

Curriculum Vitae



James Emmett Ryan, Ph.D.
Department of English
Auburn University
Cell/text: 334-663-6460

Education

Ph.D. English, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
M.A. English, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
B.A. English, University of Pennsylvania

Academic Appointments

Jean Wickstrom Liles Endowed Professor, Dept. of English, Auburn University (2015-2025)
Professor, Department of English, Auburn University (2013-present)
Associate Professor, Department of English, Auburn University (2005-2013)
U.S. Fulbright Lecturer, School of Foreign Languages and Cultures, Nanjing Normal University, Nanjing, People's Republic of China (2012)
Assistant Professor, Department of English, Auburn University (2000-2005)
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of English, Wake Forest University (1999-2000)
Senior Fellow, Department of English, UNC-Chapel Hill (1999-2000)

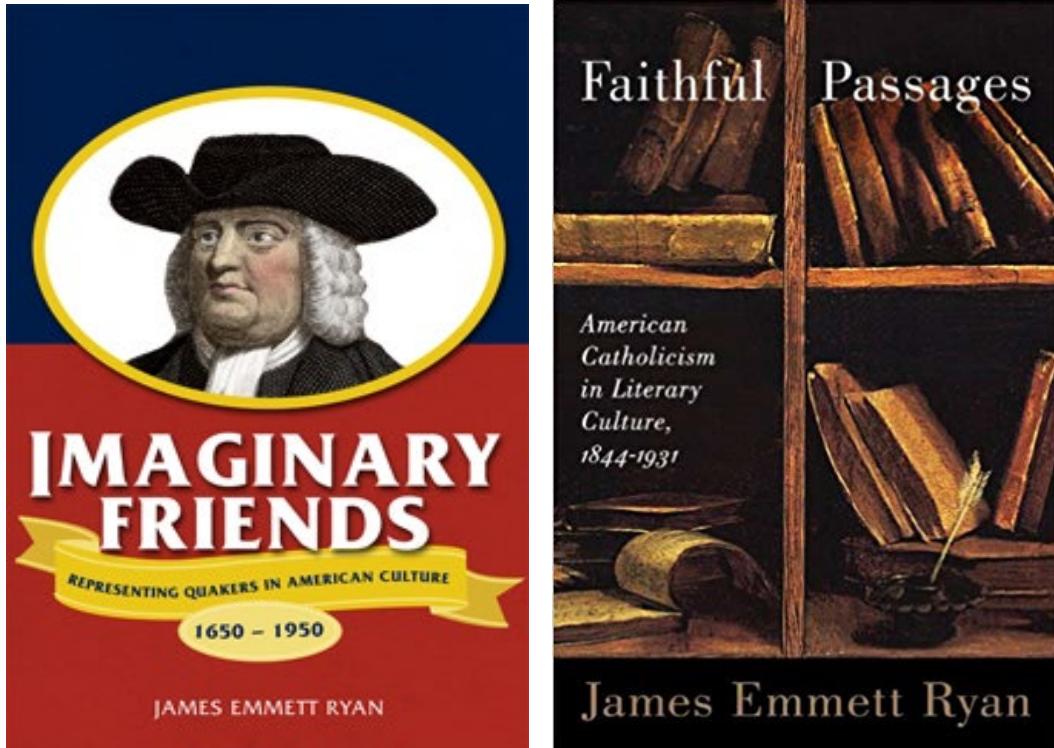
Books

Faithful Passages: American Catholicism in Literary Culture, 1844-1931. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 2013.

Reviews: *Catholic Library World* [2013], *First Things* [2014], *Catholic Historical Review* [2014] “the most definitive examination yet of Catholic literary culture in the latter nineteenth century,” “an important, elegantly written work”; *American Catholic Studies* [2014]: “Meticulously researched, [this] pioneering and accessible work will be of interest to scholars in a variety of disciplines”; *Journal of American History* [2015]; *Religion & Literature* [2015]

Imaginary Friends: Representing Quakers in American Culture, 1650-1950. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 2009.

Reviews: *Choice*, Outstanding Academic Title (2010), *American Studies* (2009), *Church History* (2010), *Journal of American History* (2010), *New England Quarterly* (2010), *American Historical Review* (2010), *Quaker History* (2011), *American Literary Scholarship* 2009 (2011), *Early American Literature* (2012), *Journal of Media and Religion* (2012)].



Book in progress:

Private Pathways: Self-Education in Antebellum America. This project examines the American culture of self-education for the period 1793-1862.

Work in progress:

“Writing Palestine for Peoria: Herman Melville, Bayard Taylor, and the Holy Land.” [10,327 words]

“Regenerated Desperado: Wealth and Social Progress in Hamlin Garland’s *Money Magic*.” [6,800 words]

“The Language of Transcendental Architecture: Frank Lloyd Wright and R. Buckminster Fuller.” [10,600 words]

Journal articles (peer-reviewed)

2026 Eleanor Lombardi and James Emmett Ryan, “Biblical Womanhood in Early America: Christian Women and Social Justice.” *Auburn University Journal of Undergraduate Scholarship*, accepted for publication.

2026 “Statecraft and Schools: John Dickinson and Pennsylvania Education.” [10,300 words]. *Pennsylvania History: A Journal of Mid-Atlantic Studies* 93:2 (Spring 2026), accepted for publication.

2025 “To church in his bullfighting clothes’: Catholic Culture and Ernest Hemingway’s *Death in the Afternoon*.” [8600 words], *Religion & Literature* 56.2/3 (Fall 2025): accepted for publication.

2024 Elizabeth Lester, “The Quakers: A Tale” (1817) and Anonymous, “The Quaker” (1785). *The Cambridge Guide to the Eighteenth-Century Novel, 1660-1820*. Ed. April London. University of Ottawa. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2025, accepted for publication.

