

Marc C. Conner
Provost and Ballegee Professor of English
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Education

Princeton University: Ph.D. in English Literature (1994)

Princeton University: M.A. in English Literature (1991)

University of Washington: B.A. in English Literature with Honors, *magna cum laude* (1989)

University of Washington: B.A. in Philosophy (1989)

Academic Appointments

Washington and Lee University:

- Provost, July 2017-present
- Interim Provost, January 2016-June 2017
- Associate Provost, July 2013-December 2015
- English Department Chair, 2012-2013
- The Jo M. and James M. Ballegee Professor of English, 2012-present
- Professor of English, 2008-present
- Associate Professor, 2002-2008
- Assistant Professor, 1996-2002

University of Notre Dame, Program of Liberal Studies: Visiting Assistant Professor, 1995-96

Princeton University, Departments of English, Religion, and Writing Program:

Lecturer, 1994-95; Teaching Assistant, 1991-94

Academic Leadership and Service

Provost. As Chief Academic Officer, responsible for the academic mission of the university, including faculty hiring and development, curriculum, governance, technology, and operations.

Key duties include:

- Lead the faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Williams School of Commerce, Economics, and Politics, and the School of Law (287 full-time faculty)
- Management and approval of annual Operations and Capital Budgets (Academic Affairs, approximately \$93M annual budget responsibility)
- Direct Supervisor of all academic units: Academic Deans (College, Williams, Law), Library, Registrar, Instructional Technology, University Athletics, International Education, Mudd Center for Ethics, Community Based Learning, Johnson Program in Leadership and Integrity
- Chair, President's Advisory Committee (including tenure and promotion)
- Board of Trustees liaison, Undergraduate Academics and Admissions Committee

Key Accomplishments:

- Co-chair of university-wide strategic planning, 2017-2018 (plan approved by Board of Trustees May 12, 2018)
- Oversight of university-wide accreditation and assessment by SACS-COC, completed August 2019 (successful reaffirmation 12.9.19)
- Establishment of CARPE (Center for Academic Resources and Pedagogical Excellence), W&L's inaugural Teaching and Learning Center (2018-2020)
- General Education Review (2018-2020)
- Revision of Faculty guidelines for tenure and promotion
- Creation of new interdisciplinary programs: Law, Justice, and Society; and Data Science
- Campus Master Planning committee: 2018-2020
- Leading Science Center Renovation project (\$125M)
- Leading Williams School Renovation project (\$20M)
- Faculty recruitment, hiring, and retention diversity project
- Mellon Grant: "Collaborations in the Arts." PI (\$100,000), 2018-2021
- Mellon Grant: "Digital Humanities." PI (\$800,000), 2015-2020
- Mellon Grant: "History in the Public Sphere." Co-director with Associate Provost Elizabeth Knapp. (\$150,000), 2015-2017
- Teagle Grant: "Engaging Evidence: Programs for Improving Student Learning," collaborative project with Union College and Gettysburg College, 2012-14 (\$230,000)
- Development efforts: large-scale gift cultivation
- Directing Athletics self-study (2018-2020)
- Creation of AIM (Advanced Immersion and Mentoring) summer program aimed at recruitment and retention of under-represented minority students in STEM and other areas (2016-present)

Associate Provost (2013-2015) - Duties included:

- Support and work with Provost (CAO) in all academic initiatives
- Direct Capital Budget process; First-Year Advising and Orientation; New Faculty Orientation; Faculty Teaching and Learning workshops
- Direct the Spring Term Program and Teagle Grant for Spring Term Abroad Programs
- Chair the SACS-COC 5-Year Interim Report Committee, the Spring Term Coordinating Committee, the University Committee on Campus Inclusiveness and Climate, the Learning Spaces Working Group, the Community Engagement and Service Learning Advisory Committee
- Supervise Faculty Awards
- Supervise Faculty Handbook revisions
- Manage University Committee Assignments
- Manage Summer Research Scholars (student/faculty research projects)
- Serve on International Education Committee, Automatic Rule and Reinstatement Committee

Department Chair, English (2012-13) - Duties included:

- Personnel: hiring and annual review of all faculty
- Budget: manage departmental operating expenses, prizes and annual lectures, and all faculty expenditures.
- Assessment: direct annual learning outcome assessments and senior exit survey;

conduct department self-study 2012-13.

- Supervision of staff and work-study students
- Curriculum and Scheduling: prepare and deliver curriculum to serve Foundations requirements, English major, and Creative Writing minor.

