



Thursday, March 21, 2002

## Distinguished Professor Jane Donahue Eberwein

Jane Donahue Eberwein, professor of English, is an internationally recognized authority on the poetry of Emily Dickinson, a demanding and widely admired teacher, and a paragon of dedicated professional and university service. By every measure, her accomplishments merit the rank of Distinguished Professor.

Professor Eberwein joined the Oakland faculty immediately upon receiving her doctorate in American civilization from Brown University in 1969. Her first book, "Early American Poetry" (University of Wisconsin Press 1978), has become a standard in the field and remains in print. Her second book, "Dickinson: Strategies of Limitation" (University of Massachusetts Press 1985), established her as a premier interpreter of the poetry of Emily Dickinson, one of the most important figures in American literature. In addition to these books, Eberwein has published 50 scholarly articles and 18 reviews, has made about 30 conference presentations, and has served on the editorial boards of several journals.

As a result of her high status in the area of Dickinson studies, Eberwein was invited to edit "An Emily Dickinson Encyclopedia" (Greenwood Press 1998), a monumental and authoritative undertaking that will remain a standard reference work for many years to come.

As a teacher, Eberwein is widely known to be rigorous and demanding but also supportive and dedicated to the success of her students. She extends her scholarly work into the classroom by helping students understand the complex social, cultural and religious contexts of the study of American literature. Her students are expected to explain what they have learned in detail, in writing and at length. Students find the experience bracing but illuminating and flock to her courses. Many students request that she direct their independent study and honors projects. She frequently has been nominated for the Teaching Excellence Award.

The clarity and grace of Eberwein's writing style have made her a valuable contributor in the area of service. During 12 years as secretary of the University Senate, her exquisitely wrought minutes of meetings have brought delight while serving as a reliable record of academic governance. Her editorial skills are frequently sought when reports need to be written.

She has served on and chaired a long list of important committees, most notably the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction, where her vast knowledge of the undergraduate curriculum has been indispensable.

### SUMMARY

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