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Humanities Division
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EMPLOYMENT

Professor of English, Widener University, September 2014-present
Associate Dean of Humanities, Widener University, July 2012-present
Associate Professor of English, Widener University, September 2005-August 2014
Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies, Widener University, September 2005-June 2007
Assistant Professor of English, Widener University, July 1999-August 2005
Assistant Provost for the Main Campus, Widener University, July 1999-August 2005
English Instructor, University of Alabama, September 1998-June 1999

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in American Literature, University of South Carolina, August 1998
Dissertation: "Theorizing the Southern Postmodern"
Director: David G. Cowart

M.A. in English, University of Tennessee, August 1992

B.A. in English, Roanoke College, April 1990

PUBLICATIONS

Edited Journal Issue

"A Special Issue on the Fiction and Criticism of John Gardner" (co-edited with Ronald C. Wendling).
The CEA Critic 72.1 (Fall 2009).

Refereed Journal Articles

"'Ghosts can be very fierce and instructive': The Manichean Impulse in Flannery O'Connor's
'The River.'" *The CEA Critic* 74 (2012): 24-38.

"'I am, personally, the Fall of the West': Postmodernism and the Critical Reception (and Legacy) of
Barry Hannah's Fiction." *Literature Compass* 8/10 (2011): 677-89.

- "O'Connor's Deep Ecological Vision." *The Flannery O'Connor Review* 9 (2011): 1-18.
- "Faulkner's Self-Reflexive Humor." *Studies in American Humor* ns 3.23 (2011): 7-28.
- "'As Empty as Paradise': Reading Religion in Bruce Springsteen's *The Rising*." *Studies in American Culture* 33.1 (October 2010): 17-35.
- "'You make the world by whispers, second by second': Time, Space, and Values in *Grendel*." *The CEA Critic* 72 (Fall 2009): 3-15.
- "'Nothing really matters': Inauthenticity, Intertextuality, and Rock in *Wayne's World*." *The CEA Critic* 66 (Winter 2004/Spring Summer 2004): 39-46.
- "Reconstructing/Deconstructing Genre and Gender: Postmodern Identity in Bobbie Ann Mason's *In Country* and Josephine Humphreys' *Rich in Love*." *Critique* 43 (Spring 2002): 239-59.
- "'Peeping Toms on History': Barry Hannah's *Never Die* as Postmodern Western." *Southern Literary Journal* 33.1 (Fall 2000): 94-110. Reprinted in *Contemporary Literary Criticism*. Ed. Jeffrey W. Hunter. Vol 270. Detroit: Gale Cengage Learning, 2009. 81-90.
- "Walker Percy's Postmodern Parod(ox)y: *Love in the Ruins*." *Southern Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal of the South* ns 6.4 (Winter 1995; published Fall 1999): 43-64.
- "'Give Me the Glass, and therein Will I Read': Narcissism and Metadrama in *Richard II*." *Selected Papers: Shakespeare and Renaissance Association of West Virginia* 19 (1996): 21-28.

Essays in Book Collections

- "Postmodern Humor *ante Litteram*: Self-Reflexivity, Incongruity, and Dialect in George Washington Harris's *Yarns Spun*." *Southern Frontier Humor: New Approaches*. Ed. Ed Piacentino. Oxford: UP of Mississippi, 2013. 193-209.
- "Logos, Nostos, Eros, Thanatos: Don DeLillo's *Pafko at the Wall* and *End Zone* from a Narratological Perspective." *Critical Insights: American Sports Fiction*. Ed. Michael Cocchiarale and Scott Emmert. Ipswich, MA: Salem Press, 2013. 3-19.
- "'Peeping Toms on History': *Never Die* as Postmodern Western." *Perspectives on Barry Hannah*. Ed. Martyn Bone. Oxford: UP of Mississippi, 2006. 94-110. [Republication of journal article with revisions]
- "Hypermasculinity and Sport in James Dickey's *Deliverance*" in *Upon Further Review: Essays on American Sports Literature*. Ed. Michael Cocchiarale and Scott D. Emmert. Westport, CT: Praeger, 2004. 119-30.

Other Publications

Review of David K. Vaughan's *Words to Measure a War: Nine American Poets of World War II*. *James Dickey Newsletter* 27.2 (Spring 2013). Web. www.jamesdickey.org.np.