Director of the Spring Term (2010-2016) - Duties included:

- Curriculum Planning: assist faculty in direct creation of hundreds of new courses for innovative 4-week spring term, including learning objectives, evidence of engaged learning, and assessment plans
- Assessment: create and implement detailed assessment programs for entire spring term, including faculty focus groups, electronic portfolio projects, faculty and student experience surveys, and advanced rubrics
- Reporting: write the annual year-end report on the Spring Term, building towards the Five-Year Impact Report for SACS-COC.; work closely with Director of Institutional Effectiveness on all assessment and reporting; present annual reports to faculty on progress of Spring Term; report directly to Provost on all Spring Term issues
- Supervision: Chair the Spring Term Coordinating Committee; create and direct pedagogy training sessions on multiple topics and teaching strategies; organize annual Spring Term Festival (presentation of undergraduate research and work). (See W&L's Spring Term web site: <http://www.wlu.edu/x35936.xml>)

Major Committees and University Service

Dean of the Williams School of Commerce, Politics, and Economics Search Committee, 2014-15
Provost Search Committee, 2012-2013

Assistant Provost and Director of Institutional Research Search Committee, 2012

Presidential Search Committee, 2005-2006

Director, Program in African-American Studies, 6/2007-7/2012 (including curricular planning, budget, assessment, student programming, lectures and events)

Director, Spring Term in Ireland Program (2000, 2002, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2017, 2019)

Director of the Quality Enhancement Plan and Q.E.P. Committee Chair, 2009-2010 (chaired committee, drafted the 58-page detailed plan, presented plan to faculty and to SACS-COC: endorsed by SACS-COC August 2010).

President's Advisory Committee, 2012-2013; 2005-2008 (tenure and promotion)

Faculty Representative, Board of Trustees, 2006-7, 2009-2011 (served on following committees: Academic Affairs, Law School, Student Affairs)

International Education Committee, 2010-2015; 2002-2005

Faculty Search Committees in English: 18/19cc British Literature and Women's and Gender Studies search (2015-16); 19c American and African-American search (2014-15); Medievalist search (2012-13), Shakespeare search (chaired, 2005-6), Creative Writing/Ethnic American Literatures search (2004-5)

Presentations: "Leading Through Listening." W&L Staff Development Week, February 20 2014; "The Value of a Liberal Arts Education." W&L Sophomore-MORE program, 2013-2019

Selected University Committees: African-American Studies Program committee, Shepherd Poverty Program, Student-Faculty Hearing Board, Alumni College Advisory Board, Fishback Visiting Writer's Committee, Glasgow Writer's Committee, Student Affairs Committee.

Scholarly Publications

Work in Progress and Forthcoming

Global Ralph Ellison: Transnational Aesthetics and Politics. Co-editor with Tessa Roynon. New York: Peter Lang. Forthcoming 2020.

Contemporary Irish Cinema. Co-editor with Barton Palmer and Julie Grossman. Palgrave MacMillan UK. Series: Palgrave Studies in Adaptation and Visual Culture. Forthcoming 2020.

“The African-American Short Story at Mid-Century.” African American Literature: In Transition, 1750-2015 series, volume on 1940-1950. Eds. Lena Hill and Michael Hill. Cambridge: Cambridge UP. Under contract, submitted.

Touring Ireland and Northern Ireland. A 24-lecture course for The Teaching Company / The Great Courses. Chantilly, VA. In production; release scheduled December 2020. (Book, CD/DVD)

Published Books

The Selected Letters of Ralph Ellison. Co-editor with John Callahan. New York: Random House, 2019. <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/251549/the-selected-letters-of-ralph-ellison-by-ralph-ellison/>

Screening Modern Irish Drama and Fiction. Co-editor with R. Barton Palmer. Palgrave MacMillan UK. Series: Palgrave Studies in Adaptation and Visual Culture, 2017.

The New Territory: Ralph Ellison and the Twenty-First Century, Co-editor with Lucas Morel. Jackson: The University Press of Mississippi, 2017.

Irish Identity: Independence, History, and Literature. A 36-lecture course for The Teaching Company/The Great Courses. Chantilly, VA 2016. (Book, CD/DVD.)

How to Read and Understand Shakespeare. A 24-lecture course for The Teaching Company / The Great Courses. Chantilly, VA. Released winter 2013. (Book, CD/DVD)
<http://www.thegreatcourses.com/greatcourses.aspx>

The Poetry of James Joyce Reconsidered. Editor, with Introduction and Essay. (Gainesville, Florida: The University Press of Florida James Joyce Series, 2012).

