



Paul B. Newman (1919-2004)

by Dr. Richard Goode, Professor of English

On Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2004, Queens lost a great teacher, friend and mentor to hundreds of students when Paul Baker Newman, 85, passed away as the result of a fall.

Paul will be remembered by all who knew him as the quintessential college professor. Beneath his rumpled exterior was a man of many talents – a scholar, poet and film maker, a lovely man with an agile mind, a keen wit and a deep regard for the truth, which he rigorously pursued in all of his classes. He loved to teach, he loved what he taught, and his students loved him for that.

Trained early as a scientist, Paul majored in physics at the University of Chicago and earned a master of fine arts in creative writing from the University of Iowa Writers Workshop. He then served as a weather officer in WWII, in North Africa and Europe. While in the service he kept a journal, which he filled with deft observations of people and events, the hunks and colors of the real world, that would later appear in his remarkable poetry.

After the war, Paul completed his Ph.D. in literature at Chicago, traveled widely in Europe, sailed the Caribbean and taught for a while in Puerto Rico. He joined the Queens faculty in 1963, serving as chair of the Humanities Division (1978-1988) and as head of the English Department from 1978 until his

retirement in 1989. He received the Faculty Teaching Award and the Grier Professor of the Year Award as well as numerous awards for his books of poetry.

But a man is more than a resume. Paul was a true adventurer. A word-smith and image maker, with the observation of a scientist, the wisdom of a philosopher and a deep impulse for the good and the beautiful.

Each of us has special memories of Paul, because he treated each of us specially. This was his unique gift as a teacher. His students in literature and creative writing classes he treated as future scholars and poets, challenging, encouraging and demanding from them the very best they could give.

Who can forget the Honors English course Paul taught for years? It was legendary, especially for the exams which were marathons. In every exam period, an epidemic of “Newman’s wrist” would break out in the McEwen Building. A Blue Book, a pen and one question, taking you from the Greeks through the Renaissance to the modern world. If you didn’t mention the Ladder of Love or Apollo and Dionysus somewhere in there, you didn’t have a chance!

Paul was also known for his literary slide shows. Long before the audio visual packages and PowerPoint presentations of today’s classrooms, Paul stimulated his students’ imaginations with visual images of Yeats’ Ireland, Joyce’s Dublin and Hemingway’s Europe, using slides he made of his travels to the places these writers described in their works. What an expe-

rience it was for students to walk through Paris and travel to Spain with Jake Barnes and Brett Ashley from “The Sun Also Rises.”

Reading Paul’s poetry takes you on a journey through the lifetime of his travels and his loves: the Carolina coast, Greek mythology, American history and, of course, his wife, Anne. Dr. Michael Kobre, now director of Queens graduate MFA Program who joined the English department after Paul’s retirement, recalls spending many hours with Paul discussing creative writing: “It was always an honor to know and work with Paul, but I also had the good fortune to share manuscripts with him fairly regularly in the years after he retired. Paul had a keen critical eye that could unfailingly detect what was genuine – and what wasn’t – in a manuscript. And, of course, he was a fantastic writer himself. His writing consistently demonstrated classical virtues: a well-shaped structure, always with mythic resonance; vivid and accurate details; a brisk plot; fully realized characters; and, of course, an extraordinary command of language, which was at times terse and direct and at other times powerfully lyrical.”

Paul is also fondly recalled by a long-time colleague whose friendship grew closer in recent years. Phyllis Pharr, professor of physical education, came to Queens the year after Paul, but their friendship blossomed, quite simply, because Paul, who was no longer driving, needed a ride. “Can I give you a ride?” Pharr asked, and their friendship “flourished throughout our weekly sojourns to the grocery store, the pharmacy, wherever Paul had to go. How fortunate I was to be privy to the creative ideas of Paul Newman and observe those ideas take shape in the form of novels. Time spent with Paul assured a lesson on history, art, music, literature, geography or climatology. What a blessing that he was able to use his writing skills and put all of that knowledge to work in his creations. My life was enhanced through my friendship with Paul.”

Gene Burton, former director of admissions and dean of students at Queens, agrees, adding that “the lives

of many Queens students are enhanced because they studied with Paul Newman."

Paul was, as Kobre observes, "a genuine man of letters. He had a rare depth and breadth of knowledge. He'll be missed."

But not forgotten. Paul will live on in his poems and novels, in the accomplishments of all his students and in the memories of all who knew him.

