A final schedule will be available in May 2017.

Conference-goers should plan to fly into Pittsburgh International; the airport is roughly 30 minutes from Duquesne’s campus.

Complete information on transportation from Pittsburgh International Airport to Duquesne can be found at http://flypittsburgh.com/transportation. Cost for a taxi from the airport to Duquesne is roughly $50-60; shuttle costs are roughly $35 (reservations are available but not required); public transportation is $3.75 but requires exact change and can be difficult with baggage.

Membership in the Willa Cather Foundation is required for those presenting at the International Seminar. A $25 introductory membership to the WCF is available for those who are new to our organization.

The Willa Cather Foundation
413 North Webster
Red Cloud, NE 68970

www.WillaCather.org

Tracy Tucker, Willa Cather Foundation
ttucker@willacather.org or 402-746-2653

Beyond Nebraska: Willa Cather’s Pittsburgh

The 16th International Willa Cather Seminar
June 11–17, 2017 | Duquesne University

Seminar sponsors include the Willa Cather Foundation, Duquesne University’s McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts and the Department of English, Penn State Greater Allegheny, the Cather Project at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, California University of Pennsylvania, and Saint Francis University.
CATHETER, VOLUME 11
Willa Cather at the Modernist Crux
EDITED BY ANN MOSELEY, JOHN J. MURPHY, AND ROBERT THACKER

"Essential reading in the field... These essays point the way toward a new generation of Cather scholarship."—Daryl Palmer, author of Writing Russia in the Age of Shakespeare

Willa Cather at the Modernist Crux examines Willa Cather's position in time, in aesthetics, and in the world. Born a Victorian in 1873, Cather made herself a modernist through the poems, stories, and novels she wrote and published into the twentieth century. Beginning with a prologue locating Cather's position, this volume of Cather Studies offers three sets of related essays.

The first section takes up Cather's beginnings with her late nineteenth-century cultural influences. The second section explores a range of discernible direct connections with contemporary artists (Howard Pyle, Frederic Remington, and Ernest Blumenschein) and others who figured in the making of her texts. The third section focuses on The Song of the Lark, a novel that confirms Cather's shift westward and elaborates her emergent modernism. An epilogue by the editors of The Selected Letters of Willa Cather addresses how the recent availability of these letters has transformed Cather studies. Altogether, these essays detail Cather's shaping of the world of the early twentieth century and later into a singular modernism born of both inherited and newer cultural traditions.

ANN MOSELEY is the William L. Mayo Professor and professor emerita of literature and languages at Texas A&M University–Commerce. JOHN J. MURPHY is professor emeritus at Brigham Young University. ROBERT THACKER is the Charles A. Dana Professor of Canadian Studies and English at St. Lawrence University.

"The essays selected for the volume—in all cases substantial and thoughtful, in some cases exhilarating in their intellectual richness and scope—valuable deepen, complicate, and extend the account of the precise nature of Cather's modernism."
—Richard Millington, coeditor of The Cambridge Companion to Nathaniel Hawthorne

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It is your support that has allowed our dreams to become exciting and inspiring realities. Your commitment to our mission has taken us far, but there is much more we can achieve together.

Will you help us in our pursuit to popularize Cather and her work around the world? A charitable bequest is an excellent way for you to leave a legacy and help further our mission. A bequest is also one of the easiest gifts you can make. Your estate planning attorney can help you include a provision in your will that leaves a lasting gift to us: a specific asset, a dollar amount, or a percentage of your estate.

A bequest can also be made from the residue of your estate or what is left after all gifts have been made to your heirs. The Cather Legacy Society was created to recognize individuals who make charitable gift arrangements to benefit the Willa Cather Foundation beyond their lifetime. Please contact us to learn more.

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Cather Symposium
June 28–July 1, 2018
Limavady, Northern Ireland
Directors: Willa Murphy, Ulster University, and Aaron Callan, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
Hosted by Ulster University and the Limavady Arts and Cultural Center
Sponsored by the Willa Cather Foundation and the University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Set in the ancestral home of the Cather family, and taking place during the centennial of My Ántonia, the seminar will explore themes deeply resonant in Willa Cather’s life and work: migration and immigration; family legacy and inheritance; and religious identity.

The symposium aims to unite established and new Cather enthusiasts with local scholars and the Limavady community, who have expressed great interest in the event. Visits to Cather family sites, along with social events involving local music and storytelling, will be part of the program. The Roe Valley area offers sublime coastal cliffs, mountains and ancient forests, historic churches, museums, and much more. Look for more information soon!