Charles Johnson: The Novelist as Philosopher. Co-editor with William Nash, with Introduction and two essays. (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2007)

The Aesthetic Dimensions of Toni Morrison: Speaking the Unspeakable. Editor and contributor, collection of essays. (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2000)

Published Essays, Articles, and Chapters

“A Phenomenology of the Craft of Writing.” Charles Johnson, The Way of the Writing Life. New York: Scribner, 2016.

“Modernity and the Homeless: Toni Morrison and the Fictions of Modernism.” Toni Morrison: Memory and Meaning, eds. Adrienne Lanier Seward and Justine Tally. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2014: 19-32.

“The Invisible Territory of Ralph Ellison.” Modernism and Autobiography, eds. Emily Wittman and Maria DiBattista. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014.

“‘What lay beneath the names’: The Languages and Landscapes of A Mercy.” Toni Morrison: Paradise, Love, A Mercy, ed. Lucille P. Fultz. London: Continuum, 2012: 147-165.

“A Tribute to Charles Johnson, Teacher of Writers.” Charles Johnson: Embracing the World, edited by Nibir K. Ghosh and E. Ethelbert Miller. New Delhi, India: Authorspress, 2011: 110-114.

“Contextualizing Charles Johnson: Review of *Charles Johnson in Context*.” Charles Johnson: Embracing the World, edited by Nibir K. Ghosh and E. Ethelbert Miller. New Delhi, India: Authorspress, 2011: 258-263.

“Whiteness and Blackness: Reflections on the Art of William Christenberry.” Studies in American Culture 32:1 (October 2009): 95-101.

“Reading Ralph Ellison: A Hidden Name and Complex Fate.” South Atlantic Review 73:4 (Fall 2008): 146-153).

“‘The Whiteness of Blackness’: The Bonfire of the Vanities and African-American Poetics.” Shenandoah 57:1 (Spring 2007): 165-181.

“Charles Johnson and Philosophical Black Fiction.” With William R. Nash. In Charles Johnson: The Novelist as Philosopher, eds. Conner and Nash, pp.xi-xxxvii.

“To Utter the Holy: The Metaphysical Romance of Middle Passage.” In Charles Johnson: The Novelist as Philosopher, eds. Conner and Nash, pp.57-81.

“‘At the numinous heart of being’: Dreamer and Christian Theology.” In Charles Johnson: The Novelist as Philosopher, eds. Conner and Nash, pp.150-170.

“The Specter of History: Filming Memory in Beloved.” In Twentieth-Century American Fiction on Screen, ed. R. Barton Palmer. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2007: 202-217.

“The Litany of Things: Sacrament and History in Invisible Man.” In “Raft of Hope”: Ralph Ellison and the Literature of Politics, ed. Lucas Morel. Louisville: University of Kentucky Press, 2004, pp.171-192.

“Fathers and Sons: Winesburg, Ohio and the Revision of Modernism,” Studies in American Fiction 29:2 (Autumn 2001): 209-238.

“Aesthetics and the African-American Novel: The Example of Toni Morrison.” In The Aesthetic Dimensions of Toni Morrison: Speaking the Unspeakable, ed. Conner, pp. ix-xxviii.

“From the Sublime to the Beautiful: The Aesthetic Progression of Toni Morrison.” In The Aesthetic Dimensions of Toni Morrison: Speaking the Unspeakable, ed. Conner, pp. 49-76.

“Wild Women and Graceful Girls: Toni Morrison’s Winter’s Tale.” In Nature, Woman, and the Art of Politics, ed. Eduardo Velasquez (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2000), pp. 341-369.

“Midnight's Children and the Apocalypse of Form,” Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction 38.4 (Summer 1997): 289-299.

“Postmodern Exhaustion: Thomas Pynchon’s Vineland and the Aesthetic of the Beautiful,” Studies in American Fiction 25.1 (Spring 1996): 65-85.

Interviews & Journalism

“Confrontational Education versus Content Delivery.” The Richmond Times Dispatch, 18 November 2013.

http://www.richmond.com/opinion/their-opinion/guest-columnists/article_c87f892d-68e8-567d-80d1-c29d8694aded.html

“Remembering the Late J.D. Salinger.” Civic Soapbox on WMRA/NPR, 16 July 2010.