2022 “Norman Mailer’s Post-1980 Fiction.” *Encyclopedia of Contemporary American Fiction, 1980-2020*. Eds. Patrick O’Donnell, Lesley Larkin, and Stephen Burn. Boston: Wiley-Blackwell, 2022 (online). doi.org/10.1002/9781119431732.ecaf0194

2022 “America for German Immigrants: Thérèse von Jacob Robinson and Talvi’s *The Exiles*.” *Comparative American Studies*, 18:4 (February 2022): 483-500. [doi:10.1080/14775700.2022.2036562](https://doi.org/10.1080/14775700.2022.2036562)

2021 “The Monochrome Chain Gang and *Cool Hand Luke* in 1967.” *Film & History: An Interdisciplinary Journal* 51.1 (2021): 44-56. <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/803553>

2020 “The House of Harper: Melville’s Anti-Catholic Publisher.” *Book History* 23 (October 2020): 79-98. [doi: 10.1353/bh.2020.0002](https://doi.org/10.1353/bh.2020.0002)

2020 “Fight Club, 1880: Boxing, Class, and Literary Culture in John Boyle O'Reilly's Boston.” *Journal of American Studies [Cambridge University Press, UK]*, 54.4 (October 2020): 706-736. [doi: 10.1017/S0021875819000884](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0021875819000884).

2019 “Catholic Publishing.” Ronald J. Zboray and Mary Saracino Zboray (eds). *Oxford History of Popular Print Culture (OHPPC)*. Vol. 5. *U.S. Popular Print Culture to 1860*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019. Pp. 879-906. <https://bit.ly/36jtuBh>

2017 “Pulp Fiction in Provincetown.” *The Cinema of Norman Mailer*. Ed. Justin Bozung. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2017. Pp. 245-258. [doi: 10.5040/9781501325540.ch-016](https://doi.org/10.5040/9781501325540.ch-016)

2016 “Bridges Across Wire: Civic Engagement in the Humanities and the Alabama Prison Arts + Education Program,” co-authored with Kyes Stevens, Director, Alabama Prison Arts + Education Program. *Creating Citizens: Liberal Arts, Civic Engagement, and the Land-Grant Tradition*. Ed. Brigitta Brunner. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2016. Pp. 62-84. <https://bit.ly/2IjL3Jm>

2014 “Friend on the Western Frontier: Charles Pancoast’s *A Quaker Forty-Niner* and the Problem of American Slavery.” *Quakers and Abolition*. Ed. Brycchan Carey and Geoffrey Plank. University of Illinois Press, 2014, pp. 149-164. Paperback edition, 2017. www.jstor.org/stable/10.5406/j.ctt7zw60d.14
[full essay collection reviewed in *Quaker History*, *Journal of Southern History*, *American Historical Review*, *Journal of the Early Republic*, *Early American Literature*, *Journal of American History*]

2013 “Cars of Destiny: Writing the Golden Age of Motoring.” *Studies in Travel Writing* [UK] 17.2 (June 2013): 116-132. [published as the lead essay in a special issue on “Travel Writing and the Automobile,” eds. E. Coulbert and T. Youngs]. [doi: 10.1080/13645145.2013.789626](https://doi.org/10.1080/13645145.2013.789626)

2010 “Mailer and the ‘Diet of Reality’: *Tough Guys Don’t Dance* and American Values.” In *Norman Mailer’s Later Fictions: Ancient Evenings Through Castle in the Forest*. Ed. John Whalen-Bridge. New York: Palgrave, 2010. 39-52. [doi: 10.1057/9780230109056](https://doi.org/10.1057/9780230109056)

2009 “On the Trail of an American Historian: MLA Honored Scholar of Early American Literature, Philip F. Gura” *Early American Literature* 44 (2009): 453-455. [doi: 10.1353/eal.0.0086](https://doi.org/10.1353/eal.0.0086)

2009 “Staging Quakerism in American Theatre and Film.” *Quaker Studies* 14.1 (2009): 57-71. [doi: 10.3828/quaker.14.1.57](https://doi.org/10.3828/quaker.14.1.57)

2008 “Quakers in American Print Culture, 1800-1950.” In *Religion and the Culture of Print in Modern America*. Ed. Charles L. Cohen and Paul S. Boyer. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2008. Pp. 41-71. <https://uwpress.wisc.edu/books/4402.htm>

2008 “Emmylou Harris.” In *The Encyclopedia of Alabama*. Auburn, AL: Alabama Humanities Foundation, 2008. Online: <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article.jsp?id=h-1395>

2006 “Insatiable as Good Old America’: *Tough Guys Don’t Dance* and Popular Criminality.” Special issue on Norman Mailer since *The Executioner’s Song*. Ed. John Whalen-Bridge. *Journal of Modern Literature* 30.1 (Fall 2006), 17-22. [doi: 10.2979/JML.2006.30.1.17](https://doi.org/10.2979/JML.2006.30.1.17)

2006 “Ishmael’s Recovery: Injury, Illness, and Convalescence in Moby-Dick.” Special issue on Disability. Ed. Samuel Otter and David T. Mitchell. *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies* 8 (March 2006): 17-34. [doi: 10.1111/j.1750-1849.2006.00003.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1750-1849.2006.00003.x)

2006 “Antebellum Literary Criticism.” In: *American History through Literature, 1820-1870, 2nd edition*. Ed. Janet Gabler-Hover and Robert D. Sattelmeyer. New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2006. 668-673. <https://bit.ly/36ouBzq>

2005 “Robert Creeley’s *Pieces*.” *A Companion to Twentieth-Century American Poetry*. Edited by Burt Kimmelman. New York: Facts on File, 2005, pp. 376-378.

