

# Joshua R. Eyster, Ph.D.

## Education

Ph.D. in Medieval Studies (Emphasis: Medieval English Language and Literature)  
University of Connecticut, 2006

M.A. in Medieval Studies (Emphasis: Medieval English Language and Literature)  
University of Connecticut, 2002

B.A. in English  
Gettysburg College, *magna cum laude*, 2000

## Professional Experience

**Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning** (August 2019-present)  
University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS

- Faculty Appointment: Clinical Assistant Professor of Teacher Education
- Director of the ThinkForward Quality Enhancement Plan on Critical Thinking
- Key member of Keep Teaching, the pandemic response team responsible for supporting faculty in the transition to remote instruction.
- Led, as part of Keep Teaching, a university-wide learning community on Resilient Pedagogy.
- Chaired task forces to review our current student evaluation forms and to recommend changes, to revise eligibility requirements for teaching awards so that NTT faculty would be eligible, and to create strategic objectives for accessibility and UDL in the classroom.

**Executive Director, Center for Teaching Excellence** (January 2019-July 2019)

**Director, Center for Teaching Excellence** (2013-2019)

Rice University, Houston, TX

- Faculty Appointment: Adjunct Associate Professor of Humanities.
- Managed institutional programs and services designed to support and enhance teaching and learning at the university.
- Led a university-wide umbrella IRB protocol for teaching-related research at Rice.
- Co-wrote the university's Accessibility Strategic Plan and co-chaired the implementation committee.
- Collaborated with Academic Advising, Center for Civic Leadership, Digital Education, the Disability Resource Center, the Office of Faculty Development, the Office of Information Technology, the Office of Inquiry-Based Learning, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, the Offices of the President and Provost, and the university's Committee on Teaching to promote evidence-based teaching initiatives.
- Developed, directed, and taught courses in the accredited Graduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning for Ph.D. students. As of June 2019, 46 graduate students had completed the 11-credit certificate.

### **Associate Director of the Center for Teaching and Faculty Excellence**

George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

2011-2013

- Faculty Appointment: Affiliate Associate Professor of English.
- Coordinated and expanded the annual Innovations in Teaching and Learning Conference.
- Developed new faculty-centered programs, including an annual reading group.
- Led graduate student development programs.

### **Assistant Professor of English**

Columbus State University, Columbus, GA

2006-2011

- Approved for Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor, 2011.
- Assistant Chair of the English Department, 2009-2011.
- Acting Assistant Dean—College of Arts and Letters (temporary position), July-December 2008.
- Led the committee to completely revise departmental promotion and tenure requirements. The new guidelines passed unanimously in 2011.

### **Teaching Assistant and Instructor of Record**

University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

2000-2006

- Academic Coordinator—English and Philosophy, Student Support Services, Center for Academic Programs, 2004.

## **Scholarly Publications**

### **Books**

*How Humans Learn: The Science and Stories behind Effective College Teaching* (West Virginia University Press, 2018).

### **Media Coverage:**

- Noted as a [“Book of the Year”](#) in the *Chicago Tribune* (12/12/18)
- [Reviewed in](#) the *Los Angeles Review of Books*
- *Chronicle of Higher Education* feature story ([11/7/18](#))
- *Inside Higher Ed* (on [5/9/18](#) and [8/20/18](#) and [11/19/18](#) and [5/2/21](#))
- *Research in Action* ([podcast episode on 10/29/18](#))
- *Teaching in Higher Education* ([podcast episode on 11/15/18](#))
- *Future Trends Forum* ([videocast episode on 11/29/18](#))
- *Collegiate Empowerment Show* ([podcast episode on 11/30/18](#))
- Interview for “Houston Matters” on Houston NPR ([aired on 12/6/18](#))
- *New Books Network* ([podcast episode on 12/12/18](#))
- *Tea for Teaching* ([podcast episode on 1/16/19](#))
- *EdSurge Podcast* ([podcast episode on 2/5/19](#))

*Failing Our Future: How Grades Harm Students, and What We Can Do about It*

- Forthcoming from Johns Hopkins University Press (August 2024).

### **Edited Collections**

*Disability in the Middle Ages: Reconsiderations and Reverberations* (Ashgate, 2010).

Editor and Contributor.