<http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/wmra/news.newsmain/article/0/0/1676401/news/Remembering.the.Late.J.D..Salinger>

“The National Book Awards and American Identity.” Civic Soapbox on WMRA/NPR, 18 December 2009.

<http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/wmra/news.newsmain/article/0/3507/1590292/>

“John Updike Redux.” Civic Soapbox on WMRA/NPR, 13 February 2009.

<http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/wmra/news.newsmain/article/0/0/1469303/news/John.Updike.Redux>

“The Passing of a Master of the Middle: Remembering John Updike.” The Roanoke Times, 7 February 2009.

“‘To bring all loves home’: An Interview with Jamie O’Neill.” New Hibernia Review, 11:2 (Summer/Samhradh 2007): 66-78.

Book Reviews

Ralph Ellison: Temporal Technologist by Michael Germana. Modern Language Review 114:4 (October 2019), forthcoming

Nighthawks by Charles Johnson. American Book Review 39.6 (2018): 16-17.

Ralph Ellison and Kenneth Burke: At the Roots of the Racial Divide by Bryan Crable. Callaloo 38:1 (Winter) 2015.

Ralph Ellison and the Genius of America by Timothy Parrish. African-American Review 46:2-3 (Summer/Fall 2013): 18-21.

Toni Morrison's *A Mercy*: Critical Approaches, eds. Justine Tally and Shirley A. Stave. South Atlantic Review 78.1-2 (2013): 172-3.

Ralph Ellison in Progress, by Adam Bradley. South Atlantic Review, 75.4 (Fall 2010): 94-98.

Three Days Before the Shooting . . . (The Unfinished Second Novel), by Ralph Ellison. Edited by John F. Callahan and Adam Bradley. Shenandoah 60:3 (94-96), Winter 2010.

The Myth of an Irish Cinema: Approaching Irish-Themed Films, by Michael Patrick Gillespie. South Atlantic Review 75:1 (135-139), Winter 2011.

James Joyce's Painful Case by Coilin Owens in The James Joyce Quarterly 46:1 (2008): 142-146.

"Toni Morrison's *A Mercy*." Review essay in Magill's Literary Annual 2009 (Padadena, CA: Salem Press): 532-536.

Wake Rites: The Ancient Irish Rituals of *Finnegans Wake* by George Cinclair Gibson in South Atlantic Review, 72:4 (Fall 2007): 135-138.

Toni Morrison and Motherhood: A Politics of the Heart by Andrea O'Reilly in South Atlantic Review, 72:1 (Winter 2007): 239-243.

The Light of Evening, by Edna O'Brien in The Irish Literary Supplement, 27:1 (28): Fall 2007.

District and Circle by Seamus Heaney in Shenandoah, 56:3 (Winter 2007): 177-182.

Finding a Replacement for the Soul: Mind and Meaning in Literature and Philosophy by Brett Bourbon in James Joyce Quarterly, 42/43: 1-4 (Fall 2004/Summer 2006): 376-380.

"A Theatrics of Protest": Book review of Lucy McDiarmid's The Irish Art of Controversy in The Irish Literary Supplement 25:1 (Fall 2005): 13-14.

Passing the Three Gates: Interviews with Charles Johnson by Jim McWilliams in African-American Review 39:3 (Fall 2005): 481-483.

Dr. King's Refrigerator and Other Bedtime Stories by Charles Johnson in Shenandoah 55:2

(Fall 2005): 157-160.

The Dark Pool by Ben Howard in Shenandoah 55:1 (Spring/Summer 2005): 198-201.

Charles Johnson's Fiction by William R. Nash in South Atlantic Review 69:4 (Fall 2004).

Love by Toni Morrison in Shenandoah 54:1 (Spring/Summer 2004): 186-189.

Subversive Voices: Eroticizing the Other in William Faulkner and Toni Morrison by Evelyn Schreiber in South Atlantic Review 68:1 (Winter 2003): 87-91.

Negative Liberties: Morrison, Pynchon, and the Problem of Liberal Ideology by Cyrus R.K. Patell in South Atlantic Review 67:4 (Fall 2002): 87-91.

Web Publications and Blogs

The Ralph Ellison Society Web Site and Blog. <https://ellisonsociety.wordpress.com/>

Searchable database for Irish literary studies at Washington and Lee University [electronic resource] (Lexington, VA) : Washington and Lee University, c2003:

<http://ireland.wlu.edu/db.htm>

The Context and Development of Irish Literature: History, Poetry, Landscape [electronic resource] (Lexington, VA): Washington & Lee University, c2006: (A web-based, multi-media, interactive Introduction to Irish History.)