THE NEW YORK WORLD OF WILLA CATHER

October 23, 2017—August 31, 2018

The New York Society Library
The Peluso Family Exhibition Gallery
53 East 79th Street, NYC nysoclib.org

Willa Cather joined New York City's oldest library in 1927 and remained a member until her death in 1947. This exhibition traces her life in the city and its influence on her fiction, with illuminating details about her twenty years with the Library. The exhibition is open to all during the Library’s regular hours.

Save the Date!
MAY 31 - JUNE 2, 2018

The Willa Cather Foundation announces the 63rd annual Willa Cather Spring Conference
Red Cloud | www.WillaCather.org

Todd Richardson, University of Nebraska Omaha, and Kelsey Squire, Ohio Dominican University, Spring Conference co-directors

Celebrating the publication centenary of My Ántonia and exploring the novel’s relevance to contemporary issues. A call for papers will be announced Autumn 2017.

Cather Symposium
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Friday, June 16 (cont’d)

5:30-7:00  Seminar Banquet - Africa Room, Duquesne Union

7:15-8:30  Selections from Paul’s Case with Q&A - PNC Music Hall in the Mary Pappert Music Building

Music and commentary by:

American tenor Jonathan Blauclack, acclaimed for his work in 20th and 21st century opera, has appeared in a number of world premieres, including Huang Ruo’s An American Soldier with Washington National Opera, Jorge Martín’s Before Night Falls with Fort Worth Opera, and Paul’s Case with UrbanArias in Virginia and New York City. Recent performances include Harry in Michigan Opera Theatre’s La Fanciulla del West and Lt. Cable in South Pacific for Southern Opera Theater.

Amanda Crider, mezzo-soprano, has won national attention for her “gleaming vocalism” (Boston Globe). She makes her Los Angeles Opera debut this fall in Keeril Makan’s opera Persona in the role of Alma, which she created in the world premiere with Beth Morrison Projects. She appeared in the UrbanArias production of Paul’s Case in Arlington, Virginia, and at the Prototype Festival in New York City. Other opera engagements include Boston Lyric Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, Dallas Opera, and the Florentine Opera.

Jane Dressler is a Professor of Voice at Kent State University, in Kent, Ohio. At the 2000 International Cather Seminar, she performed the premiere of My Antonia, a song cycle written for her by Minneapolis composer Libby Larsen. Dr. Dressler’s interest in American music has led her to publishing articles and giving presentations based on Cather’s writings about classical singers. Dressler’s research has focused on the lives and careers of Olive Fremstad, Ernestine Schumann-Heink, David Bishpam, and Lillian Nordica.

Pianist Anna Kovalevska has won numerous national and international competitions and festivals throughout the Ukraine, Czech Republic, Italy, and France. She has made solo appearances with the Valta Philharmonic Orchestra, the Kherson National University Symphony Orchestra, and the Duquesne University Symphony Orchestra. While studying piano in Kiev, Ukraine, she served as staff accompanist at the Kiev Music School. She graduated from Duquesne University’s Mary Pappert School of Music and is staff accompanist at Pittsburgh Concert Society.

Soprano Erin Sanzero made an important role debut last season in Lucia di Lammermoor with Livermore Valley Opera. She made her LA Opera debut as Emmie in Albert Herring conducted by James Conlon and appeared in the same production at the Santa Fe Opera under Sir Andrew Davis. She has appeared in Adriana Lecouvreur with Washington Concert Opera and a workshop of Nico Muhly’s Dark Sisters. With her performing colleagues tonight, she appeared in the UrbanArias production of Paul’s Case in Arlington, Virginia, and at the Prototype Festival in New York City.

Writer and editor Steve Smith has been involved with music and media for nearly thirty years, most recently as director of publications at National Sawdust in Brooklyn. Smith is the former assistant arts editor of the Boston Globe, music editor at Time Out New York, and reviewer for the New York Times.

Award-winning composer Gregory Spears adapted, with Kathryn Walat as co-librettist, Cather’s classic story “Paul’s Case” for his first opera in 2013. His work on “Paul’s Case” was called “coolly entrancing” by the Boston Globe and “ravishing” by the New York Times. His opera Fellow Travelers, based on a 2007 novel by Thomas Mallon, made its world premiere in 2016 at the Cincinnati Opera.