*A Cultural History of Disability in the Middle Ages* (with Jonathan Hsy and Tory Vandeventer Pearman). Volume 2 in the *Cultural History of Disability Series*, Gen. Eds. David Bolt and Robert McRuer (Bloomsbury Press, 2019).

Editor and Contributor.

### **Essays in Peer-Reviewed Journals**

“Disability and Prosthesis in L. Frank Baum’s *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. *Children’s Literature Association Quarterly* 38.3 (2013): 319-34.

“The Athletes of Christ: Spiritual Athleticism in Medieval Christian Thought.” *The International Journal of Religion and Sport* 2 (2012).

“The Rhetorical Significance of Wrestling in *Ancrene Wisse*.” *The Mediaeval Journal* 2.1 (2012): 1-12

“Cain’s *marke*: N-Town’s *Noah* and the Lamech Interlude Reconsidered.” *Neophilologus* 94.2 (2010): 353-62.

“The *Miller’s Tale*, ll. 3466-99: Narrative Inconsistency and the First Fragment of *The Canterbury Tales*.” *ANQ: American Notes and Queries* 21 (2008): 2-6. (with John P. Sexton)

“Once More to the Grove: A Note on Symbolic Space in the *Knight’s Tale*.” *The Chaucer Review* 40 (2006): 433-39. (with John P. Sexton)

“The Manuscripts of *Piers Plowman*.” *Literature Compass* 2 (2005): ME 132, 1-11. (with C. David Benson) [Peer-reviewed essay for Blackwell Publishing at: <<http://www.literature-compass.com>>.]

“Reassessing the Wrestling in *Beowulf*.” *English Language Notes* 41.3 (2004): 1-11.

### **Encyclopedia Entries**

“Aldhelm.” In *Companion to British Poetry Before 1600*. Ed. Michelle M. Sauer. New York: Facts on File, 2008.

“*Piers Plowman*, Passūs XIX and XX.” In *Companion to British Poetry Before 1600*. Ed. Michelle M. Sauer. New York: Facts on File, 2008.

### **Book Reviews**

Bernard of Clairvaux, *On Baptism and the Office of Bishops*, trans. Pauline Matarasso with introductions by Martha G. Newman and Emero Stiegman (Kalamazoo, MI: Cistercian Publications, 2004). *Mystics Quarterly* 31 (2005): 131-34.

### **In Progress**

“A Kaleidoscope Ever Turning: Medieval Disability Studies, Then and Now.” In *The Routledge Research Companion to Medieval Disability Studies*. Eds. John P. Sexton and Kisha G. Tracy. Under contract with Routledge.

### **Other Research, Writing, and Scholarship**

“[The Origin of Grades in American Schools](#).” *Saturday Evening Post*. 26 February 2024.

“[Grades Are at the Center of the Student Mental Health Crisis](#).” Guest post for the “Just Visiting” column on *Inside Higher Ed*. 7 March 2022.

“[What We Mean When We Talk about Lectures](#).” *Inside Higher Ed*. 16 October 2018.

“[To Ban or Not to Ban: Education, Technology, and the Media](#).” *Ed Tech Researcher*, a blog for *Education Week*. 2 October 2017. (with Beth Holland)

“[Against Student Shaming](#).” *Inside Higher Ed*. 29 March 2017.

“[Teaching is messy. We need to embrace that](#).” Op-Ed for the *Houston Chronicle*. 1 February 2017.

Interviews by Bonni Stachowiak for the podcast “Teaching in Higher Ed”:

“[Biology, the Brain, and Learning](#)” (25 September 2014)

“[Teaching Lessons from Pixar](#)” (8 September 2015)

“[The Problem with Grades](#)” (17 February 2022)

“[The Rhetoric of the CV](#).” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. 5 April 2012.

### **Grants**

*Steering Committee*. NSF RCN-UBE Grant. “TuNE-BIO: Transforming Assessment, Feedback, and Grading in Undergraduate Biology Education.” Funded Amount: \$74,960. [PI—**Sarah Rose Cavanagh, Simmons University; Co-PI—Michele Lemons, Assumption University**]. Project funding ends in December 2023.

*Co-PI.* NSF-NRT Grant: “A Bioelectronics Incubator for Training Students (BITS) at the Cell/Material Interface.” Funded Amount: \$2,999,025. [**PI—Jonathan Silberg, Rice University**]. Moved to a position on the advisory board when I left Rice.