<http://ireland.academic.wlu.edu/introducing-irish-history-a-web-text/>

Conferences and Symposia Organized

"The International Ralph Ellison Symposium." Oxford University and the Rothermere American Institute. September 27-29, 2017.

"The Third Ralph Ellison Seminar" at the Ralph Ellison Reading Room, The Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. June 5-6, 2016.

"The Ralph Ellison Symposium." Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon: February 26-28, 2015

"The Second Ralph Ellison Seminar" at the Ralph Ellison Reading Room, The Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. May 22, 2014.

"The First Ralph Ellison Seminar" at the Ralph Ellison Reading Room, The Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. March 15, 2012.

"The New Territory: Ralph Ellison and the Twenty-First Century." Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA. March 6-17, 2012.

Papers, Lectures, and other Professional Presentations

“Ellison Reading Eliot’s Four Quartets.” The American Literature Association conference, Boston, MA, May 23-26, 2019.

“Plenitude and Possibility: The Forms of Friendship in Charles Johnson’s Night Hawks.” The American Literature Association conference, Boston, MA, May 23-26, 2019.

“They were all becoming shades”: Time, Community, and The Dead in The Children Act.” The Law and Literature Symposium, Washington & Lee University, Lexington, VA, November 7, 2015.

Chair, The Autumn Gathering: The 19th Lady Gregory Conference. Coole Park, South Galway, Ireland. September 24-27, 2015.

“Reconceiving James Joyce as an Irish Poet.” Invited lecture, the James Joyce Summer School, Trieste, Italy. June 2015.

“New Perspectives on Three Days Before the Shooting . . . : Ralph Ellison’s 21st Century Vision of American Literature.” Invited address, “The Ralph Ellison Symposium.” Lewis and Clark College, Portland, OR. February 27, 2015.

“Ralph Ellison’s Self Writing: Articulating the “I” in Three Days Before the Shooting . . .” The Modern Languages Association Conference, Chicago, IL. January 9 2014.

“*Nineteen Eighty-Four* and the Guilt of Writing.” The Law and Literature Symposium, Washington & Lee University, Lexington, VA, November 7, 2014.

“Dis-placements: Separation and Return in Snow Falling on Cedars.” The Law and Literature Symposium, Washington & Lee University, Lexington, VA, November 2, 2013.

“The Irish Woman Writer: The Influence of Augusta Gregory.” Keynote Lecture at the 19th Autumn Gathering/Lady Gregory Conference, Galway, Ireland. October 5, 2013.

“Lessons Learned from a Year in the Writer’s House.” The American Literature Association conference, Boston, MA, May 23-26 2013.

Moderator and contributor, “Teaching Roundtable on Ralph Ellison’s Three Days Before the Shooting . . .” The American Literature Association conference, Boston, MA, May 23-26 2013.

“Their baffled hearts’: Sacrifice in Tess of the D’Urbervilles.” The Law and Literature Symposium, Washington & Lee University, Lexington, VA, November 10, 2012.

“Father Abraham: Ellison’s Agon with the Fathers in Three Days Before the Shooting . . .” For the Ralph Ellison Symposium, “The New Territory: Ralph Ellison and the Twenty-First Century,” Washington & Lee University, March 17, 2012. Organized and chaired panel and symposium.

“Crowds and Sacrifice: The Tragi-Comedy of Chronicle of a Death Foretold.” The Law and Literature Symposium, Washington & Lee University, Lexington, VA, October 15, 2011.

“Bliss and Hickman: The Spiritual Center of Ellison’s Epic.” The American Literature Association Conference, Boston, MA, May 26-29, 2011.

“Marina Carr’s By the Bog of Cats: Woman, Place, Poetry.” Symposium on the Irish playwright Marina Carr at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, October 27, 2010.

“Native Son and the Crisis of Expression,” The Law and Literature Symposium, Washington & Lee University, Lexington, VA, October 3, 2010.

“A Phenomenology of the Craft of Writing, or, A Tribute to Charles Johnson, Teacher of Writers.” American Writers and Poets Conference, Denver, Colorado April 9-12, 2010.

“Yeats, Joyce, and the Concept of the Irish Poet.” 51st Yeats International Summer School, Sligo, Ireland, July 26-30, 2010.

“Opposites Attract: Gregory, Joyce, and the Union of Irish Modernism.” 16th Autumn Gathering Lady Gregory Conference, Coole Park, Galway, Ireland, September 24-26, 2010.