Melissa Wimbish, soprano, recently performed Györgi Ligeti’s Mysteries of the Macabre with Maestro Ed Polochick and Concert Artists of Baltimore. A frequent interpreter of new music, she appeared in the UrbanArias production of Paul’s Case and made her Carnegie Hall recital debut in 2016 in an evening of works of living American composers including Jake Heggie, Tom Cipullo, Gregory Spears, and Jessica Meyer. Her operatic roles include Micaëla in Carmen, Queen of the Night (Die Zauberflöte), Manon (Manon), and Nella (Gianni Schicchi).

Seminar Leadership

Directors:
Dr. Timothy Bintrim, Saint Francis University, and Dr. James Jaap, Penn State Greater Allegheny
Site Director: Dr. Faith Barrett, Duquesne University

Willa Cather Foundation Staff: Ashley Olson, Executive Director, and Tracy Tucker, Education Director

A special thank you to Dr. Kim and Brett Vanderlaan and Thomas Reese Gallagher
2B. Over in Allegheny - Bayer 103 - Julie Olin-Ammertorp, chair
Morgan Shawfield, Penn State Greater Allegheny - “The Artist Among Machines: Willa Cather’s Depiction of Naturalism in an Industrial Age”
Joe Murphy, Fu Jen Catholic University - “The Venetian Window: Pittsburgh Glass and Modernist Community in Cather’s ‘Double Birthday’”
Todd Richardson, University of Nebraska-Omaha - “The Most Exciting Attractions are Between Two Opposites That Never Meet’: Willa Cather and Andy Warhol”
4:30-6:00 Dinner served - The Incline, Duquesne Union
6:00 North Side tours starting at 6:00
Vans depart from the Duquesne Towers at 3:30 and 6:00; tours start at 906 Cedar Street. Others may choose to leave early and eat in the North Side neighborhood before the performance
7:30 Organ recital - Calvary United Methodist Church - 971 Beech Ave., Pittsburgh PA
Cather’s first musical event in Pittsburgh was Frederic Archer’s organ recital, June 27, 1896. Cather attended this concert at Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland the day after her arrival in the city. The modern performance will be played on the 1895 Farrand & Votey organ—the same builder who provided the Carnegie’s organ. Archer also played the dedication of the Calvary organ in 1893. Calvary Methodist is also known for its impressive collection of Tiffany stained glass windows. A brief history of the church will be included in the presentation.

Tuesday, June 13
9:00-10:30 Plenary – Ann Romines - “Becoming ‘Miss Cather from Pittsburgh’” - Law School 303
10:45-12:15 Concurrent sessions
3A. Musical Friendships - Law School 303 - Kim Vanderlaan, chair
John Flannigan, Prairie State College (ret.) - “Discovering a Vital Friendship: Willa Cather and Ethel Herr Litchfield”
Margaret Bruca, Temple University Rome (ret.) - “A Passing Acquaintance: Willa and Julie in Pittsburgh”
Jane Dressler, Kent State University - “Lillian Nordica (1857-1914): ‘Valliant Countrywoman’ and Cather’s Inspiration from Nebraska to Pittsburgh and Beyond”
3B. Revisiting the Archives - Law School 308 - Robert Thacker, chair
Mark J. Madigan, Nazareth College - “Were Myra, Oswald, and Nellie Once Mabel, Calvin, and Margie?: On a Cather Manuscript Fragment”
Courtney Lawton, University of Nebraska-Lincoln - “Cather and ‘The Bother of Business:’ A Critical Overview of the Houghton Mifflin Company Archives”
Matthew Lavin, University of Pittsburgh - “Willa Cather and ‘Miss M’ Vocabulary: A Lexical Approach”
12:15-1:15 Lunch served - The Incline, Duquesne Union
1:15-2:45 Concurrent sessions
4A. Chinese Stories - Law School 303 - Joseph Murphy, chair
Michael Gorman, Hiroshima City University - “China, Christianity, and Cather’s ‘The Conversion of Sum Loo’”
Andrew Wu, Fu Jen Catholic University - “‘A Son of the Celestial’ and ‘The Conversion of Sum Loo’: Pre- and Post-Pittsburgh Texts”
Timothy Bintrim, St. Francis University - “The ‘Conversion’ of Yee Oi, Wife of ‘Pittsburgh’s Richest Chinaman’”
4B. My Ántonia - Law School 308 - Peter Sullivan, chair
Max Frazier, U.S. Air Force Academy (ret.) - “Cather’s First War Novel: My Ántonia and the Great War”
Josh Dolezal, Central College - “‘Brushed by the Wing of a Great Feeling’: The Embodied Mind in My Ántonia”
John Jacobs, Shenandoah University (ret.) - “My Ántonia, a Storyteller’s Story”
3:00 Enjoy the rest of your day exploring Pittsburgh!
4:30-6:00 Dinner served at The Incline or explore downtown Pittsburgh restaurants and shops, the Warhol Museum, Heinz History Center, the National Aviary, or a sporting event!