In the final analysis, Paul is a hard man to pin down. He was a living oxymoron, a gentle, sensitive man wrapped around a Hemingway hero. He joyed in the physicality of the world while thriving on philosophical speculations. He was a bit like that New Yorker cartoon "James Joyce's Refrigerator," with its to-do list attached: "1. Call bank. 2. Take dry cleaning. 3. Forge in the smithy of my soul the uncreated conscience of my race. 4. Call Mom."

He was an eclectic man – a wanderer, a poet, a teacher, a scholar, a wrestler with big ideas. But above all he was a story teller. Each of us who knew him, worked with him, or studied with him, has a Paul Newman story. And that is the way he will live in our memories, as a collection of stories, open to interpretation.

No matter how hard we try to formulate the essence of the man, to find the words to shape an image of who he was and what he created, of how he loved, and how he lived life whole, we will fail. So it is best to let Paul have the last word in his poem "Dark Sun," from "The Ladder of Love" (1970):

"Dark Sun"

*Everything seems different to me,
it seems that I no longer hear
the uproar deafening and denying
of the falls of seas that burn and clear
within my mind and leave it stunned
and whole.*

*Flesh filled by the inflaming sun
I die into my early selves, my eyes
blindingly infused with sight, and all
my clear and too cool visions overblown
by a darkness glowing and refusing
to be summed up, said, or known.*

An honorarium has been established in the name of Paul Newman to recognize an outstanding student writer at Queens each year. To make a contribution, call 704 337-2231

An Alumna Remembers Dr. Paul Newman

By Rebecca Scholl Schenck '53

Paul Baker Newman would have liked the memorial service held to celebrate his life.

On Sunday, Oct. 10, 2004, friends and family members gathered in Belk Chapel on the Queens campus, which had long been his second home. With his daughter, Betsy, and son, Bill, in attendance, not only Paul, but also his dear wife, Anne, seemed present as people spoke of the man, the writer and the teacher who had been their friend.

Dr. Murray Newman, the brother whose scholarship Paul admired, spoke of their growing up and their keeping up with each other through the years. President Emeritus Dr. Billy Wireman expressed his appreciation of Paul. Faculty colleagues, Richard Atnally, Ted Weiant, Richard Goode and Cathy Smith Bowers, reminisced about their relationships with him, and Bowers described her awe of the detailed notes on his writing that he turned over to her. Going beyond the call of faculty, Phyllis Pharr told poignant stories about driving her friend Paul to Harris-Teeter for groceries, her sick mother in the back seat as deaf as Paul had become.

Jennifer Garner spoke as a Queens graduate of 1992, and as a congregational response Rebecca Schenck told of returning to Queens after a 20-year absence and taking Advanced Composition, a class of girls half her age, taught by a bearded poet named Paul Newman. She nominated him as Best Teacher, an award that he later received and richly deserved.

Put these memories in a setting of the Twenty-third Psalm, with passages from Job and Ecclesiastes read by Chaplain Diane Mowrey; special music, "His Eye Is On The Sparrow" sung by James Glenn and played by Elaine Miller and "Amazing Grace" sung by Thomas Moore; and a beautiful luncheon reception in Burwell Hall at the end.



Queens Welcomes Randy Brantley

Randy Brantley joins University Advancement at Queens University of Charlotte as the new associate vice president for development. Most recently, Brantley served as director of corporate and foundation relations within University Advancement at UNC Charlotte, where he established their corporate/foundation relations program. He has been a front-line development officer for UNC Charlotte's recent \$100 million capital campaign and has spent the last seven years in several university-based fundraising positions.

"With exciting projects like the Queens Sports Complex, the entrepreneurial leadership campaign for the McColl Graduate School of Business and the upcoming sesquicentennial in 2007, Queens has some outstanding opportunities for our supporters to invest in the University. Randy is the type of person who can articulate these opportunities extremely well and help our fundraising efforts succeed," noted Vice President for University Advancement Patton McDowell.

Brantley received his associate of arts degree (*summa cum laude*) in 1983 from Louisburg College (Louisburg, N.C.); his bachelor of arts degree (*summa cum laude*) in 1985 from Campbell University (Buies Creek, N.C.); and his master of arts degree in 1991 from Baylor University (Waco, Texas).