2005 “John Berryman.” *A Companion to Twentieth-Century American Poetry*. Edited by Burt Kimmelman. New York: Facts on File, 2005, pp. 41-42.

2005 “Kenneth Patchen.” *A Companion to Twentieth-Century American Poetry*. Edited by Burt Kimmelman. New York: Facts on File, 2005, pp. 371-372.

2005 “Unitarianism,” “Perry Miller,” “Bishop James Healey.” [brief essays]. In *The Encyclopedia of New England Culture*. Ed. Burt Feintuch and David H. Watters. Foreword by Donald Hall. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005. <https://bit.ly/3liDiBy>

2003 “Orestes Brownson in Young America: Popular Books and the Fate of Catholic Criticism.” *American Literary History* 15 (2003): 443-470. [doi: 10.1093/ahl/ajg034](https://doi.org/10.1093/ahl/ajg034)

2003 “Imaginary Friends: Representing Quakers in Early American Fiction.” *Studies in American Fiction* 44 (Fall 2003):191-220. [doi: 10.1353/saf.2003.0001](https://doi.org/10.1353/saf.2003.0001)

2001 “Melville in the Brotherhood: Freemasonry, Fraternalism, and the Artisanal Ideal.” In: *Melville Among the Nations*. Ed. Sanford E. Marovitz and A. C. Christodoulou. pp. 68-81. Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press/Athens, Greece: Gutenberg Orbis Press, 2001. <https://bit.ly/3kgfYDa>

2001 “Orestes Brownson.” *The American Renaissance in New England. Vol. 1. Dictionary of Literary Biography*, Vol. 235, third series. Pp. 1-20. Edited by Wesley T. Mott, Kent P. Ljungquist, and Joel Myerson. Detroit: Gale Group, 2001. [8089 words] https://www.dropbox.com/s/bvm03wm7moacyvo/Orestes_Augustus_Brownson%20%281%29.pdf?dl=0

1999 ““The Blind Authoress of New York”: Helen De Kroyft and the Uses of Disability in Antebellum America.” *American Quarterly* 51 (June 1999): 385-418. [doi: 10.1353/aq.1999.0025](https://doi.org/10.1353/aq.1999.0025)

1997 “Sentimental Catechism: Archbishop James Gibbons, Mass-Print Culture, and American Literary History.” *Religion & American Culture* 7.1 (Winter 1997): 81-120. [doi: spot.lib.auburn.edu/10.1525/rac.1997.7.1.03a00040](https://spot.lib.auburn.edu/10.1525/rac.1997.7.1.03a00040)

Selected Book Reviews

Janet Moore Lindman, *A Vivifying Spirit: Quaker Practice and Reform in Antebellum America*. The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2022. *Journal of American History* 110 (2023), 548. [doi:10.1093/jahist/jaad287](https://doi.org/10.1093/jahist/jaad287)

Carolina Fernández Rodríguez, *American Quaker Romances: Building the Myth of a White Christian Nation*. Valencia, Spain: University of Valencia Press, 2021. *Quaker History* 112 (Spring 2023), 80-82. [doi: 10.1353/qkh.2023.a900924](https://doi.org/10.1353/qkh.2023.a900924)

Damien Schlarb, *Melville's Wisdom: Religion, Skepticism, and Literature in Nineteenth-Century America*. Oxford University Press, 2021. *Resources for American Literary Study* 44.1 (2022): 369-372. doi.org/10.5325/resoamerlitestud.44.1-2.0369

Devin P. Zuber, *A Language of Things: Emanuel Swedenborg and the American Environmental Imagination*. University of Virginia Press, 2020. *Journal of American History* 108.2 (2021): 356. doi.org/10.1093/jahist/jaab134

Mary Ellen O'Donnell, *Ingrained Habits: Growing Up Catholic in Mid-Twentieth Century America*. Catholic University of America Press, 2018. *Journal of American Ethnic History* 40 (2020): 102-104. doi.org/10.5406/jamerethnhist.40.1.0102

Ashley Reed, *Heaven's Interpreters: Women Writers and Religious Agency in Nineteenth-Century America*. Cornell University Press, 2020.

Emily Ogden, *Credulity: A Cultural History of US Mesmerism*. University of Chicago Press, 2018. *New England Quarterly* 92.4 (2019): 670-672. doi.org/10.1162/tneq_r_00779

Catherine O'Donnell, *Elizabeth Seton: American Saint*. Cornell University Press, 2018. *Journal of American History* 106.2 (2019): 459-460. doi.org/10.1093/jahist/jaz399

Cassandra L. Yacovazzi, *Escaped Nuns: True Womanhood and the Campaign against Convents in Antebellum America*. Oxford University Press, 2018. *Church History* 88 (March 2019): 247-249. [doi: 10.1017/S0009640719000933](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0009640719000933)

Stephen G. Butler, *Irish Writers in the Irish American Press, 1882-1964*. University of Massachusetts Press, 2018. *American Literary History Online Review* (2019) [essay-review: 2100 words] <https://bit.ly/38qDsmU>

Bryan Giemza, *Irish Catholic Writers and the Invention of the American South* (LSU Press, 2013). *American Literary History Online Review* (2016). <https://bit.ly/3n8wDup>

Glenn Crothers, *Quakers Living in the Lion's Mouth: The Society of Friends in Northern Virginia, 1730-1865*. University Press of Florida Press, 2013. *American Historical Review* 120.5 (2015): 1885-1886. [doi: 10.1093/ahr/120.5.1885](https://doi.org/10.1093/ahr/120.5.1885)

Jeffrey A. Brune and Daniel J. Wilson, eds. *Disability and Passing: Blurring the Lines of Identity*. Temple University Press, 2013. *Journal of American History* 101 (2014): 301-302. [doi: 10.1093/jahist/jau305](https://doi.org/10.1093/jahist/jau305)

