

Member-At-Large Election  
Emily Dickinson International Society

### **Instructions for Voting**

*If you want to vote by email*, please write to [paraic.finnerty@port.ac.uk](mailto:paraic.finnerty@port.ac.uk), subject line “Member-at-Large,” and put your name and the name of your candidate of choice (**Faith Barrett, Renée Bergland, or Stephanie Farrar**) in the email.

*If you want to vote by mail*, please circle one name below and return this ballot to:  
Paraic Finnerty, Milldam, Burnaby Rd, University of Portsmouth, Portsmouth, PO49Et, UK

**Faith Barrett      Renée L. Bergland      Stephanie Farrar**

**VOTING CLOSES ON MAY 20, 2015.**

### **Statements**

*Faith Barrett*

I am an associate professor of English at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, where I teach courses on nineteenth century American culture, American poetry from the nineteenth through the twenty-first centuries, and creative writing/poetry. Before coming to Duquesne, I taught for ten years at a liberal arts college in Wisconsin, Lawrence University. My educational background includes an MFA in Creative Writing/Poetry from the University of Iowa and a PhD in Comparative Literature from UC Berkeley. With Cristanne Miller, I coedited *Words for the Hour: A New Anthology of American Civil War Poetry* (U Mass, 2005), and I am the author of *To Fight Aloud Is Very Brave: American Poetry and the Civil War* (U Mass, 2012), a study in which Dickinson is a central figure. I have published articles on the poetry of Dickinson, Whitman, Melville, Abraham Lincoln, the enslaved potter David Drake, and George Moses Horton, and also on Civil War poetry. My current project focuses on local poetry culture and on poetic parodies in the mid-nineteenth century. EDIS was one of the first academic conferences I presented at as a graduate student (the meeting in Innsbruck), and I have since presented at the meetings in Trondheim, Hawaii, and Washington DC. I would be glad to work for an organization that has helped connect me with a supportive and stimulating community of scholars.

I would bring to the board not only my experience as a scholar but also my experience teaching creative writing and working with contemporary poets. I would be excited to create closer ties between EDIS and the contemporary poetry scene in the US, perhaps by inviting a poet or poets to read or speak at an EDIS meeting. On the academic side, I would also be interested in helping to connect Dickinson studies and the new poetry studies, which is currently enjoying a

groundswell of interest in American studies circles. I would also be interested in considering ways to encourage greater graduate student involvement in EDIS.

*Renée Bergland*

What I like best about EDIS is that it has such an inclusive mission. Our name proclaims our internationalism, but it doesn't do justice to the Society's consistent efforts to bring scholars and teachers from high school and college into conversation with poets, novelists, students, and passionate readers of all stripes.

That said, though, we are a strange group. Many Dickinsonians are a little bit shy. Perhaps, like Dickinson herself, we tend to see ourselves as kangaroos (and everyone else as beautiful). And when a large group of very sensitive kangaroo-types gathers, one can never really be welcoming enough.

I have been working on Dickinson for decades. I first presented on an EDIS panel in 1999, and in 2009 I was honored with an EDIS Scholar in Amherst award. Yet in spite of the encouragement and welcome, I still feel a little out of the loop when it comes to EDIS. Part of that is just my problem. But even so, I think we as a society can do more to keep all of our members in the loop.

I am trying to do my bit. I have just started editing Book Reviews for the EDIS Bulletin, and I am trying to find new, young scholars to review, as we continue the Bulletin's tradition of reviewing a wide range of creative works as well as scholarly ones. I am also trying to figure out how to crowd source a recording project that will allow all EDIS members to geo-tag Amherst Massachusetts with multiple recordings of our own voices reading Dickinson poems.

About me: Since 1999, I have taught at Simmons College in Boston, where I am the Hazel Dick Leonard Research Professor. My scholarly work explores nineteenth-century America. I published my first book, *The National Uncanny: Indian Ghosts and American Subjects*, in 2000. In 2008, I published *Maria Mitchell and the Sexing of Science*. In 2012, I published an essay collection edited with Gary Williams, *Philosophies of Sex: Critical Essays on Julia Ward Howe's Hermaphrodite*. I have also published an essay on Dickinson and the visual technologies of war, and another on sex and science in Dickinson and Melville. Just now, I am finishing up a book on Emily Dickinson's Planetary Poetics.

I am running for a position as a Member-at-Large on the EDIS board. I know that the current board members have consistently worked hard to make the society inclusive and welcoming, and I would like to try to help with their efforts.

*Stephanie Farrar*

As a junior scholar transitioning into my first tenure-track job, I am interested in serving as a member-at-large on the EDIS board as a mode of contributing to the profession beyond my campus and as an opportunity to foster interest in Dickinson beyond the university as such. I

would look forward to helping the organization grow even more inclusive, and in engaging members of the public in the delights of poetry.

I have assisted in administrative activities related to hosting a Dickinson marathon reading, putting on a departmental reunion for alumni, and preparations for the MSA conference of 2011.

My Dickinson-related scholarship includes a chapter on Dickinson's use of popular discourses of masculinity in the context of the Civil War, which I presented at the EDIS and Fudan University-sponsored Symposium, "Emily Dickinson Dwells in China" in Shanghai last November, and I am co-editing *Emily Dickinson in Her Own Time* with Cristanne Miller and Jane Donahue Eberwein, (forthcoming from the University of Iowa Press). I also recently presented at the EDIS-sponsored MLA panel on new work on Dickinson on the topic of Lavinia Dickinson's 1898 typeset manuscript of experimental poems.