

The Role of a Rhetoric Ph.D. Program in a Catholic Spiritan University: A Model for
Catholic Education for Service in the New Millennium

This panel focuses on a Ph.D. program in Rhetoric at the only Spiritan University in the world. Located in the Department of Communication & Rhetorical Studies at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, the course of study prepares teacher/scholars for lives of service at small liberal arts, private, religious, and regional state Universities. We understand the Spiritan charism as calling professors in this particular program to lives of teaching, scholarly, and service productivity within the university setting, preparing Ph.D. graduates for campuses that are oriented primarily to teaching and service. In order to fulfill the “unity of contraries” presented by the institutional requirements for publication and excellence in the academic sphere of a “university” that at the same time aims to “serve God by serving students,” we have sought to hire teacher/scholars who see the value of the unity of scholarship, teaching, and service as labor enacted on meaningful ground, which turns Arendt’s notion of labor as “futility” into Levinasian “fecundity.” Abandoning a modernist notion of scholarly “progress” permits labor to become action in the public sphere, providing differentiation and uniqueness for a Spiritan University, a postmodern fruitfulness of the Spirit. At the same time, fulfilling requirements of scholarly productivity permits the institution and program to meet demands of normative publics that provide institutional legitimacy and recognition.

A Framework for a Spiritan University

Janie Harden Fritz, Ph.D.

Fr. John Sawicki, C. S. Sp., Ph.D.

Duquesne University

An Arendtian Perspective on Graduate Education: The Rhetoric Ph.D. Program at
Duquesne University

Ronald C. Arnett, Ph.D.

Duquesne University

Service Ethnography: Finding Joy in the Truth from Research to Teaching

Kathleen Glenister Roberts, Ph.D.

Duquesne University

Rhetorical Studies and Graduate Development: Scholarship, Teaching, and Service

Eric Grabowsky

Duquesne University / Residential Fellow at the Russell Kirk Center for Cultural
Renewal