“The Languages and Landscapes of Mercy.” 6th Biennial Toni Morrison Society International Conference, Paris, France, November 4-7, 2010.

“The Grapes of Wrath and the American Landscape: An Imaginative Journey.” The Law and Literature Symposium, Washington & Lee University, October 17, 2009.

“Charles Johnson Between Ellison and Obama: Redefining the Black American Narrative.” The American Literature Association Conference, Boston, MA, May 21-24, 2009.

“A Mercy as Vision and Revision of Morrison’s Previous Novels.” The American Literature Association Conference, Boston, MA, May 21-24, 2009.

Toni Morrison’s Gnostic Theologies of Paradise.” The African Athena Conference, Warwick University, Warwick, U.K. November 7, 2008.

“The Religious Dimensions of the African-American Novel.” Paper presented at the Rothermere American Studies Institute, Oxford University, November 5, 2008.

“The Great Gatsby as an American Parable.” Law and Literature Symposium, Washington & Lee University, Lexington, VA, October 19, 2008.

“Modernity and the Homeless: Toni Morrison’s Gnostic Quest.” Keynote Address for the Toni Morrison Society 5th Biennial Conference, Charleston, SC, July 24-27, 2008.

“Going to the Territory: The Literary Legacy of Ralph Ellison.” The American Literature Association Conference, San Francisco, CA, May 22-25, 2008.

“‘The uncharted deep’: Writing the Mother in Edna O’Brien’s Fiction.” The American Conference of Irish Studies National Meeting, Davenport, IA, April 16-19, 2008.

“‘dogs, diapers, cabbage, old women, burnt grease, and the eternal fate of man’: All the King’s Men as a Philosophical Novel.” Law and Literature Symposium, Washington and Lee

University, Lexington, VA, November 3-4, 2007.

“Charles Johnson and the West: Place, Time, and the Meaning of Home.” The Western Literature Association National Conference, Tacoma, Washington, October 19, 2007.

“African-American Literature and the Sense of Place.” The John Chavis Lecture, Washington & Lee University, Lexington, VA, October 3, 2007.

“‘A secret spiritual geography’: The Art of In Cold Blood.” Law and Literature Symposium, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA, October 7, 2006.

“Imagining Integration: Charles Johnson and the Philosophical Black Novel.” The John Chavis Lecture, Washington & Lee University, September 20, 2006.

“The Ancestry of Form: Charles Johnson’s Meditations on Short Fiction.” The American Literature Association Conference, San Francisco, CA, May 25-28, 2006.

“Performing Much Ado About Nothing.” Public lecture delivered as part of the “What’s Up with English?” Lecture Series, Washington & Lee University, Lexington, VA, Tuesday, April 25th, 2006

“Mapping the Rebellion: Jamie O’Neill’s At Swim, Two Boys.” The American Conference of Irish Studies National Meeting, St. Louis, MO, April 20, 2006.

“A Study in Homelessness: Rebecca West’s A Train of Powder and the Modern Condition.” Law and Literature Symposium, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA, October 1, 2005.

“Toni Morrison’s Narrative Theology: A Reading of Love.” The Inaugural John Chavis Lecture, Washington & Lee University, September 15, 2005.

“Remembering Beloved: Love as a Memory Book.” Paper for the Fourth Biennial Toni Morrison Society Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio, Friday, July 15th, 2005. Organized panel.

“The Philosophy of Form: Charles Johnson’s Experiments with the Novel.” “Celebrating the African-American Novel: Critical Visions and Revisions of its Past and Present,” Pennsylvania State University, April 1-2, 2005.

“After Beloved: Toni Morrison and the Romance of Race.” Invited lecture at Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont, March 3, 2005.

“Vanity of the Bonfire: The Mask, the Masque, and the Emptiness Between.” Law and Literature Symposium, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA, October 30, 2004.

“Chamber Music and Joyce’s Poetics of Knowledge,” 19th International James Joyce Symposium, Dublin, Ireland, June 12-19, 2004.

“‘At the numinous heart of being’: Dreamer and New Testament Theology.” American

Literature Association Conference, San Francisco, May 27-30, 2004.

Colloquium: "On the Genesis of Liberty." Liberty Fund Colloquium, New Orleans, March 25-28, 2004.

"Ireland in Site and Sound: A Web Presentation," American Conference of Irish Studies, Mid-Atlantic Regional, Baltimore, October 24-25 2003.