"Guest Editors' Preface" (with Ronald C. Wendling). *The CEA Critic* 72 (Fall 2009): 1-2.

Review of Laurie Grobman's *Multicultural Hybridity: Transforming American Literary Scholarship and Pedagogy*. *The CEA Forum* Summer/Fall 2009: 38.2. Web. <<http://www2.widener.edu/~cea/382graybill.htm>>

Review of John F. Desmond's *Walker Percy's Search for Community*. *H-Net Reviews in the Humanities and Social Sciences*. March 2009. Web. <<http://www.net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=24229>>

"Benjamin Franklin's 'Letter of Advice to a Young Man on Choosing a Mistress'." *Encyclopedia of Erotic Literature*. Routledge, 2006. 474-75.

Review of Patricia Yaeger's *Dirt and Desire: Reconstructing Southern Women's Writing*. *College Literature* 29.4 (Fall 2002): 153-55.

Review of Matthew Guinn's *After Southern Modernism: Fiction of the Contemporary South*. *College Literature* 29.3 (Summer 2002): 186-88.

"'Dying an Early Death?': An Assessment of the State of Contemporary Southern Fiction." *Confrontation* 60/61 (Fall 1996/Winter 1997): 19-31.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Influence, Intention, and Intertextuality: Comparing O'Connor and Nabokov," 24th Annual Association of American Literature Conference, Boston, MA, May 25, 2013.

"Aestheticism, Asceticism, and Anxiety in the 1950s: Charles Laughton's *Night of the Hunter* and O'Connor's *Wise Blood*," 23rd Annual Association of American Literature Conference, San Francisco, CA, May 26, 2012.

"Sutly Postmodern: Self-Reflexivity, Incongruity, and Dialect in George Washington Harris' *Yarns Spun*," The Society for the Study of Southern Literature Biannual Conference, Nashville, TN, March 29, 2012.

"Plumbing 'The River' for the Humanist O'Connor," 42nd Annual College English Association Conference, St. Petersburg, FL, April 2, 2011.

"Thinking Critically from Composition to Capstone: Analyzing Student Reflections in Their Writing," with Patricia Dyer, Ilene Lieberman, and Kenneth Pobo, Third Biennial Conference on Thinking and Writing, Quinnipiac University, November 20, 2010.

- “‘Come on, rise up!’: Transformation versus Transcendence in Bruce Springsteen’s ‘Paradise’ and Flannery O’Connor’s ‘The River,’” 41st Annual College English Association Conference, San Antonio, TX, March 27, 2010.
- “O’Connor, Teilhard de Chardin, and the Environment,” 38th Annual Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900, Louisville, KY, February 20, 2010.
- “O’Connor, Nabokov, and *Poshlost*,” 66th Annual Meeting of the South Central Modern Language Association, Baton Rouge, LA, October 29, 2009.
- “From Authorial Control to Authorial Coercion: Nabokov’s *Speak, Memory* and *Strong Opinions*,” 64th Annual Meeting of the South Central Modern Language Association, Memphis, TN, November 2, 2007.
- “Voyeurism, Repression, Narcissistic Narrative: The Case of *Lolita*,” 35th Annual Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900, Louisville, KY, February 23, 2007.
- “Reading Flannery O’Connor After 9/11,” 62nd Annual Meeting of the South Central Modern Language Association, Houston, TX, October 28, 2005.
- “Teaching Sports Literature as Social Engagement” (Roundtable participant), 35th Annual Meeting of the Popular Culture Association, San Diego, CA, March 25, 2005.
- “Hand Signals: Sport and Popular Culture in the Fiction of Bobbie Ann Mason,” 34th Annual Meeting of the Popular Culture Association, San Antonio, TX, April 8, 2004.
- “Faulkner’s Reflexive Humor,” 73rd Annual Meeting of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Atlanta, GA, November 14, 2003.
- “‘Nothing really matters’: Inauthenticity, Intertextuality, and Rock in *Wayne’s World*,” 118th Annual Meeting of the Modern Language Association, New York, NY, December 29, 2002.
- “Roll Over Eddie Poe, Tell Allen Tate the News: Ishmael Reed’s *Flight to Canada* and the Postsouthern,” 15th Southern Writers Symposium, Methodist College, September 22, 2000.
- “‘You make the world by whispers, second by second’: Time, Space, and Values in *Grendel*,” Third Annual Conference on John Gardner, Susquehanna, PA, April 15, 2000.
- “A Portrait of the Artist as a Madman: Postmodern Reflexivity in Cormac McCarthy’s *Blood Meridian*.” Philological Association of Louisiana, Nicholls State University, March 12, 1999.
- “The South as Simulacrum: Walker Percy’s *Love in the Ruins* and *Lancelot*,” Southern Writers, Southern Writing Graduate Conference, University of Mississippi, July 25, 1997.
- “‘Give Me the Glass, and therein Will I Read’: Narcissism and Metadrama in *Richard II*,” West Virginia Shakespeare and Renaissance Association, Wheeling Jesuit College, April 21, 1995.