Wednesday, June 14
9:00-11:00 Roundtable - The Complete Letters of Willa Cather Project - Law School 303
Andrew Jewell, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Melissa Homestead, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Kari Ronning, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Emily Rau, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Gabrielle Kirilloff, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lori Nevole, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
11:30 - 12:30 Lunch - The Incline, Duquesne Union
12:30-2:00 Concurrent sessions
5A. The Song of the Lark - Law School 303 - John Flannigan, chair
Sherrill Hartbson, University of Massachusetts Amherst - “Vital Tea Kronborg”
Elizabeth Hartwick, Penn State Greater Allegheny - “Cather: Giving Voice to the Female Artist”
Marvin Friedman, “Seminar Serendipity: The Wiener as Prototypes of the Nathannymers in The Song of the Lark”
5B. Sapphira and the Slave Girl - Law School 308 - Ann Romines, chair
Sarah Cler, The Citadel - “Sapphira’s Use of Nancy in Sapphira and the Slave Girl”
Jeanne Collins, “The Underground Railroad: Some of its History, and its Connection to Sapphira and the Slave Girl”
Jon Mark Mikkelson, Missouri Western (ret.) - “‘Africanism’ and ‘Race’ in Sapphira and the Slave Girl”
2:15-3:45 Concurrent sessions
6A. One of Ours and A Lost Lady - Law School 303 - Max Frazier, chair
Richard Harris, Webb Institute - “Willa Cather and Claude Wheeler Go to Church: A Close Reading of the St. Ouen Passage in One of Ours”
Elisabeth Bayley, Loyola University - “Ideological Frameworks and the Construction of Masculinity in One of Ours”
Emily Leaby, Glendon College of York University, Ontario - “‘Repressed Memory’: Masculinity, Modernity, and Indigenization in Willa Cather’s A Lost Lady”
3:45-5:15 Concurrent sessions
6B. Revelations in Letters & Scrapbooks - Law School 308 - Mark Madigan, chair
Melissa Homestead, University of Nebraska-Lincoln - “Bonfires of Our Vanities: Separating the Outsized Myths from the Modest Realities of Destruction of Cather’s Letters”
Laurie Weber, University of Nebraska-Lincoln - “Roscoe Cather: Willa’s First Middlebrow Reader”
Sandra Hanna, “Cather’s Pittsburgh Life: Her Friendship with Ethelbert Nevin, ‘My Own Dear Boy’”
5:15-6:30 Dinner served at The Incline, Duquesne Union
6:30-8:00 Cather Trivia - Red Ring - Law School 303 - Tracy Tucker, chair
7A. “Paul’s Case” in the 21st Century: Teaching Cather - Law School 303 - Tracy Tucker, chair
Julie Olin-Ammertorp, LeMoyne College, and Charles Johanningmeier, University of Nebraska Omaha - “ ‘Paul’s Case’ in the 21st Century: Developing Online Teaching Materials”
Charles A. Peek, University of Nebraska-Kearney (ret.) - “Case Studies in Everyone’s Paradise Lost: A Reflection on the Principal Story Line in Cather’s Major Fiction”
7B. Performance & Reality - Law School 308 - Sarah Cler, chair
Guy Reynolds, University of Nebraska-Lincoln - “The Theater of the Real: Cather, Modjeska, Sontag”
Olivia Tracy, Regis University - “‘Coming in with the Tide’: Negotiating Immigrant Experience in Cather’s Dancing Bodies”
Elaine Smith, University of South Florida - “In Defense of Family Values: Privacy and Performance in Willa Cather’s ‘Old Mrs. Harris’”
5:15-6:30 Dinner - The Incline, Duquesne Union, or leave early and eat at the Red Ring before Cather Trivia!
7:00-9:00 Cather Trivia - Red Ring - Power Center, 1015 Forbes Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15219
The Red Ring serves fresh, locally sourced, made-from-scratch foods, including delicious house macs, unique sandwiches, hand-crafted burgers, fresh salads & more!