Raymond Smith, *In Time We Shall Know Ourselves*. Madison, CT: Peter Hastings Falk, 2014. *American Studies* 54.1 (2015), 160-161. [doi: 10.1353/ams.2015.0033](https://doi.org/10.1353/ams.2015.0033)

Michael Anesko, *Monopolizing the Master: Henry James and the Politics of Modern Literary Scholarship*. Stanford University Press, 2012. *Journal of American Studies of Turkey* 40 (2014): 163-166. http://www.asat-jast.org/images/JAST-ISSUES/JAST-40/10_book_reviews.pdf

Allan W. Austin, *Quaker Brotherhood: Interracial Activism and the American Friends Service Committee, 1917-1950*. University of Illinois Press, 2012. *Journal of American History* 100 (2013): 243-244. [doi: 10.1093/jahist/jat044](https://doi.org/10.1093/jahist/jat044)

Tracy Fessenden, *Culture and Redemption: Religion, the Secular and American Literature*. Princeton University Press, 2007. *Journal of American History* 94.2 (September 2007): 531. [doi: 10.2307/25094966](https://doi.org/10.2307/25094966)

Simi Linton, *My Body Politic: A Memoir*. University of Michigan Press, 2006. *Disability Studies Quarterly*, Summer 2006, Volume 26:2 (On line. Available: http://www.dsq-sds.org/2006_summer_toc.html

Robert Jackson, *Seeking the Region in American Literature and Culture*. LSU Press, 2005. *Southern Humanities Review* 40.4 (2006) 396-402.

Stephanie Browner, *Profound Science and Elegant Literature: Imagining Doctors in Nineteenth-Century America*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005. *South Atlantic Review*, 2006.

Patrick W. Carey, *Orestes A. Brownson: American Religious Weathervane*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005. *Journal of American History* 92.3 (December 2005): 985-986. [doi: 10.2307/3660026](https://doi.org/10.2307/3660026)

Peter J. Bellis, *Writing Revolution: Aesthetic and Politics in Hawthorne, Whitman, and Thoreau*. University of Georgia Press, 2003. *South Atlantic Review* 70 (2005): 158-161.

Robert J. Richards, *The Romantic Conception of Life: Science and Philosophy in the Age of Goethe*. University of Chicago Press, 2002. In *Southern Humanities Review* 37 (Winter 2005): 86-89.

Rural Studio: Samuel Mockbee and an Architecture of Decency. Ed. Andrea Oppenheimer Dean. Photographs by Timothy Hursley. Princeton University Press, 2002. In *Southern Humanities Review* 36 (Spring 2003): 174-178.

“A Peopled World” [review-essay] Hershel Parker, *Herman Melville: A Biography*, 2 vols. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002. In *The South Carolina Review* 35. 1 (Fall 2002), 204-207.

“Reinventing Melville” [review-essay] Robert Del Tredici. *Floodgates of the Wonder World: A Moby-Dick Pictorial*. and Clare Spark, *Hunting Captain Ahab: Psychological Warfare and the Melville Revival*. *The South Carolina Review* 35 (Fall 2001): 214-218.

Dale S. Brown, *Learning a Living: Planning Careers for People with Learning Disabilities, Attention Deficit Disorder, and Dyslexia*. *Foreword* (March 2000): 62.

Ross Labrie, *The Catholic Imagination in American Literature*. *American Literature* 71 (June 2000): 445-446.

Jacques Lusseyran, *Against the Pollution of the Eye: Selected Writings*. *Foreword* (Sept. 1999): 55.

Robert A. Herrera, *Orestes Brownson: Sign of Contradiction*. *Foreword* 3 (August 1999): 64.

Patrick Allitt, *Catholic Converts: British and American Intellectuals Turn to Rome*. *The New England Quarterly* 61 (March 1998): 156-158.

David D. Hall, *Cultures of Print: Essays in the History of the Book*. *Early American Literature* 32.2 (1997): 198-200.

Conference presentations, invited lectures, professional appearances (selected)

“New South Cinema.” *Southern American Studies Association Conference*. New Orleans, Louisiana, March 2025 (pending)

“New Orleans Cinema, 1930-1970.” *New England Modern Language Association Conference*. Harvard University, June 2024.

“Ecologies of Affection: Denis de Rougemont’s *Love in the Western World* and Melville’s *Pierre*.” *13th International Melville Conference*. Sorbonne Université/Université Sorbelle/University of Paris. Paris, France. 27-30 June 2022.

“Charity Schools in Early Philadelphia: John Dickinson and the Roots of American Education.” *John Dickinson Writing Project Symposium*. Sponsors: American Philosophical Society, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and Library Company of Philadelphia, McNeil Center for Early American Studies. Philadelphia, PA. October 24-25, 2022.

“Boxing and Poetry in Nineteenth-Century Boston.” *Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists C19 Biennial Conference*, University of Miami. Coral Gables, FL. 2-5 October 2020 (accepted, conference canceled because of COVID-19 quarantine).

“Fight Club, 1880: Boxing and Literary Status in Nineteenth-Century Boston.” *Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Association Annual Meeting*. Pittsburgh, PA. 7-9 November 2019.

“John Dickinson in Colonial Philadelphia: Charity Schools and Quaker Education.” *Alabama Early America Seminar*. University of Alabama—Huntsville, Fall 2019.

“Notes on Theory and Literary History: ‘Catholic Publishing before 1860.’” *AU English Faculty Colloquium*, 20 September 2017.

“Investigating the 18th Century” (panel moderator). Southeastern Liberal Arts Research Conference (SELARC). 14 April 2017.

“American Catholic Publishing before 1860.” Panelist for contributors to the *Oxford History of Popular Print Culture* (2019). Departments of Communication and Graduate Program in Cultural Studies, University of Pittsburgh. 3 March 2015.