“Androgyny and the Quest Motif in Bobbie Ann Mason's *In Country*,” Society for the Study of Southern Literature, hosted by Louisiana State University, Loyola University, and Xavier University, March 24, 1994.

“Narcissism, (Courtly) Love, and Power in ‘Rappaccini's Daughter’: A Psychoanalytical Re-reading,” Soundings American Literature Conference, University of Oregon, May 1993.

INVITED LECTURES, DISCUSSION GROUPS, AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

“Critical Approaches to Film: Archetypes, Gender, and Intertextuality in *Deliverance* and *Pulp Fiction*” (guest lecture), COMS 230: Communication Theory, October 28, 2014.

“Disease and Disability in Flannery O’Connor’s Fiction” (invited lecture), English Department Fall Faculty Lecture, Widener University, October 23, 2014.

Moderator, *Boyz n the Hood* Film Screening and Discussion, Event Related to Freshman Common Reading (*The Beautiful Struggle*) at Widener University, September 24, 2013.

“Flannery O’Connor’s Deep Ecological Vision” (invited lecture), Widener University Humanities Colloquium, October 27, 2010.

“Flannery O’Connor, Catholicism, and the South” (invited lecture), Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Widener University, Exton, PA, October 22, 2007.

“Teaching and Learning African American Literature at Widener University” (invited lecture), Black History Month Series, Widener University, February 2006.

“James Dickey’s *Deliverance* as Sport Fiction” (invited lecture), Greifswald University, June 25, 2003.

“Faulkner’s Reflexive Humor” (invited lecture), Widener University Humanities Colloquium, March 27, 2003.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Widener University

ENGL 409: Senior Seminar (Fall 2010, Fall 2014)

ENGL 388: Myth and Folklore—Honors (Fall 2009)

ENGL 388: The Sixties—Honors (Spring 2009)

ENGL 380: Author Study—Flannery O’Connor (Spring 2009)

ENGL 376: Southern Literature (Fall 2001 and 2012 as ENGL 388; Spring 2015)

ENGL 375: Modern American Literature (Fall 1999, Fall 2006, Fall 2010, Spring 2013)

ENGL 369: African American Literature (Fall 2011; Fall 2005 and Fall 2008 as ENGL 388)

ENGL 368: American Realism and Naturalism (Spring 2008, Spring 2011)

ENGL 366: Early American Literature (Fall 2004, Fall 2007, Summer 2008, Fall 2009, Spring 2012, Summer 2012)

ENGL 301: Methods of Literary Study (Spring 2008, Spring 2009, Spring 2011)
 ENGL 134: British Literature II (Summer 2011)
 ENGL 132: Literature of the Western World II (Spring 2004)
 ENGL 131: Literature of the Western World I (Fall 2008, Fall 2011)
 ENGL 103: Honors Freshman English (Fall 2000, Fall 2007, Fall 2008, Fall 2009, Fall 2010, Fall 2011)
 ENGL 102: Advanced Composition and Literature (Spring 2007, Spring 2008, Spring 2009, Fall 2010, Spring 2012)
 ENGL 101: Reading, Writing, and Thinking (Fall 2012, Fall 2013)
 ENGL 101: Composition and Critical Thought (Fall 2007)
 HUM 388: Native Literature in the United States (Fall 2008)
 GLS 599: Capstone Project (Spring 2004, Spring 2015)
 GLS 588: The Essay (Summer 2014)
 GLS 513: Modern American Novel (Fall 2003, Fall 2007, Spring 2012)
 ASC 400: Values Seminar (Summer 2001, Summer 2002)
 Writing Course for Project Prepare Summer Program (Summer 2008-Summer 2013)