*Co-PI.* NSF-IUSE Grant: “Collaborative Research—Solving Problems of Mathematics Accessibility with Process-Driven Math.” Funded Amount: \$293,438. [**PI—Yvette Pearson, Rice University**]. Project completed in 2019.

*PI.* Humanities Research Innovation Fund Grant to support research for my book project, *How Humans Learn: The Science and Stories behind Effective College Teaching*. Funded Amount: \$4,000. [**Internal Award**]. Project completed in 2017.

*Senior Personnel.* Faculty Initiatives Fund Grant: “Inside the Undergraduate Experience: An Investigation of Current and Best Practices and Barriers to Implementing Evidence-based Teaching Strategies at Rice University.” Funded Amount: \$29,921. [**Internal Award; PI—Margaret Beier, Rice University**]. Project completed in 2015.

## **Professional Activities**

### **University of Mississippi**

#### Service to University

University’s Strategic Planning Council (2021-2022)

Chair, Student Evaluation Task Force (2020-21)

Various search committees (2021-present)

One of the team leads for Keep Teaching, a part of our Academic Continuity unit (2020-2022)

Accessibility Standing Committee (2020-2022)

Diversity Liaison (2019-present)

General Education Committee (2019-present)

- Chair, Critical Thinking Competency Subcommittee

QEP Advisory Board, *ex officio* (2019-present)

#### Service to Profession

Advisory Board, Teaching, Learning, and Thriving series for University of Oklahoma Press

Advisory Board, *Pedagogy and Profession* (a journal of the New Chaucer Society)

Board Member, Distance Teaching & Learning Conference (2020-21)

Editorial Board, *Teaching the Middle Ages* series for MIP/ARC-Humanities Press

### **Rice University**

#### Service to University

Chair, Accessibility Advisory Committee for Disability Support Services, 2016-2019.

IT’s Academic Technologies Committee, 2015-2019.

Faculty Advisory Board, OpenStax (Rice University’s Open Access Textbook Initiative), 2015-2017.

Co-Chair, Accessibility Strategic Planning Committee, 2015-2016.

Classroom Quality Management Team, 2014-2019.  
 Digital Education Advisory Council, 2013-2019.  
 Faculty Senate Committee on Teaching (*ex officio*), 2013-2019.  
**Subcommittees:** Teaching Evaluations; External Awards; Internal Awards.  
 Various Search Committees, 2013-2019.  
 Planning Committee for the De Lange Conference: “Teaching in the University of Tomorrow,” 2013-2014.  
 Faculty Senate Working Group on Grade Inflation, 2013-2014.  
 Student Association’s Working Group on Innovation in Undergraduate Education, 2013-2014.

#### Service to Profession

Editorial Board, *Teaching the Middle Ages* series for MIP/ARC-Humanities Press  
 External Reviewer, University of Iowa’s Center for Teaching.  
 International Advisory Board, “Disability before Disability” project, University of Iceland, 2016-2019.  
 External Reviewer—Various Tenure/Promotion Cases, 2015-2019.  
 External Examiner, Ph.D. Dissertation—Agatha Hansen, Queen’s University (Canada), 2014.  
 Reviewer and Panelist, NEH Office of Digital Humanities Digital Start-Up Grants, 2014.  
 Reader, *To Improve the Academy*, 2012-present.  
*Journal on Excellence in College Teaching*, 2012-present.  
 Reviewer, Proposals for POD Conference, 2012-present.

### **George Mason University**

#### Service to University

Steering Committee for Mapworks, 2012-2013.  
 Search Committee, Director of Graduate Student Life, 2012.  
 Search Committee for 2 Instructional Designers, 2012.  
 Reviewer, Critical Thinking across the Curriculum Portfolios, 2012.  
 Coordinating Circle—Center for Teaching Excellence (*ex officio*), 2011-2013.  
 Critical Thinking across the Curriculum Steering Committee, 2011-2013.  
 Distance Education Advisory Council, 2011-2013.  
 Distance Education Ph.D. Advisory Group, 2011-2013.  
 Faculty and Curricular Activities Subcommittee for the QEP, 2011-2013.  
 Office of Disability Services Advisory Board, 2011-2013.  
 Teaching Excellence Award Committee, 2011-2013.

#### Service to Profession

Reviewer, Proposals for Society for Disability Studies Conference, 2013.  
 Grant Reviewer, The Wellcome Trust for Medical Humanities, 2012.

