

Robert Erle Barham

Associate Professor of English
Department of English | Covenant College
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Education

Ph.D., English Literature

University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, August 2012
Major: English Literature from 1485 to 1660, Minor: History of Rhetoric through 1700
Dissertation: "Rhetorical Failure in English Renaissance Literature"

M.Phil., Medieval & Renaissance Literature

University of Cambridge, October 2005

M.A., English Literature

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, January 2003

B.A., English Literature

Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge, August 2001
Study Abroad: University of East Anglia, Norwich, September 2000-April 2001

Teaching & Professional Experience

August 2012-present

Associate Professor of English, Covenant College, Department of English—Lookout Mountain, GA

August 2007- August 2012

Teaching Fellow, UNC, Department of English & Comparative Literature—Chapel Hill, NC

January 2007-May 2007

Instructor, Belmont University—Nashville, TN

January 2003-May 2004

Instructor, University of Louisiana at Monroe—Monroe, LA

Publications

"Waiting," *Current*. May 23, 2023.

"For My Students," *Beautiful Things from River Teeth: A Journal of Nonfiction Narrative*. May 1, 2023.

"True Eccentric," *Current*. April 6, 2023.

"Marginalia Matters," *Current*. March 14, 2023.

"Trying to Convince Poison Control You're a Good Parent," *Sweet: A Literary Confection*. March 7, 2023.

"Homeplace," *Complete Sentence*. February 25, 2023.

"What Comes to Mind When I Think About Love," *Current*. February 8, 2023.

"When You Measured the World," *Current*. January 9, 2023.

- Reprinted in *Short Reads*. June 14, 2023.
- "When the Wolf Looks Like Family," *Current*. December 16, 2022.
- "Bibliophilia," *Current*. November 15, 2022.
- "Grace," *Current*. October 14, 2022.
- "Safety in Numbers," *Current*. September 21, 2022.
- "Leave-Taking," *Current*. August 22, 2022.
- "The House Next Door," *Current*. August 1, 2022.
- "We Fought," *Current*. July 6, 2022.
- "Pyrotechnics," *Current*. June 2, 2022.
- "The Pandemic and the Mystery Novel," *Current*. May 2, 2022.
- "The Fawn," *Beautiful Things from River Teeth: A Journal of Nonfiction Narrative*. April 11, 2022.
- "Look Not to the Dead and Dying," *Current*. April 4, 2022.
- "Neighborhood Watch," *Current*. March 7, 2022.
- "Legible Bodies," *Current*. February 2, 2022.
- "Saturated Phenomena," *Current*. January 4, 2022.
- "Memory Stones," *Current*. November 24, 2021.
- "The Significance of Story," with Hans Madueme and Lydia Berglar. *View: The Magazine of Covenant College*. Fall 2021: 16-20.
- "Infestation," *Current*. October 19, 2021.
- "A True Account," *Fourth Genre: Explorations in Nonfiction*. 23:2 Fall 2021: 149-154.
- "Waking Up," *Current*. September 14, 2021.
- "Stories that Gleam like Lightning," with Hans Madueme, *Themelios: An International Journal for Students of Theological and Religious Studies*. 46:2 (August 2021): 375-90.
- "Outside the Baseball Diamond," *Current*. July 13, 2021.
- "Cambridge Conjurings," *Current*. June 17, 2021.
- "Ceremony," *Beautiful Things from River Teeth: A Journal of Nonfiction Narrative*. June 14, 2021.
Reprinted in *Stone Gathering* (French Press Editions). 3:3 Winter 2021/22.
Reprinted in *Creative Nonfiction, Sunday Short Reads*. July 3, 2022.
- "Gun Maintenance," *The Florida Review*. 45:1 Spring 2021: 87-88.
- "Small as This," *The Baltimore Review*. Spring 2021.
- "Jars of Daybreak," *Beautiful Things from River Teeth: A Journal of Nonfiction Narrative*. November 30, 2020.
- "Another Workday," *Beautiful Things from River Teeth: A Journal of Nonfiction Narrative*. February 24, 2020.
- "Bearing Witness," *Appalachian Review*. 47.3 Summer 2019: 105-11.
- Review of *The Correspondence of Erasmus: Letters 2357 to 2471, August 1530–March 1531* by Desiderius Erasmus. *Renaissance Quarterly*. Summer 2018. Vol. 71:2: 662-3.
- "Literary Light," *Touchstone: A Journal of Mere Christianity*. May/June 2018: 12-14.
- "Shakespeare's Language Lessons," *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought*. March/April 2018: 3.
- "Professor Faustus," *Touchstone: A Journal of Mere Christianity*. May/June 2017: 14-15.
- "'Reading As If for Life': My Debt to Frederick Buechner," *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought*. July/August 2016: 3-4.
- "The Local Nativity Play," *Plough*. 22 December 2015. Online.
- "Your Given Name," *Touchstone: A Journal of Mere Christianity*. July/August 2015: 21-22.
- Review of *Magical Imaginations: Instrumental Aesthetics in the English Renaissance* by Genevieve Guenther. *The Sixteenth Century Journal: The Journal of Early Modern Studies*. 44.3 (2013): 915-16.
- "Persuasion in *Paradise Lost*" in *Milton Through the Centuries*. Ed. Miklos Peti. Budapest: Károli Gáspár University and L'Harmattan Publishing, 2012.
- "Hermione's Transformation in *The Winter's Tale*: A Triumph of Art or Nature?" *Tribute to Professor Oya Basak: (Re)reading Shakespeare in Text and Performance*. Ed. Asli Tekinay. Istanbul: Bogazici University Press, 2005.

