



Thursday, April 15, 2004

Robert Eberwein

Distinguished Professor of English, CAS

Robert Eberwein is now in his 35th year at Oakland University. During his career, he has established a national reputation in film studies; his students have attested to his excellence as a teacher; his colleagues have benefited from his dedicated mentoring, effective leadership, and extensive service; and he has profoundly influenced the development of Oakland University's academic environment and programs during its critical formative years.

Through his four books about film and film criticism, numerous scholarly articles and reviews, and constant participation in conferences of film scholars, he has become nationally recognized for his contributions to cinema studies. He is now writing his fifth book. Topics he has explored include the range of critical approaches to film, the psychoanalytical basis of the seductiveness of film, the nature and use of sex education films in schools, and the war film.

His outstanding contributions to this field for more than 25 years have occurred in tandem with its growth and development as an academic discipline. Many of his students in cinema studies have gone on to receive advanced degrees and become scholars and professors of film.

Eberwein has received the university's Teaching Excellence Award and enjoys a reputation for high standards and tireless mentoring. He demands intellectual engagement, library research and extensive writing in his courses, and students consistently rise to these challenges and flock to his classes.

He helped develop the Concentration in Film Aesthetics and History Committee and serves as the adviser for the secondary teaching minor in English. Additionally, Eberwein and Brian Murphy, professor of English, helped to obtain more than 500 books on film, directors, actors, individual films, and the history and development of film companies from the late film enthusiast and book collector Robert Malcomson. The books are cataloged and available to OU students at Kresge Library.

As chair of the English Department for nine years, Eberwein hired and nurtured through tenure and promotion about one-third of its current membership. His department colleagues hold him in the highest esteem for the rigorous standards and humanistic values he has championed, for his long hours and dedicated mentoring, and for the collegial spirit he has inspired in practice and as a role model.

SUMMARY

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