### **Columbus State University**

#### Service to University

Faculty Senator, 2009-2011.  
 University Faculty Development Committee, 2009-2011.

Chair, Task Force on Faculty Recognition, 2009-2010.  
 Athletics Committee, 2009-2010.  
 University Strategic Planning Committee, 2008-2009.  
 Chair, College of Arts and Letters Awards Committee, 2008-2009.  
 Outside Member, Search Committee for Assistant Professor of Ceramics, 2008-2009.  
 Early College Task Force, 2007-2011.  
 Elected Representative for the College of Arts and Letters, Academic Standards  
 Committee, 2007-2008.  
 Disability Services Advisory Council, 2007-2011.  
 Faculty Advisor, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, 2007-2009.  
 Women's Issues Advisory Council, 2007-2009.  
 Grader, Quality Enhancement Program (QEP) Essays for Institutional Research, 2007.  
 Regents' Exam Reader, 2006.

#### Service to Department

Strategic Planning Committee, 2009-2010.  
 Coordinator, Undergraduate Research Group on Children's Literature, 2009-2010.  
 Co-advisor, Sigma Tau Delta, 2008-2011.  
 Undergraduate Advisor (fifteen students), 2007-2011.  
 Coordinator, Graduate School and GRE Workshop Series, 2007-2011.  
 Chair, Search Committee for Tenure-Track Position in Twentieth-Century Literature,  
 2007-2008.  
 First-Year Composition Rubric Subcommittee, 2007.  
 English Majors Committee, 2006-2011 (**Chair, 2010-2011**).  
 First-Year Composition Committee, 2006-2009.  
 Coordinator, Undergraduate Research Group on Disability Studies, 2006-2008.  
 Chair, English 1102 Best Practices Committee, 2006-2007.  
 Early Mentoring Panels for English Education majors.

#### Service to Profession

Reader, *PMLA*, 2008.  
 Reader, *Disability Studies Quarterly*, 2006.

#### Service to Community

Presenter, Continuing Education's "Medieval Times" Summer Camp for Children, 2007.  
 Judge, Muscogee County School District Academic Decathlon, 2007.

### **Invited Presentations, Keynotes, and Workshops**

Lectures and workshops related to the research in *Failing Our Future* (2020-present):

**Adelphi University, Boston College, Central Washington University, Collaborative of Bates College/Bowdoin College/Colby College, Columbus State Community College, Dickinson College, Eastern Connecticut State University, Eckerd College, Georgetown University, The Grading Conference, Madison College, Simmons University, University of Georgia, University of Michigan—Flint, University of**

**Tennessee, University of Texas—Dallas, University System of Georgia, Virtual Lilly Conference**

Lectures and workshops related to the research in *How Humans Learn* (2016-present):

**Austin Community College, Brunel University of London, Columbus State University, George Mason University, Grand View University, Indiana University—Kokomo, Kansas Independent College Association, Knox College, Lewis and Clark Community College, Lone Star College, Northern Illinois University, Oklahoma City University, Ottawa University, Purdue Fort Wayne, Rollins College, Salt Lake City Community College, Shippensburg University, Southeastern University, Southern Utah University, St. Mary’s University of Minnesota, SUNY Potsdam, Teaching Professor Conference, Texas Tech University, Texas Wesleyan University, University of Georgia, University of Houston-Downtown, University of Louisiana at Monroe, University of Michigan—Flint, University of Mississippi (prior to employment), University of Missouri, University of New England, University of New Haven, University of North Texas, University of Texas—San Antonio, University of Wisconsin System, Utah State University, Western Kentucky University, and Yale University.**

“On Grief and Loss: Building a Post-Pandemic Future for Higher Ed without Losing Sight of Our Students and Ourselves”

**Endicott College—3 June 2021**

**Georgia Tech—10 May 2021**

**Plymouth State University—30 April 2021**

“Resilient Pedagogy”

**Teaching & Learning Experience Summit at EDUCAUSE annual conference—5 November 2020**

**St. Mary’s University of Minnesota—12 September 2020**

**Kent School—Three-day workshop series from 21-23 July 2020**

“Teaching as a Creative Endeavor”

**Part of the Scientia Lecture Series at Rice University—2 October 2018**

Three-Day pedagogy workshop at the Bright Institute for Early American Historians

**Knox College—8-10 August 2018**

“Innovation in Education: What Does It Mean, and Why Do We Need It?”