“*Cool Hand Luke* in 1967: A Civil Rights Parable.” *Southern American Studies Association Conference*. Atlanta, February 2015.

“The House of Harper: Melville’s Anti-Catholic Publisher.” *International Melville Conference*, Tokyo, Japan. June 2015.

“Cars of Destiny: Writing the Golden Age of Motoring.” AU English Graduate Colloquium. April 6, 2013.

“Religion and Literature in Nineteenth-Century America.” Invited lecture. *Nanjing University*, Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, China. 15 June 2012.

“Uncle Tom’s Cabin and American Popular Fiction.” Invited lecture. *Northwest University*. Xi’an, Shaanxi Province, China. 13 June 2012.

“Sacred Individualism in Emerson’s America. Invited lecture. *Northwest University*. Xi’an, Shaanxi Province, China. 13 June 2012.

“Evangelical Religion in Antebellum American Fiction.” Invited lecture. *Harbin Engineering University*. Harbin, China. 7 June 2012.

“Ralph Waldo Emerson and American Transcendentalism.” Invited lecture. *Harbin Engineering University*. Harbin, China. 8 June 2012.

“Uncle Tom’s Cabin and American Culture.” Invited lecture. *Yancheng Teacher’s University*. Yancheng, Jiangsu Province, China. 2 June 2012.

“19th Century American Literature and Religious History.” Invited lecture. *East China Normal University*, Shanghai, China. 30 May 2012.

“Transcendentalism in Nineteenth-Century America.” Invited lecture. *East China Normal University*, Shanghai, China. 30 May 2012

“*Moby-Dick* in Context: Herman Melville in Young America.” Invited lecture. *Southwest University*. Chongqing, China. 17 May 2012.

“Harriet Beecher Stowe and Popular Fiction.” Invited lecture. *Southwest University*. Chongqing, China. 17 May 2012.

“Sacred Individualism in Emerson’s America.” Invited lecture *Ocean University*, Qingdao, China. 10 May 2012.

“Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Religious History.” Invited lecture *Ocean University*, Qingdao, China. 10 May 2012.

“Revising the American Literature Anthology, 1967-2012” Invited lecture *Anhui University*. Hefei, Anhui Province, China. 25 April 2012.

“American and Chinese Student Life, 2012: Reflections by a Visiting Scholar.” Invited lecture. *School of Foreign Languages and Cultures, Nanjing Normal University*. Nanjing, China. 11 April 2012.

Discussion moderator: “*Johnny Cash: The Man, His World, His Music*.” Documentary film screening, AU Center for the Arts and Humanities. 20 October 2011.

“A Quaker Forty-Niner.” *Voices in English Studies* (AU English Graduate Association Conference). 2 April 2011.

“Melville’s Anti-Catholic Publisher.” *Melville and Rome: the Eighth International Melville Conference*. Rome/Naples, Italy, 22-26 June 2011. [declined]

“Friend on the Western Frontier: Charles Pancoast’s *A Quaker Forty-Niner* and the Problem of American Slavery.” *Quakers and Slavery, 1657-1865: An International Interdisciplinary Conference*. McNeil Center for Early American Studies, Swarthmore College, Haverford College. November 2010.

“English Studies at Auburn University.” Invited lecture. Spain Park High School, Birmingham, AL [March 2010].

“The Return of the Cosmic Cowgirl: Emmylou Harris and Americana Music.” Invited lecture. *Draughon Seminars in State and Local History*. [Spring 2010]

“Writing Palestine for Peoria: Herman Melville, Bayard Taylor, and the Holy Land.” *International Melville Conference*, Jerusalem, Israel, June 2009.

“Women’s Literary Culture in Antebellum America.” Podcast interview for the program “This Goodly Land: America’s Literary Landscape,” hosted by Maiben Beard. Online: <http://www.alabamaliterarymap.org/media/19thCenturyWomen.mp3>. Alabama Center for the Book, May 2009.

"Staging Quakerism in Anglo-American Theatre and Film" *Conference of Quaker Historians and Archivists*. Woodbrooke Quaker Study Center. Birmingham, England. June 2008.

"Perfect Balance: Time Management for Graduate Students." Invited plenary address. *Graduate Research Forum. Auburn University*, March 2008.

"Best-Sellers of the Nineteenth Century." *Auburn Women's Club*, January 24, 2008.

"New Orleans Cinema." Graduate Colloquium, Auburn University, March 2007.

"Imaginary Friends." *University of Wisconsin Center for the Book Conference*. Madison, WI. September, 2004.

"Imaginary Friends: Representing Quakers in Early American Fiction." *American Studies Association Annual Meeting*. Atlanta, November 2004.

"American Studies." Guest lecturer for *AU Honors College Merit Monday*, Auburn University. Feb. 2003.

"Imaginary Friends: Representing Quakers in American Fiction." *Southern American Studies Association Meeting*. Tallahassee, FL. Feb. 7-9, 2003.

"Automotive Postmodernism, 1885-1915: Going Global in the Early Motor-Car." *American Studies Association Annual Meeting*. Washington, DC, November 8-11, 2001.

"Ishmael's Recovery: Injury and Convalescence in *Moby-Dick*." *Third International Melville Conference: Moby-Dick 2001*. Hempstead, NY: Hofstra University, October 2001.

"Cars of Destiny: Globalism and the Gilded Age of Motoring." *Southern American Studies Association meeting*. Atlanta, February 2001.

"Transcendentalism's Architectural Memory: Frank Lloyd Wright, R. Buckminster Fuller, and American Utopia." *Southern American Studies Conference*, Wilmington, NC Feb. 1999.

"A Mystical Empire: Isaac Hecker's Catholicism and the Religious Destiny of Antebellum America." *American Studies Association annual meeting*, Seattle, November 1998.