Papers, Panels, & Conferences

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- Participant, panel discussion for the Being Human Conference with Christina Bieber Lake, Frank Mihelich, and Kelly Kopic, Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, Georgia, March 15, 2022.
- Participant, panel discussion following Covenant College Theatre Department's production of Lucas Hnath's *The Christians*, Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, Georgia, November 20, 2021.
- Presenter, "The Specter of Belief in Contemporary Fiction," Session: Reading for Faith. Southeast Regional Conference on Christianity & Literature, Lee University, Cleveland, TN, June 6-8, 2019.
- Invited Speaker, "C. S. Lewis and Science Fiction," Southern Adventist University, English Department, Collegedale, TN, March 14, 2019.
- Faculty Colloquia with Nola Hecker, "Shakespeare, Linguistics, and Christian Community," Covenant College Scholarship Weekend, January 25 and February 8, 2019.
- Participant in discussion panel following Covenant College Theatre Department's production of William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, Georgia, November 10, 2018.
- Invited Speaker, "C. S. Lewis's *That Hideous Strength* and Supernatural Science Fiction," The C. S. Lewis Society of Chattanooga, Chattanooga, TN, July 19, 2018.
- Faculty Colloquia with Nola Hecker, "Shakespeare, Linguistics, and Christian Community," Covenant College Scholarship Weekend, February 9 and 23, 2018.
- Moderator for Creative Writing: Poetry sessions, Southeast Regional Conference on Christianity & Literature, Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, Georgia, April 6-8, 2017.
- Presenter, "Faustus's Minor Epic." Session: The Limits of Rhetorical Theory in Early Modern English Writing. Renaissance Society of America, Chicago, Illinois, March 2017.
- Participant in discussion panel following Covenant College Theatre Department's production of William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, Georgia, November 19, 2016.
- "Justice and Emotional Appeals in Sidney's *Arcadia*," Medieval-Renaissance Conference XXVIII, The University of Virginia's College at Wise, Virginia, September 25-27, 2014.
- "Shakespeare and the Problem of Biography": An NEH Collaborative Research Conference at the Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC, April 2014.
- Session Chair for Renaissance Drama papers, Southeast Regional Conference on Christianity & Literature, Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, Georgia, April 11-13, 2013.
- Presenter, "Swearing in Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus*." Sixteenth Century Society and Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio, October 25-28, 2012.
- Seminar Organizer, "Crises of the Renaissance Voice: The Inarticulate, Unpersuasive, and Melancholy." American Comparative Literature Association, Brown University, April 2012.
- Presenter, "'When deep persuading oratory fails': Scenes of Amatory Persuasion in the 1590s." American Comparative Literature Association, Brown University, April 2012.
- Presenter, "Forensic Rhetoric in *The Faerie Queene*, Book 5." Renaissance Society of America, Washington, DC, March 2012.
- Panel Moderator, "Readers, Readership, and Ready-Made Communities." The Boundaries of Community: Eleventh Annual North Carolina Colloquium in Medieval and Early Modern Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, February 2011.
- Presenter, "Persuasion in *Paradise Lost*." Milton Through the Centuries. Department of English Studies, Károli Gáspár University, Budapest, Hungary, September 2008.
- Panel Moderator, "Economic Interests." Passions, Affect, and Zeal: Ninth Annual North Carolina Colloquium in Medieval and Early Modern Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, February 2008.
- Presenter, "Rape and Rhetorical Failure in Shakespeare's *Lucrece* and Nashe's *The Unfortunate Traveller*." Passions, Affect, and Zeal: Ninth Annual North Carolina Colloquium in Medieval and Early Modern Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, February 2008.
- Presenter, "Hermione's Transformation in *The Winter's Tale*: A Triumph of Art or Nature?" (Re) reading Shakespeare: Text and Performance. Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey, May 2008.
- Presenter, "Revising Revelation: the Fall in *Paradise Lost*." Illumination: Reason, Revelation & Science. St. Stephen's House, Oxford, UK, July 2002.