**Baylor College of Medicine (Education Retreat for Medical Residents)—15 April 2016**

“The Changing Nature of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education”

**Baylor College of Medicine—13 November 2014**

**Rice Alumni College—14 June 2014**



“Heurodis, Away with the Fairies: Mental Illness in *Sir Orfeo*”  
**Part of the O’Brien Medieval and Early Modern Studies Faculty Lecture Series at  
 Rice University—2 March 2018**

“‘If I only had a brain’: Disability and Difference in the Oz Narratives”  
**Rice University’s MLS Program—17 June 2014**  
**Shippensburg University—6 March 2014**

“Surveying a New Landscape: The Medieval Disability Studies Digital Glossary Project”  
**George Washington University’s Inaugural Digital Humanities Symposium—25-26  
 January 2013**

### **Other Workshops (Selected)**

“Enhancing Our Students’ Critical Thinking Skills: What the Research Says and How to Apply It to Our Classrooms” (University of Mississippi)

“Are Lectures Effective? What the Research Can and Cannot Tell Us” (University of Mississippi and Rice University)

“Leading Difficult Discussions” (Rice University, with Robin Paige)

“Conducting Successful Peer Observations of Teaching” (Rice University)

“Principles of Course Design” (Rice University, with Betsy Barre and Robin Paige)

“Does Effective Teaching Require Technology?” (Rice University, with Carlos Solis)

“Teaching and the Academic Job Market” (Rice University, with Robin Paige)

### **Teaching Experience**

#### **University of Mississippi (2019-present)**

- EDCI 209: Foundations of Education in America [1 section]
- EDCI 703: Seminar on the Learner and Learning [1 section]
- WRIT 101 [1 section]

#### **Rice University (2013-2019)**

- FWIS 136: The World According to Pixar [2 sections]
- FWIS 193: America and the Yellow Brick Road: The Cultural, Historical, and Literary Significance of Oz [1 section]
- UNIV 500: Principles of Effective College Teaching [6 sections]
- UNIV 501: Research in Teaching and Learning [2 sections]
- UNIV 502: Practicum in College Teaching [3 sections]
- UNIV 599: Teaching Portfolio [7 sections]

**George Mason University (2011-2013)**

- PROV 701: Preparing for Careers in the Academy (graduate seminar) [2 sections]
- English 203: Western Literary Foundations I [1 section]
- English 320: Literature of the Middle Ages [1 section]

**Columbus State University (2006-2011):**

- English 1101: English Composition I [1 section]
- English 1102: English Composition II [3 sections]
- English 2111: World Literature I [12 sections]
- English 2146: Introduction to Fiction [2 sections]
- English 2149: Introduction to Drama [3 sections]
- English 3115: Studies in the American Novel (Topic: Winners of the Pulitzer Prize) [1 section]
- English 3118: Readings in British Literature (Topic: Arthurian Legend) [1 section]
- English 3120: Chaucer [3 sections]
- English 3125: Studies in the British Novel (Topic: The Gothic Novel) [1 section]
- English 3135: Medieval Literature in Britain [5 sections]
- English 3175: Readings in American Literature (Topics: Sports in American Literature and Film; American Children's Literature) [2 sections]
- English 4555: Senior Capstone [1 section]
- English 5166: History of the English Language [3 sections]
- English 5545: Selected Topics (Topic: Children's Literature) [1 section]
- ITDS 1145: Comparative Arts (Topics: *The Wizard of Oz* in Literature, Film, and Popular Culture; Disability in Literature, Film, and the Arts; Sports in Literature and Film) [4 sections]

**University of Connecticut (2000-2006):**

[As a graduate student, I designed and taught sections of all of the following courses]

- English 104: Basic Writing
- English 110: Seminar in Academic Writing
- English 111: Seminar in Writing through Literature
- English 113: Western Literature: Renaissance to Modern
- English 220: Medieval English Literature
- English 249: Advanced Expository Writing—Disability Studies Focus

**Papers, Conferences, and Colloquia****Scholarship of Teaching and Learning**

“Scarlet Letters: Fixing the Problem of Grades.” SXSW EDU, Austin, TX. 4-8 March 2024.

Co-Organizer and Moderator—“We Teach People, Not Content: Understanding How Our Students’ Lives and Backgrounds Affect Our Teaching of the Middle Ages” (A Roundtable). 53<sup>rd</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 10-13 May 2018.