"Blindness, Authorship, and the Gendered Rhetoric of Disability." *Back to the Futures: An Institute in American Studies*. The Humanities Research Institute at Dartmouth College/Mellon Foundation/NEH. Hanover, NH, June 1998.

"The Blind Authoress of New York: Helen De Kroyft and the Uses of Women's Authorship in Antebellum America." *American Studies Association annual meeting*; Washington, DC, 30 October–2 November 1997. [**Awarded the ASA Baxter travel grant as one of five outstanding graduate student essays.]

"Melville in the Brotherhood: Freemasonry, Fraternalism, and the Artisanal Ideal." *First*

International Melville Conference, Volos, Greece, 2–6 July 1997.

Comment. *Duke University/University of North Carolina Religious Studies Colloquium*, Chapel Hill, NC, January 1997.

“Questions of the American Soul: Isaac Hecker’s Spiritual Geography.” *Graduate English Conference*, University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill, November 1996.

“James Gibbons’s Sentimental Catechism and American Literary History.” *Mid-Atlantic Region American Academy of Religion/Society for Biblical Literature Conference*, Baltimore, April 1996.

“Liturgy for Suffering Bodies: Catholic Cultures and Hemingway’s Death in the Afternoon.” *Twentieth-Century Literature Conference*, Louisville, KY, February 1996.

Poetry

Judge, *Annual State Poetry Contest (West Virginia)*. National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Spring 2008.

“December Oracle.” *Iris: The UNC Journal of Medicine, Literature, & Visual Art* (Fall 1997).

Manuscript referee:

Studies in American Fiction, Memoires du Livre/Studies in Book Culture [Canada], American Catholic Studies, Journal of the American Catholic Historical Society, Journal of Church and State, Religions [Basel, Switzerland, Cambridge University Press], Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses [Canada]], PMLA, Oxford University Press (book division), Religion & American Culture, Journal of American History, Early American Literature, AU Journal of Undergraduate Studies, Carolina Quarterly

Promotion and Tenure referee

University of Rhode Island (2018); Department of English, University of Northern Illinois (2015); Department of English, University of Memphis (2006)

Administrative Appointments (Auburn University)

AU Provost-Faculty Liaison. Office of the Provost. [12-month position]. Coordinate campus-wide administrator review process. Supervise university academic honesty proceedings. 2019-2024.

AU Liaison to Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE). Office of the Provost, Auburn University. [12-month position]. 2021-2024.

English Department Vision & Planning Committee, 2025-2028

University Curriculum Committee, Auburn University [ex officio], 2020-2024

Graduate Curriculum Committee, Auburn University [ex officio], 2020-2024.

Provost's representative, University Senate Administrator Evaluation Committee, 2020-2024.

Member, AU Center for Arts and Humanities Advisory Board, 2015-present.

Interim Department Chair [elected]. Depart of English, Auburn University. 2009-2011. Led restructuring of B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. curricula to create new academic tracks, renovation of course offerings, revised mission statements, and student outcomes assessment.

Associate Department Chair [appointed]. Dept. of English, Auburn University. 2006-2009.

Assistant Dept. Chair [appointed], Department of English, Auburn University. 2005-2006.

English Department representative, AU University Senate. 2016-2019 [elected].

AU Academic Standards Committee. 2015-2018.

Faculty leader, AU London Abroad program. Regents University, London. Summer 2018.

Chair, Early American Literature Faculty Search Committee, 2017.

AU VP for Communications/Marketing Search Committee (2016-2017)

Chair, Creative Writing (Fiction) Search Committee, 2015-2016.

Early African-American Literature Search Committee, 2014-2015.

Chair, English Department Faculty Awards Committee. 2013-2014,

Chair, Research Incentive Committee. Department of English, 2014.

Research Incentive Committee. Department of English. 2013-2014.

Faculty Consulting Committee. Department of English. 2013-.

Undergraduate Studies Committee. Department of English. 2013-2015

Religious Studies Minor committee, College of Liberal Arts. 2012-16.

Auburn University representative, English Language and Literature General Studies Academic Committee (GSAC) for the Alabama Articulation and General Studies Committee (AGSC). 2010-2012. [Appointed].

Academic Honesty Committee (university-wide), Auburn University. 2008-2011.

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer Policy Committee (university-wide), Auburn University. 2009-10.

Ad Hoc Committee on Restructuring AU English Department Writing Programs. 2009-2010.

Eighteenth-Century Literature Hiring Committee, 2008-2009.

Judge, AU Undergraduate Research Forum. April 2009.

Invited English Department Faculty Panelist, Continuous Improvement Seminar for AU English Language Arts Education. March 2008

Judge, Best graduate essay award (Ph.D. level), Spring 2008.

Chair, American Literature (late-19th century to present) Hiring Committee. 2006-2007.

AU Honors College Director hiring committee. 2006.

Summer Coordinator of World Literature, Graduate Studies, and Undergraduate Studies. 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009.

Chair, Instructor Hiring Committee. 2005-2009.

Executive Committee, Department of English, Auburn University. 2005-2009.

Graduate Studies Committee. 2004-2007 (elected), 2009 (appointed).

“New Directions” Annual Retreat Planning Committee. 2004.

Panelist, AU Department of English Creative/Research Forum. March 2004.

Advisor, English Club/Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society. Auburn University. 2003-2006.

Executive Committee of the Southern American Studies Association. 2003-2005.

Faculty Judge, Auburn University Program Council Songwriting Contest, 2003, 2004.

Founder and Coordinator, Auburn Haiku Challenge. 2002. Annual large-scale poetry writing event for faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students.

Founder and Coordinator, Haley Center Poetry Project. 2001-2006. Spoken-word and poetry performance series at Auburn University. Founded and coordinated semi-annual public reading by 50 faculty, staff, graduate students, and undergraduate students.