Dr. Fauchier Leads Queens Team to Model United Nations Conference

Dr. Loren Fauchier, associate professor of political science and international studies at Queens (pictured to the right), led nine Queens University of Charlotte undergraduate students to the Southern Regional Model United Nations Conference (SRMUN) XV Nov. 18-21, 2004, in Atlanta, Ga. SRMUN is the largest regional MUN conference in the southeast. Approximately 503 student delegates from 41 schools attended. Universities including Clemson, Elon, Emory and Pennsylvania State sent student delegations. Dr. Fauchier is currently an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors for SRMUN. The board's president is Lindsay Kellam '01.

SRMUN provides three classes of awards: Outstanding Delegations, Distinguished Delegations and Honorable Mentions. Only three of the 41 teams received an award in each of the first two categories. This year's Queens MUN team (pictured above) won a Distinguished Delegation Award, representing the country of China.

Students on the Queens team were: Sarah Donnelly, Emily Anderson, Heather Coons, Danielle Gorman, Nick Hayes, Tammie Holbert, Rachael Murdock, Debra Orock and Leah Beth Parsons. Katelyn Penney, a senior political science major, was the assistant director for the League of Arab States Committee at the conference.

"I watched our students do a superb job of generating solutions to key world problems from the Chinese point of view and then diplomatically communicating those ideas with students representing other countries in the various committees at the conference," said Dr. Fauchier. "They worked tirelessly over two and half days and in the end learned a tremendous amount about world issues, the UN and how to be an effective diplomat serving a common good. They earned and deserved every bit of their award."



Dr. Fauchier has been involved with the Queens MUN team since 1992. In 1999, Queens began offering credit for MUN conference preparation and attendance, a three-hour course taught by Dr. Fauchier.

"I am deeply committed to the UN enterprise and to students learning how to solve problems diplomatically," said Dr. Fauchier. "Increasingly Americans find the UN ineffective and of little value in addressing the world's problems. However, the UN is only as good as its members allow it to be. This world body took as its supreme goal the provision of peace and security following two major and devastating world wars in the 20th century. We have yet to construct a better substitute. And, as Winston Churchill once said, 'It is better to jaw-jaw than to war-war.' Cooperation and compromise, two key principles of the UN, cannot solve every issue. But both need a try before force is used."



Team 2007

Team 2007, three committees (Communication, Spirit and Vision) of staff members whose goal is to create an ideal work environment, has recently sponsored several exciting events:

Mock Election

On Oct. 26, 2004, Queens encouraged its students, faculty and staff to vote on November 2 by holding a Mock Election and Voter Information Session. Representatives of both political parties were on-hand to answer questions.

2nd Annual Tree Trim

On Dec. 2, 2004, the Spirit Committee hosted the 2nd Annual Tree-Trim for staff and their families in McInnes Parlors of Burwell Hall. Santa even made a special visit. Staff members also went caroling during the holidays.

Chili Cook-off

On Jan. 14, 2005, the Spirit Committee of Team 2007 sponsored a chili cook-off. Faculty and staff prepared six chili pots.

READ MORE ONLINE

www.queens.edu/team2007

Hunter- Hamilton

LOVE OF TEACHING AWARD



(Above) Dr. Virginia L. Martin, winner of the 2004 Hunter-Hamilton Love of Teaching Award.



(Left) Clockwise from right: The late Dr. James Pressly Hamilton, Grey Hunter Hamilton '62, daughter Isabel Hamilton Owen '92 and son Hunter Hamilton.

The late Dr. James Pressly Hamilton and Grey Hunter Hamilton '62 honor their parents, Buford Lindsay Hamilton and Frances Pressly Hamilton, servants of their Lord for 42 years as missionaries in Pakistan, and Richard Moore (Tex) Hunter, executive partner for Coopers & Lybrand, Certified Public Accountants (Charlotte) and Isabel Reid Hunter. Their faith, hope and love for their children had no bounds.

Most of us are privileged to have had a professor whose care and enthusiasm molded and often changed our lives.

These teachers stand out and continue their inspiration long after our school days.

The Hunter-Hamilton Love of Teaching Award seeks out and honors teachers whose ways of life uniquely inspire the potential of each student.

This award is given to a Queens faculty member by his or her peers for having displayed an exemplary love of teaching.

The amount of the award each year is \$15,000, half of which goes to the faculty member and half to an academic department or program selected by the recipient.

Alumni, faculty and current students may nominate a faculty member by e-mail or mail. Nominations for the 2005 Hunter-Hamilton Love of Teaching Award were due no later than March 1, 2005. The winner will be announced at Queens May 2005 Commencement.

There is much undiscovered potential within each of us, which, if inspired by the right teacher, can change the world.