Grants & Awards

Runner-up for the 2022 Flash Essay Contest hosted by *Sweet: A Literary Confection* for “Trying to Convince Poison Control You’re a Good Parent,” February 17, 2023.
Best of the Net 2022 nomination for “The Fawn” by *Beautiful Things* from *River Teeth: A Journal of Nonfiction Narrative*, September 30, 2022.
Semi-Finalist for the 2022 *Iron Horse Literary Review* Prose Chapbook Competition, May 4, 2022.
Grant-in-aid for “Shakespeare and the Problem of Biography”: An NEH Collaborative Research Conference at the Folger Shakespeare Library, Folger Institute, spring 2014.
Conference Travel Grant, Covenant College, fall 2012.
Future Faculty Fellow, Center for Faculty Excellence, UNC, summer 2012.
Travel Award, Graduate and Professional Student Federation, UNC, spring 2012.
Conference Travel Grant, Program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies, UNC, spring 2012.
McLaurin-Eliason Dissertation Fellowship, Department of English & Comparative Literature, UNC, spring 2011.
Grant-in-aid for the “Reading, Writing, and Erasmus” Seminar with Kathy Eden, Folger Institute-Folger Shakespeare Library, spring 2010.
International Transportation Grant, UNC Graduate School, fall 2008.
International Conference Travel Grant, Department of English, UVA, fall 2002.

Service

Instructor for the Covenant College Summer Institute, “The Art of Literary Analysis,” July 18-22, 2022.
Instructor for the Covenant College Summer Institute, “The Art of Literary Analysis,” July 19-23, 2021.
Member, Core Oversight Committee, Covenant College (fall 2019—present)
Member, Presidential Scholarship Reading Group, Covenant College (spring 2017—Fall 2021).
Faculty Advisor, *The Thorn*, Covenant College’s student literary and arts magazine (spring 2015—present).
Member, The Annual C.S. Lewis Lectureship at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Planning Committee (spring 2017—present)
Secretary, Admissions Committee, Covenant College (fall 2013—summer 2019).
Member, Lacrosse Feasibility Task Force, Covenant College (fall 2016).
Member, Search Committee for Head Men’s Basketball Coach, Covenant College (summer 2016).
Member, Strategic Initiative Committee designed to increase Covenant’s applicant pool (fall 2015).
Member, Search Committee for Head Women’s Basketball Coach, Covenant College (spring 2013).

References

Reid Barbour, Gillian T. Cell Distinguished Professor of English, Department of English & Comparative Literature, 446 Greenlaw Hall, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599, rbarbour@email.unc.edu, (919) 962-0773.
David J. Baker, Peter G. Phialas Professor of English, Department of English & Comparative Literature, 204 Greenlaw Hall, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599, davidbak@email.unc.edu, (919) 962-4059.
Kathy H. Eden, Chavkin Family Professor of English Literature and Professor of Classics, Department of English & Comparative Literature, 401A Philosophy Hall, Columbia University, 1150 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY, 10027, khe1@columbia.edu, (212) 854-6432.

Jessica Wolfe, Associate Professor of English, Department of English & Comparative Literature, 417
Greenlaw Hall, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599,
jlwolfe@email.unc.edu, (919) 962-9895.