

FACULTY PROFILE



Edward Byrne

Professor

Huegli 322(219)

464-5278 Edward.Byrne@valpo.edu

Biography

Professor Byrne joined the Valparaiso University English faculty in 1984.

What first attracted him to Valparaiso was that the university and the community were almost seamless. According to Professor Byrne: “The classes, students, faculty, and townspeople all seemed to have a common purpose, which was to make Valparaiso—the university and the town—something special.”

Professor Byrne believes his role as a teacher is to make the authors and the readings in literature classes come to life for the students. Even if the events and characters are fictional, he wants students to respond in ways that will make it possible for the content to enrich their own lives. In his creative writing classes, Professor Byrne attempts to establish a constructive community of writers aiding one another in developing compelling and publishable works.

His teaching specialties include twentieth-century poetry and fiction, contemporary poetry and fiction, creative non-fiction, film studies, environmental literature, and creative writing. He particularly admires writer Robert Penn Warren because of his ability to write both poetry and fiction well.

In addition to teaching a variety of English courses, Professor Byrne is the co-chair of the Wordfest Committee and serves on the Scholarship and Advising Committee. He is the author

of six published books of poetry, most recently *Tidal Air* (Pecan Grove Press, 2002) and *Seeded Light* (Turning Point Books, 2009). His essays of literary criticism also have been published in various book collections, including *Mark Strand* (Chelsea House Publishers), edited by Harold Bloom, *A Condition of the Spirit: The Life and Work of Larry Levis* (Eastern Washington University Press), edited by Christopher Buckley and Alexander Long, "Claudia Emerson: Literary Criticism" in *Poetry for Students* (Thomson Gale Publishing), edited by Ira Mark Milne, and *David Bottoms: Pocket Charms Against Oblivion* (forthcoming from Mercer University Press), edited by William Walsh. He has had over 250 journal and anthology publications of poetry or critical commentary, and he is the editor of *Valparaiso Poetry Review*. Furthermore, Professor Byrne writes regular articles on literature and the arts for the VPR editor's blog, *One Poet's Notes*. [See links below.]

An avid NASCAR fan, Professor Byrne includes driving laps around a NASCAR racetrack among his favorite memories. He enjoys spending his weekends watching races, working around the house in the vegetable and flower gardens or on home improvement projects, and writing his next book.

He received his B.A. and M.F.A. in English from the City University of New York: Brooklyn College, and he earned a Ph.D. in English from the University of Utah.

Valparaiso Poetry Review

<http://www.valpo.edu/vpr/>

Blogs

<http://edwardbyrne.blogspot.com/>

<http://edwardbyrnepoet.blogspot.com/>

<http://twitter.com/valpopoetry>

Website

<http://www.valpo.edu/home/faculty/ebyrne/homepage/>

Education

Ph.D. - University of Utah; M.F.A., B.A.
- Brooklyn College (CUNY)

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