University of Alabama

EN 300: Contemporary American Sports Fiction
 EN 206: English Literature II
 EN 102: Composition and Literature

University of South Carolina

ENGL 386: Postmodernism
 ENGL 287: American Literature
 ENGL 282: Fiction
 ENGL 102: Literature and Composition
 ENGL 101: Composition

ACADEMIC CITIZENSHIP

University Chair Positions

Academic Affairs Committee of Faculty Council, Fall 2008-Spring 2010 [elected].
 Diversity Council, Fall 2006-Spring 2007 (co-chair) [appointed].
 President's Award Selection Committee, Fall 2005-Spring 2007 [appointed].
 Council of Associate and Assistant Deans, Fall 2004-Spring 2007 [appointed].
 Related Educational Activities Subcommittee, Middle States Association Self-study Committee, Fall 2004 [appointed].
 Physical Resources Task Force, Strategic Planning Committee, Fall 2002-Spring 2003 [appointed].
 Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Standards and Policies, Fall 2001-Spring 2002 [appointed].
 Academic Review Board, Fall 1999-Spring 2007 [appointed].

University Memberships

Council of Associate and Assistant Deans, Spring 2011 [appointed]; Fall 2012-present [elected].
 Implementation Committee for Assessment of Student Learning, Spring 2011 [appointed]; Fall 2012-present [elected].
 Admissions and Financial Aid Committee, Spring 2011 [appointed].
 Freshman Orientation Committee, Spring 2011 [appointed].
 Executive Committee of Faculty Council, Fall 2008-Spring 2010 [elected].
 Retention Committee, Fall 2005-Spring 2007 [appointed].
 Vision 2015 Task Force on the Assessment of Student Learning, Fall 2005-Spring 2006 [appointed].
 Enrollment Services Appeals Committee, Fall 2004-Spring 2007 [appointed].
 MLK Day Planning Committee, Fall 2001-Spring 2007 [appointed].
 Senior Leadership Team, Fall 2002-Spring 2007 [appointed].
 Strategic Planning Goals and Objectives Team for the Creation of a Student-Centered Living-Learning Environment, Fall 2004 [appointed].
 University College Dean Search Committee, Fall 2001-Spring 2002 [appointed].
 Academic Committee of the Board of Trustees, Fall 1999-2007 (secretary) [appointed].
 Student Life Committee of the Board of Trustees, Fall 1999-2007 [appointed].
 Admissions and Financial Aid Committee, Fall 1999-Spring 2007 (*ex-officio*) [appointed].
 Commencement Committee, Fall 1999-Spring 2007 [appointed].
 Student Services Committee, Fall 1999-Spring 2007 (*ex-officio*) [appointed].

College of Arts and Sciences Chair Positions

Committee on Curriculum and Planning, Fall 2011-Spring 2012 [elected].
 Vice Chair, Fall 2011-Spring 2012 [elected].

College of Arts and Sciences Memberships

Executive Committee, Fall 2011-present [elected].
 Academic Council, Fall 2011-present [elected].
 Committee on Faculty Affairs, Fall 2011-Spring 2012 [elected].
 Committee on Academic Assessment and General Education, Spring 2011 [appointed].

Humanities Division Chair Positions

Curriculum and Planning Committee, Fall 2012-present [elected].
 Promotion, Academic Freedom, and Tenure Committee, Fall 2012-present [elected].

Humanities Division Membership

Recruitment and Retention Committee, Fall 2012-present [elected].

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Vice President of the Flannery O'Connor Society and Editor of *Cheers!*, the Flannery O'Connor Newsletter, Spring 2012-present.

Pennsylvania Humanities Council Scholar/Book Group Facilitator, Delaware County Public Library, Fall 2012

Faculty Co-advisor, Gamma Tau chapter of Phi Beta Delta, the Honor Society for International Scholars, Fall 2011-present.

Secretary, Flannery O'Connor Society Panel of the South Central Modern Language Association, 2010 and 2006.

Chair, Flannery O'Connor Society Panel of the South Central Modern Language Association, 2011 and 2007.