Participant—“Supporting SoTL at Your Institution: Developing an Umbrella IRB” (A Roundtable). 42<sup>nd</sup> Professional and Organizational Development Conference in Montreal, Quebec. 26-29 October 2017.

Participant—“The Open Classroom Initiative: Faculty Visiting Faculty Teaching” (A Roundtable). 42<sup>nd</sup> Professional and Organizational Development Conference in Montreal, Quebec. 26-29 October 2017.

“Teaching and Access.” 52<sup>nd</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 11-14 May 2017.

Participant—“Teaching the Humanities in the Current Climate of Higher Education” (A Roundtable). 51<sup>st</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 12-15 May 2016.

“Leveraging Twitter for Pedagogical Enhancement, Professional Development, and Center Visibility.” 39<sup>th</sup> Professional and Organizational Development Conference in Dallas, TX. 5-9 November 2014.

“The Science of Learning and Why It Matters.” De Lange Conference IX at Rice University. 13-14 October 2014.

“Concept Development Studies: Active Learning and Constructivism in Chemistry Education at Rice University.” AAU Innovations in STEM Education Conference in Washington, DC. 21-23 July 2014. **Authors: Lesa Tran, Joshua R. Eyler, Margaret E. Beier, Elizabeth A. Barre, and John S. Hutchinson.**

“The Engaged Brain: Cognitive Neuroscience and the Necessity of Active Learning Techniques.” 6<sup>th</sup> Annual SoTL Commons Conference in Statesboro, GA. 27-29 March 2013.

“This is Your Brain on Medieval Studies: Teaching, Neuroscience, and the Way Forward.” Presented as part of “Burn after Reading: Miniature Manifestos on Post/medieval Studies” (A Roundtable). 47<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 10-13 May 2012.

“Nothing to Fear but Fear Itself? How the Brain’s Amygdala Can Impede the Learning Process.” Lilly South Conference in Greensboro, NC. 10-12 February 2012.

“Teaching about Disability in Medieval Survey Courses.” Presented as part of “Teaching about Medieval Disabilities: Texts and Pedagogy” (A Roundtable Discussion). 46<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 12-15 May 2011.

### **Medieval Studies and Disability Studies**

Organizer and Participant—“Medieval Disability Studies, Then and Now” (A Roundtable). 53<sup>rd</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 10-13 May 2018.

Organizer and Moderator—“Invisible Disabilities.” 53<sup>rd</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 10-13 May 2018.

“Heurodis, away with the Fairies: Mental Illness in *Sir Orfeo*.” 51<sup>st</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 12-15 May 2016.

Organizer and Moderator—“ ‘Crippling’ the Middle Ages: What Medieval Studies Can Do for Disability Studies and Vice Versa.” 51<sup>st</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 12-15 May 2016.

“Preparing for the Academic Job Market: A Workshop.” 50<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 14-17 May 2015.

Organizer and Moderator—“Disability and Medieval Saints’ Lives.” 50<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 14-17 May 2015.

“The View from Zacchaeus’s Sycamore: Perspectives on Disability in the Medieval English Biblical Plays.” 49<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 8-11 May 2014.

Participant—“Medievalists and the Social Media Pilgrimage: The Digital Life of 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Medieval Studies” (A Roundtable). 49<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 8-11 May 2014.

“ , (A Breath).” 49<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 8-11 May 2014.

Organizer—“Medieval Disability Studies and the Posthuman.” 49<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 8-11 May 2014.

Organizer—“Disability Studies and the Digital Humanities” (A Roundtable). 49<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 8-11 May 2014.

Organizer and Moderator—“Incorporating Medieval Disability Studies into the Classroom” (A Roundtable). 48<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 9-12 May 2013.

Organizer and Moderator—Panel: “Queering Medieval Disability.” 48<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 9-12 May 2013.

Organizer and Moderator—“The Future of Medieval Disability Studies: Where Do We Go from Here?” (A Roundtable). 47<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 10-13 May 2012.

Organizer and Moderator—Panel: “Gender, Sexuality, and Disability.” 47<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 10-13 May 2012.

Organizer and Moderator—Panel: “Living with Disabilities in the Middle Ages.” 46<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 12-15 May 2011.