Ad Hoc Committee for English Department Distinction Program.

Benson Lecture Committee. 2002-2003.

Job Search Committee [creative writing/poetry]. Fall 2002.

Department of English Undergraduate Studies Committee. 2002-2005.

Faculty judge for graduate student presentations, Graduate Research Forum, sponsored by the Auburn University Graduate Student Council. March 2002.

Department of English Task Force for Student Recruitment. Auburn University, 2001-2002.

Great Books Committee. Auburn University. 2001-2003.

Cultural Diversity in Great Books Committee. Auburn University. Supported by the Breeden Grant, 2000-2001.

Instructional mentor, Auburn University Great Books program. Formally mentored and supervised the instruction graduate teaching assistants in core curriculum classes, Fall 2001.

Courses taught (Auburn University)

World Literature

Survey of Early American Literature

Racial Discourse in American Fiction, 1830-1900

Nineteenth-Century American Literature

Literature and Film

The American Novel

American Romanticism

American Realism and Naturalism

Changing the American Family, 1830-1900 (graduate)

Early American Literature (graduate)

Early American Studies (graduate)
Violence in American Culture (graduate)
Rags to Riches: The Gilded Age in America (graduate)

**Auburn University Graduate Faculty Level 2 reappointments: Fall 2018, Fall 2025

Directed projects: research fellowship, thesis, portfolio, and dissertation

Soroush Abedini (Ph.D. 2029., expected)
Nora Lombardi (B.A. 2027, expected, Undergraduate Research Fellow 2025), advisor
Bryan Williams (Ph.D. 2022) "Enchanted Geographies of the New Republic, 1789-1846."
Current position: Lecturer, University of Cincinnati.
Kristina Chesaniuk (Ph.D. 2021), "Agency and Women's Geographies:
Tracking Spaces and Mobilities in Progressive-Era Women's Writing." Current
position: Lecturer, Princeton University/Fairleigh Dickinson University.
Nathan Holden (B.A. 2021, Undergraduate Research Fellow), advisor.
Melanie Berry (M.A. 2017), portfolio director.
Marcie Casey (M.A. 2017), portfolio director. Current position: Ph.D. candidate,
Department of English, Vanderbilt University. Lecturer, Department of English,
Auburn University.
Lydia Ferguson (Ph.D. 2017), "Elder Voices: Slavery and Aging in Nineteenth-Century
American Literature" [AU Distinguished Dissertation Award]. Current position:
Visiting Assistant Professor, English Department, Kennesaw State University).
Kristina Chesaniuk (M.A. 2015). "Amy March's Self-Fashioning in Little Women." (portfolio
paper).
Jessica Sims (M.A. 2007, Ph.D. 2015), "Southern Fictions of Reproduction." Current
position: Instructor, Department of English, University of South Alabama.
Mary Dawson (M.A. 2013), "Angry Little Women: Anger and Resentment in the Writings of
Louisa May Alcott." (portfolio director). Current position: Instructor, English
Department, Auburn University.
Benjamin Lisle (Ph.D. 2011). "Toward a More Perfect Engine: Natural Science and
Optimism in the American Renaissance." University of Arkansas (M.D. 2015).
Current position: Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology, University of Missouri
School of Medicine.
Mark Hill (Ph.D 2011), "American Masculinity in Contemporary Adult Comics." Current
position: Full Professor (tenured), Department of English, Alabama State University.
Todd Aldridge (M.A. 2010), "The Threat of Mesmerism in *Confessions of a Magnetiser*; Alcott's
"A Pair of Eyes; or Modern Magic," and James' "Professor Fargo."
Ashlee Riopka Elrod (B.A. 2009; Undergraduate Research Fellow, 2008-2009), "Racial
Identity in Eudora Welty's Fiction." J.D. University of Alabama School of Law
(2013). Current position: Partner, Maynard Cooper Gale, Birmingham, AL.
Carey Pilgrim (M.A. 2008), "The Importance of the Ancient Greek Blood Ritual to the Tales
of Edgar Allan Poe." J.D., University of Georgia School of Law (2011). Current
position: Associate, MSP Attorneys, Rome, GA.

Jennifer Reid (M.A. 2006), “‘Not So Much Written as Dreamed’: Quaker Dream-Work in Charles Brockden Brown’s *Edgar Huntly*.” Current position: Senior Director, Engineering, Cirium Corporation. Portland, OR.

Ivy Grimes (B.A. 2006) “Religion and Family Life in the Oneida Community” [senior honors thesis]. MFA, Creative Writing, Univ. of Alabama; J.D. University of Alabama School of Law (2012).

Deborah Manson (M.A. 2005), “‘The Trance of Ecstatica’: Margaret Fuller, Animal Magnetism, and the Transcendental Body.” University of Georgia English Ph.D. (2010). Current position: Associate Professor of English (tenured), Georgia State University.

M. Kevin Quinn (M.A. 2005). “Shifting Borders and Changing Boundaries: Homosexuality and Homoerotic Desire in Nineteenth-Century American and British Literature.” Current position: Sr. Technical Writer, NetSuite, Raleigh, NC.

Joseph Brown (M.A. 2004), “The Aesthetics of Apocalypse.” Ph.D. in English, LSU (2009), “Children of Men: The American Jeremiad in 20th and 21st Century Science Fiction.” Current position: Program Director, Institute for Teaching and Learning, Colorado State University.