"'We cannot read God's will': Miller's The Crucible and American Ambiguity." The Law and Literature Symposium, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA, October 3-4, 2003.

"The Fate of the Ancestor: Ralph Ellison and Toni Morrison," The 3rd Biennial Conference of the Toni Morrison Society: "Toni Morrison and the Politics of Learning," June 24-27, 2003, Washington, D.C.

"'News of the Invisible World': The Gnostic Lady Gregory," The American Conference of Irish Studies, Minneapolis, June 4-7, 2003.

"Beyond 'Philosophical Fiction': The Ontological Foundation in Johnson's Dreamer," The American Literature Association, Boston, May 22-24, 2003.

"Lies and Liberty: The Failure of Tragedy in Miller's An Enemy of the People," and "From Ibsen to Miller: The Evolution of 20th-century Tragedy." The Law and Literature Symposium, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia, October 11-12, 2002.

"Between Self-Destruction and Self-Reliance: Judgement and Mercy in Invisible Man." Invisible Man Turns Fifty: Ralph Ellison and the Literature of American Politics--International Symposium commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of Invisible Man. Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia, February 1-2, 2002.

"Intruder in the Dust: Indebtedness, Maturation, and the Problem of Justice." The Law and Literature Symposium, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia, November 10, 2001.

"The Unforgettable in the Writings of Toni Morrison"

"Unspeakable Histories: Ghosts, Traces, and Rememories in Toni Morrison"

"Toni Morrison and the Questions of Translation"

"Gaze and Address in the Work of Toni Morrison" ~ Four papers presented at the *Fete du Livre 2001*, Honoring Toni Morrison. Les Ecritures Croisees, Aix-en-Provence, France, October 18-21, 2001.

"Fifty Years After: Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man and the Great American Novel." Homecoming Seminar, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia, October 8, 2001.

Colloquium: "Montesquieu and Ancient Rome." Liberty Fund Colloquium, August 9-12, 2001, Santa Fe, NM.

“The Unseen Book: Gnosticism in Modern Irish Literature: The Example of Synge and the Blaskets,” The American Conference of Irish Studies, Fordham University, New York, June 6-9, 2001.

Colloquium: “The Liberal Family: Patriarchy, Liberty, and Virtue.” Liberty Fund Colloquium, February 15-18, 2001, Richmond, Virginia.

“‘You are all amazed’: The Anxiety of the Holy in The Merchant of Venice.” The Law and Literature Symposium, Washington and Lee University, October 13-14, 2000.

“Home as Maternal Art: Sacrifice and Grace in Jazz.” Toni Morrison and the Meanings of Home: Second Biennial Conference of the Toni Morrison Society, Lorain, Ohio, September 28-30, 2000.

“Modernity and the Homeless” (lecture), Washington and Lee University Catholic Campus Ministry: Last Lecture Series, March 15, 2000.

“‘Whatsoever Things Are True’: An Apology for the Life of the Mind,” Address for the Phi Eta Sigma Induction, Washington and Lee University, October 29, 1999 (published by Washington and Lee, 2000).

“Wandering and Home in Irish Poetry: The Example of W.B. Yeats” (lecture), Deoraithe na hEireann (the Irish Culture Club), Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Virginia, October 26, 1999.

“Measure for Measure: Mercy, Grace, and Justice.” The Law and Literature Symposium, Washington and Lee University, October 22-23, 1999.

“The Wanderer and the Householder: The Two Poles of Charles Johnson’s Vision,” Twentieth-Century Literature Conference, Louisville, Kentucky, February 25-27, 1999.

“‘The Music the World Makes’: The Narrative Quest of Toni Morrison’s Jazz,” Twentieth-Century Literature Conference, Louisville, Kentucky, February 26-28, 1998.

“Fathers and Sons: Winesburg, Ohio and the Tensions of Modernism,” Twentieth-Century Literature Conference, Louisville, Kentucky, February 20-22, 1997.

“From the Sublime to the Beautiful: The American Novel in the Twentieth Century”(lecture), the University of Notre Dame, February 2, 1997.

“Restoring the American Pastoral: The Case of Vineland,” Northeast Modern Language Association Convention, Montreal, Quebec, April 19-20, 1996.

“Exclusion and Exorcism in the Novels of Toni Morrison”(lecture), Washington and Lee University, February 5, 1996.

“Morrison’s Beloved and the Post-World War II American Novel”(lecture), Claremont McKenna College, February 1, 1996.

