstanding professors through an awards program funded by the Fuqua Foundation. The J. B. Fuqua Distinguished Educator Award celebrates and rewards the highest qualities of excellence in education. Recipients demonstrate outstanding teaching techniques and a personal commitment to helping Queens students succeed, both in and out of the classroom. Award winners are selected by the most recent graduating classes at Queens.



Cathy Smith Bowers (Left) and Dr. William Sparks (Right) both won the J. B. Fuqua Distinguished Educator Award.

Dr. Mark Kelso

Associate Professor of Political Science
Joseph W. Grier Jr. Distinguished Professor Award

The Joseph W. Grier Jr. Distinguished Professor Award was established in honor of the former Chairman of the Queens University of Charlotte Board of Trustees. Nominations for this award are solicited from members of the Board of Trustees and the Alumni Board, from faculty, staff and administration, as well as from representatives of the Student Government Association. The recipient must have made an outstanding contribution to Queens and the teaching and learning process.

Dr. Michael Tarabek

Associate Professor of Mathematics
William S. Lee Distinguished Professor Award

The William S. Lee Distinguished Professor Award was established in 1990 to recognize the full-time teaching faculty member at Queens University of Charlotte who has done the most to enhance and promote understanding and cooperation between science and mathematics and the other academic divisions of the University. The award honors the late William S. Lee, retired chairman of Duke Power Company, who served on the Queens Board of Trustees for many years, including four years as chairman. His life and work as an engineer and a scientist were motivated by the vision of a just, enlightened, competent and humane world order.



Brian Ralph named V.P. for Enrollment Management

Dr. Brian C. Ralph joined the Queens administration as vice president for enrollment management on April 14, 2003. The position of vice president for enrollment management is new to Queens University of Charlotte's leadership structure and is vital to the long-term growth plans of the University. In the new position Ralph will oversee Queens entire enrollment process and work to ensure student retention.

"We are very excited to have Brian joining our Queens family," said President Dr. Pamela S. Lewis. "His extensive background in enrollment management and marketing will be critical as we continue to work toward our vision of Queens University of Charlotte becoming one of the nation's finest small private institutions."

Ralph most recently served as the vice president for enrollment management and marketing at Bethany College, where he led marketing efforts resulting in an 18 percent enrollment gain.

"I am very excited to have the opportunity to experience the renaissance here at Queens. The University has all the right ingredients and is in position to achieve its goals and become a world-class organization," states Ralph.

Ralph received his bachelor's degree from Bloomsberg University, followed by an MBA and a doctorate of philosophy from Ohio University. He and his wife Kristen have two children and are expecting their third in August.