M.A. and Ph.D. committee service

Truman Templeton (M.A. 2026), committee member

Kaeden Boyd (M.A. 2026), committee member

Eden Ayers (M.A. 2025), committee member

Kayla Frye (M.A., 2023), committee member

Soroush Abedini (M.A. 2023), committee member

Heather Weaver (Ph.D. 2022), committee member

Mallory Porch (Ph.D. 2022), committee member

Angela Jordan (ABD), committee member

Kaden Ivy (M.A. 2017), committee member

Courtney Ferriter (Ph.D. 2016), committee member

Timothy Collier (B.A. 2016), English honors thesis, committee member

John Laaman (Ph.D. 2016), Department of History, university reader

Allen Mendenhall (Ph.D. 2015), committee member

James Holzmeister (Ph.D. 2014), committee member.

Stephen Barber (Ph.D. 2011), AU Department of History, university reader.

Adrea McDonnell (Ph.D. 2010), committee member.

Shannon Huggins (Ph.D. 2010), AU Department of History, university reader.

Steele Campbell (M.A. 2010), committee member.

Jeff Clayton (Ph.D. 2010), committee member.

Amy Qualls, Auburn University (M.A., 2003, Ph.D. 2010), committee member.
Whitney Reed (M.Ed. 2009), committee member
Danielle Seymour (M.Ed. 2009), examination committee, College of Education
Kathleen Jackson (M.Ed. 2009), committee member, College of Education,
Nick Boone (Ph.D. committee member, 2007).
Leslie Worthington, Auburn University (Ph.D. committee member, 2007).
Antonia Bowden (M.A. 2007), M.A. committee member.
Ray Dillman (M.A. 2007). Committee member.
Melissa Pojasek (M.A. committee member, 2007).
Chandler Combest (B.A. senior honors thesis, committee member, 2007).
Sara Frear (Dept. of History), Auburn University (Ph.D. committee member, 2007).
Mark Brodie, Auburn University (Ph.D. 2007, committee member).
Cayce Gordy Van Horn (M.A. [creative writing] 2006).

Grants, Awards, and Honors

Jean Wickstrom Liles Professorship in English [5-year term reappointment] Auburn University, 2020-2025.

Jean Wickstrom Liles Professorship in English [5-year term appointment] Auburn University, 2015-2020.

Review Panelist, NEH American Rescue Plan: Humanities Organizations program. Summer 2021.

Review Panelist, NEH Digital Projects for Public Democracy and the Arts. Washington, DC. 10 September 2019.

English Department Nominee, Alumni Professorship. Auburn University, 2015.

Fulbright Lecturer, J. William Fulbright Program/U.S. Department of State. Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures, Nanjing Normal University, Nanjing, China. 2012.

Choice Outstanding Academic Title (2009) for *Imaginary Friends: Representing Quakers in American Culture, 1650-1950*.

Peer Reviewer, NEH Summer Stipends Program (American Studies), National Endowment for the Humanities. 2009, 2013.

Consultant, “Strategic Teaching for Improved Performance of Students (TIPS) in Reading 2010-2011,” an outreach project aimed at language arts faculty development at Lafayette and Valley High Schools (Chambers County, AL) and led by the AU College of Education and project director Dr. Edna Brabham. **Alabama Commission on Higher Education grant (\$99,000). [Grant has been awarded a second year of funding]

Consultant, “Strategic Teaching for Improved Performance of Students (TIPS) in Reading 2009-2010,” an outreach project aimed at language arts faculty development at Lafayette and Valley High Schools (Chambers County, AL) and led by the AU College of Education and project director Dr. Edna Brabham. **Alabama Commission on Higher Education grant (\$98,000).

Judge, *The Oxford American's Great Southern Literature Poll*. August 2009.

5-Year Faculty Sponsor Service Award. Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society. 2008.

Mentor, Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program, Auburn University (competitive). 2008-2009.

Early Career Teaching Excellence Award. (sole recipient). College of Liberal Arts, Auburn University. 2003-2004.

Promoted to Graduate Faculty, level 2. Fall 2003; level 2 reappointment, 2010, 2017.

Residential Seminar Fellowship, “*American Literature and the Question of Belief. Pew Charitable Trusts/Calvin College Seminar in Christian Scholarship*.” Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan. June 24-July 26, 2002 [competitive; received \$3000 grant for participation]

Humanities Development Fund Grant, Auburn University. Summer 2002.

Competitive Research Grant. Auburn University, 2002-2003.

J. Walter Thompson Travel Grant (competitive) Hartman Center for Sales, Advertising & Marketing History, Duke University, Durham, N.C. (Summer 2002).

Morgan Writer-in-Residence program director. Organized UNC-Chapel Hill campus-wide events for visiting author Russell Banks, 1999-2000. Duties included handling publicity, budgeting, special events, interdepartmental communications, and community outreach.

Senior Fellow: University of North Carolina English Department (competitive). 1999-2000.

Participant, *Back to the Futures: An Institute in American Studies*. The Humanities Research Institute at Dartmouth College/Mellon Foundation (competitive). Hanover, N.H., 1998.

American Studies Association Travel Grant recipient, 1997 ASA Conference (competitive).

American Antiquarian Society, 1997 Summer Seminar, “Getting into Print.” Selected as a participant in the annual seminar on the history of the book (competitive).

Chairman of “Positions” critical theory colloquium and lecture series, UNC-Chapel Hill. 1992-93 (elected).

Editorial board, *Carolina Quarterly*. Evaluated poetry submissions for North Carolina’s oldest literary magazine, 1998-2001.

UNC-Chapel Hill English Department, *Peer Review Committee Member*, 1997-98 (elected). Evaluated teaching fellows in literature and composition courses.

UNC-Chapel Hill English Department, *Coordinating Group Leader*, 1998-99 (competitive). Led group training for teaching fellows in literature and composition courses.

UNC Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Travel Grant, Summer 1997.

C. S. Herschel Course Development Award, 1997 (competitive). Composition Program, UNC-Chapel Hill. Departmental award for innovative and interdisciplinary freshman writing course design.

Benjamin Franklin Scholar, University of Pennsylvania [undergraduate].