“*The Canterbury Tales*—Finished or Unfinished? Understanding the Importance of the Canon’s *Yeoman’s Tale*.” 45<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 13-16 May 2010.

Organizer and Moderator—“Disability Studies across the Curriculum” (A Roundtable Discussion). 45<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 13-16 May 2010.

Organizer and Moderator—Panel: “Disability and Power.” 45<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 13-16 May 2010.

Organizer and Participant—“The Theory Question: Intersections between Disability Studies and Medieval Studies” (A Roundtable Discussion). 44<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 7-10 May 2009.

Organizer and Moderator—Roundtable Discussion on Disability in the Middle Ages. 43<sup>rd</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 8-11 May 2008.

“Disability and the Construction of Identity in Bede’s *Historia Ecclesiastica*.” 42<sup>nd</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 10-13 May 2007.

“Figuring Disability in L. Frank Baum’s *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.” Faculty Research Forum, Columbus State University. 18 January 2007

“Sports and Medieval Culture: Reinterpreting the Evidence.” 41<sup>st</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 4-7 May 2006.

Organizer—“Sports in the Middle Ages: Historical and Literary Approaches.” 41<sup>st</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 4-7 May 2006.

“The Value of Interdisciplinary Disability Studies.” Presentation made to the A.J. Pappanikou University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, University of Connecticut. 19 January 2006.

“Medieval Asceticism and Disability Studies: Exploring Cultural Responses to the Impaired Body.” Conference of the Mid-Atlantic Popular Culture/American Culture Association, New Brunswick, NJ. 4-6 November 2005.

“Establishing a Minor in Disability Studies at UConn.” Presentation made to the Council of Deans, University of Connecticut. 13 October 2005.

“The Rhetorical Significance of Wrestling in the *Ancrene Wisse*.” 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Medieval and Renaissance Studies, University of Virginia’s College at Wise. 15-17 September 2005.

“Wrestling with Desire: Athletic Discourse and the Feminine Spirituality of the Katherine Group’s *Marherete* and *Iuliene*.” 40<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 5-8 May 2005.

“Virgins as Athletes: Aldhelm and Anglo-Saxon Christian Thought.” 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies, Villanova University. 17-18 September 2004.

“Spiritual Athletics in the Katherine Group.” English Graduate Student Lecture Series, University of Connecticut. 16 September 2004.

“Recovering the Importance of Spiritual Athleticism for Anglo-Saxon Christianity.” 39<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 6-9 May 2004.

Organizer and Moderator—Panel: “New Directions in Research on Asceticism.” 39<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 6-9 May 2004.

Organizer and Moderator—Panel: “Representing the Body in Medieval Literature.” 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Medieval Graduate Student Conference, University of Connecticut. 18 October 2003.

“The Tournament in the *Knight’s Tale*: Symbolism and Chaucer’s Sense of History.” 38<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 8-11 May 2003.

“Early Medieval Eschatological Hermeneutics: Rule IV of Tyconius’ *Liber Regularum* and its Influence on Augustine.” 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Southeastern Medieval Association, Florida State University. 26-28 September 2002.

“Cain’s *marke*: N-Town’s *Noah* and the Lamech Interlude Reconsidered.” 37<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 2-5 May 2002.

## **Honors and Awards**

**Outstanding Faculty Associate**, McMurry College, Rice University.

2016

**Invited Participant, Rice Leaders Program**, Rice University.

2015-16

**Nominee, Rookie of the Year**, Dean of Undergraduates Division, Rice University.

2014

**CSU's Nominee - University System of Georgia's Board of Regents' Teaching Excellence Award.**

2008 and 2010

**Finalist, Educator of the Year**, Columbus State University.

2008 and 2009

**Nominee, QEP Outstanding Teacher of Writing Award**, Columbus State University.

2008 and 2010

**Departmental Nominee, Faculty Service Award**, Columbus State University.

2009

**Literary Sage Award**, Columbus State University.

2008—Award given by CSU's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta each year.

**Research Foundation Dissertation Fellowship**, University of Connecticut.

2005

**Phi Beta Kappa**, Gettysburg College.

2000

## **Languages**

Old English [prepared to teach at graduate and undergraduate levels]; Classical and Medieval Latin; French (reading knowledge); Spanish (reading knowledge).

## **Professional Affiliations**

POD: The Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education

Society for the Study of Disability in the Middle Ages (Co-founder).