“From Wasteland to Vineland: Reclaiming the American Landscape in the Novels of Thomas Pynchon.” The First Conference of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, June 9-11, 1995.

“Exclusion and Exorcism in the Novels of Toni Morrison,” The Toni Morrison Conference, Bellarmine College, Lexington, Kentucky, April 6-8 1995.

“From Henry Adams to Toni Morrison: The Development of American Fiction in the Twentieth Century” (lecture), Western Maryland College, April 17, 1995.

“Land, Belonging, Home: Apocalypse and Survival in The Satanic Verses” (lecture), Washington and Lee University, February 1, 1995.

“Structures of Apocalypse and Survival in Salman Rushdie's The Satanic Verses,” Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Colloquium, Princeton University, November 10, 1992.

Teaching Expertise

My central area of teaching and scholarly expertise is Diasporic Modernism, both Narrative and Poetry, including Irish Modernism, the Modern American Novel, and African-American Literature. I also teach extensively in Shakespeare, the Bible as Literature, and related courses in Literature and Religion and Literature and Philosophy.

Major courses taught

English 368: The Modern American Novel

English 352: Modern Irish Literature

English 366: African-American Literature

English 236: The Bible as English Literature

English 252: Shakespeare

Writing 100: First-Year Writing Seminar: “Coming of Age”

English 388: Supervised Study in Ireland (spring 2000, 2002, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2017, 2019)

African-American Studies 130: Introduction to African-American Studies

Special Seminars Taught

English 295: Ralph Ellison and the Making of America (Spring 2018)

English 295: The American Hero in Fiction and Film (Spring 2013)

English 413: Irish Modernism (Autumn 2012)

African-American Studies 295: The African-American Memoir (spring 2008)

English 413: Yeats and Gregory (winter 2008)

English 413: Gnosticism and Modern Irish Literature (winter 2006)
English 380: Irish Poetry (spring 2000, 2002, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2017, 2019)
English 299: Yeats and the Irish Renaissance (winter 2005)
English 290: Comedy and Tragedy (winter 2000)
University Scholars 101 & 201: Literature and Existentialism (winter and spring 1999)
English 380: William Faulkner and Toni Morrison (spring 1997)

Organizations and Offices

The American Shakespeare Center, Board of Directors (2017-present)
The Ralph Ellison Society (Co-founder, Secretary/Treasurer 2011-present)
The Toni Morrison Society (Treasurer, 2007-2011)
The Charles Johnson Society (Co-founder, Newsletter and Web Site Editor, 2007-present)
Omicron Delta Kappa, inducted 2007. Alpha Chapter at Washington and Lee University, Faculty Secretary 2013-2017.
Phi Beta Kappa
American Literature Association
American Conference of Irish Studies

Languages

Spanish (reading and writing), Russian (reading), Old English (reading), Irish (reading), French (reading, writing)

Awards, Honors, and Fellowships

- Washington & Lee University nominee, State Council of Higher Education of Virginia Governor's Award for Outstanding Faculty Member, 2009, 2012.
- Anece McCloud Excellence in Diversity Award, Washington and Lee University, 2009.
- Lenfest/John M. Glenn Grant Summer Research Fellowship (1997- 2001, 2003-2012)
- Robert E. Lee Research Supervision Grant, Summer 2001, Summer 2010
- Mellon/ACS Teaching with Technology Fellowship, Spring/Summer 2005
- Ring-Tum Phi Award for Outstanding University Teacher, Washington and Lee University, 2004
- Mednick Fellowship, VFIC, Summer 2004
- ITL micro-grant for Technology in the Classroom, 2003, 2004
- Global Stewardship Course Development Grant, 2003
- Class of 1962 Sabbatical Fellowship, 2002-2003
- Culpeper/Rockefeller Foundation Technology Grant, 2002
- Associated Colleges of the South Technology Grant, 2002
- Class of 1966 Teacher/Scholar Grant, Autumn 2001
- Verizon Teaching with Technology Grant, Autumn 2001
- Mellon Teaching and Technology Fellowship, Fall and Winter, 2000-2001
- Mellon Dissertation Fellowship (1993-94)
- McCosh Graduate Teaching Award (1993) (outstanding graduate student teacher in Princeton English dept.)
- English Department Nominee, Princeton University, University Distinguished Teaching Award (1993)
- Princeton University Presidential Fellowship (1991-93)

- Robert H. Taylor Research Grant (1992)
- Mellon Foundation Language Study Grant (1990)
- Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities (1989-1991)

References

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