Referee for *The Flannery O'Connor Review*, Spring 2012-present.

Referee for *Studies in American Culture*, Spring 2011.

Referee for *LIT: Literature Interpretation Theory*, Spring 2010.

Referee for College English Association Publications (*The CEA Critic* and *The CEA Forum*), Fall 2002-Spring 2013.

ACADEMIC HONORS, AWARDS, AND ACTIVITIES

Selected as judge of the *Flannery O'Connor Review's* Sarah Gordon Award competition, Fall 2011.

Winner of the 2010 Jerome K. Stern Award for Outstanding Essay published in *Studies in American Culture* for "'As Empty as Paradise': Reading Religion in Bruce Springsteen's *The Rising*."

Recipient of the Clarence R. Moll Professor of the Year Award from the Widener Student Government Association (Spring 2010).

Sabbatical award, Widener University, Spring 2010.

Awarded a \$3000 stipend by the NEH to participate in its summer institute, "Reconsidering Flannery O'Connor" in July 2007.

Taught a seminar at Greifswald Universität, Germany, in summer 2003 as part of Widener's exchange program with that institution.

Member, Phi Beta Delta (International Scholarship Society), 2001-present.

Member, Sigma Tau Delta (International English Honor Society), 1989-present.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society for the Study of Southern Literature (2011-present)

Popular Culture Association of America (2010-present)

Flannery O'Connor Society (2007-present)

South Central Modern Language Association (2005-2012)

College English Association (2002-2003, 2009-2011)

National Academic Advising Association (2005-2007)

Popular Culture Association (2004-2005)

South Atlantic Modern Language Association (2003-2004)

Modern Language Association (2000-2001)

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Associate Dean of Humanities, Widener University, July 2012-present

- Elected by faculty in the Humanities Division, which consists of the English, Fine Arts, History, and Modern Language Departments.
- Oversee advising, budget, curriculum development, recruitment, retention, promotion, and tenure of faculty, and recruitment of students in the division.
- Hold primary responsibility for evaluation of faculty for merit pay and allocation of travel and other funding.
- Work with Enrollment Management personnel on scheduling Humanities courses as well as various administrative recruitment activities.
- Chair divisional faculty meetings and serve on various committees and task forces (see “Academic Service” above).

Acting Director, Honors Program in General Education, Widener University, January 2011-August 2011

- Oversaw advising, budget, curriculum development, and recruitment of students in the Honors Program, which has a total student membership of around 200.
- Coordinated Honors Week, a campus-wide annual celebration of undergraduate students’ academic achievement and research.
- Worked with Admissions to select recipients of the university’s full-tuition scholarship and with the Provost’s Office on the verification and authorization of graduation requirements, honors, and awards for graduating seniors in the HPGE.
- Served on various committees and councils (see “Academic Service” above).

Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies, Widener University, September 2005-June 2007 **Assistant Provost for the Main Campus, Widener University, July 1999-August 2005**

- As ombudsman for more than 2000 undergraduate students, investigated and implemented fair resolution of problems affecting students’ academic experiences.
- Worked with other senior administrators, staff, deans, and faculty to ensure the integrity of policies and procedures, initiating changes when appropriate. Authorized the Registrar to make changes to students’ transcripts and recommended tuition adjustments to the Bursar.
- Designed new, more rigorous standards for academic progress and new policies on repetition of failed courses, pass/fail courses, and incomplete grades as chair of ad hoc committee on academic standards and policies, appointed by the President. Thoroughly

- researched ramifications of the changes and steered them through faculty council, which approved them unanimously.
- In collaboration with the academic deans, allocated faculty office space university-wide, settling disputes between schools/colleges when they arose.
 - Served as the primary contact person for both undergraduate and graduate students alleging violation of university harassment codes.
 - Coordinated the annual commencement ceremony, during which 700—900 associate's, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees are conferred personally by the President.
 - Also organized other annual events, including the orientation for new faculty, the academic awards ceremony for graduating seniors, Student Project Day, and (from 1999 to 2005) the International Week program.
 - Redesigned the New Faculty Orientation program for a more user-friendly format, more information on shared governance, and a plan to assess the effectiveness of the program on an annual basis.
 - Formed the Council of Associate and Assistant Deans in 2004 and served on numerous committees, councils, and task forces (see "Academic Service" above).