

William Carroll Tate
Dean, Division of Arts and Letters, and Professor of English
Covenant College
Fall 2022

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PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING

I accept the authority and reliability of the Bible as God's revelation of Himself to His Church; on a personal level, I accept the Bible's sufficiency as the standard according to which I measure my beliefs and lifestyle. While I acknowledge (along with Saint Peter, Augustine, and Calvin, for example) that parts of the Bible are difficult to understand, I regard it as clear in matters pertaining to salvation: human sinfulness and consequent need of reconciliation with a holy God; God's merciful provision for this human need in the miraculous birth, innocent life, vicarious death, and victorious resurrection of His unique Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit's indwelling and empowerment for sanctification of those who receive God's mercy. As God's creation and as a recipient of His grace I owe Him, in gratitude, worship and obedience.

The universe, including human culture, is God's creation; as such, it is inherently intelligible, and it is an important part of the role of human beings in creation to apply intelligence to this intelligibility so as to discern in creation God's glory and to speak God's praise on behalf of the rest of creation.¹ We human beings see the evidence of God in creation, but because we are fallible and fallen we reject or misconstrue this general revelation until God by His Holy Spirit regenerates our hearts and minds by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and corrects our understanding through His inspired Word in the special revelation of Holy Scripture. These truths imply two radical realities concerning human learning: (1) knowledge of the world on the part of those who reject Christ will be limited by their unbelief; (2) other considerations being equal, Christians who are aware, by God's grace, of their own limitations but who, in faith, are seeking understanding, are able to approach the fullness of knowing that issues in a "sacrifice of praise."² In making these affirmations, I do not at all mean to minimize the value of non-Christian learning. God, in His providence, may speak His truth to the Church even from outside the Church; all truth is His truth. My point, rather, is that Christians have a greater responsibility and greater resources for recognizing and understanding the truth than their non-Christian counterparts, and they ought to pursue this knowledge with proper confidence as well as with proper humility.

These beliefs make it impossible ultimately to distinguish personal life from professional life; each extends into the other. I regard scholarship generally as the search for truth—not the contradictory, divergent "truths" of modern relativism, but final "Truth." Because Jesus identifies Himself as "the Way, the Truth, and the Life," this search—ultimately, necessarily, and essentially—is the pursuit of the knowledge of God. And as Calvin recognizes, knowledge of

¹ I think these conclusions are implied by the creation of human beings in the image of God and their placement in the created order (Genesis 1:26-30) and by Genesis 2:18-20 (where Adam names the creatures).

² I emphatically affirm the *fides quaerens intellectum* of Augustine. *Credo ut intelligam*: I believe in order that I may understand.

God and knowledge of self (including any understanding of the world) are integrally related.³ Furthermore, real knowledge affects how I live: “Now the knowledge of God, as I understand it, is that by which we not only conceive that there is a God but also grasp what befits us and is proper to his glory.... Indeed, we shall not say that, properly speaking, God is known *where there is no religion or piety*” (*Institutes* I.ii.1). So it is Calvin’s purpose, indicated in the complete title of the *Institutes*, to present “the sum of piety” (that is, to promote Christian living). I willingly grant the difficulty of achieving “final ‘Truth’” in this life, but I consider this difficulty a consequence of human finitude, temporality, and fallenness rather than finding in it evidence that there is no truth. The difficulty—or even the practical impossibility—does not make the goal undesirable. I consider it my responsibility as a teacher, therefore, to help my students learn to think clearly, to encourage them to consider the practical relevance of what they read, and to invite them to pursue integrated and ethical lives. Engagement with literary texts is (or ought to be) an ongoing consideration of truth; the vast majority of English literary production proclaims, perpetuates, modifies, interrogates, or otherwise raises issues associated with the various traditions of interpretation of Christian truth. Sympathetic classroom discussion of these texts may provide for non-Christian students a more accurate historicization of Christianity than they are likely to hear in other forums (apart from the Church) and may provide for Christian students a clearer understanding of what they believe and of why they believe it, while also affirming the intellectual validity of belief. Engagement with literary texts written by Christian authors should be recognized, also, as including an element of participation in the communion of saints; that is they present opportunities to converse, in a sense, with fellow believers across time, and we should read such works devotionally even as we read them academically.

I believe that those students whose learning includes a wide range of knowledge in both the arts and sciences, whose education has required them to evaluate, interpret, organize, and reach conclusions with various kinds of evidence, and whose value systems have been strengthened by thoughtful consideration of alternative systems of value are best prepared to contribute to society and to the Church. I want my students to cultivate a willingness to share knowledge, to consider new ideas or new ways of looking at things, and to insist on and practice high standards of argumentation.

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in English, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1996)
 - Major: Renaissance Literature
 - Minor: Eighteenth-Century Literature
 - Dissertation: “Solomon’s Wisdom, Solomon’s Folly: A Study in Early Stuart Iconography”
- M.A. in English, Duke University (1986)
- M.A. in Bible, Bob Jones University (1984)

³ See the opening chapters of his *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (I.i-ii).

- B.A. in Bible, Bob Jones University (1982)

TEACHING

Teaching of Composition and Literature in English (including English translation)

- Professor, English Department, Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, GA (2007-)
 - Christian Mind: A Covenant Perspective
 - Core 225, Cultural Heritage of the West I
 - Core 226, Cultural Heritage of the West II
 - English 111, English Composition
 - English 201, Introduction to Literary Studies
 - English 210, Classical Literature
 - English 311, Chaucer and the Middle Ages
 - English 318, The Renaissance
 - English 320, Creative Writing: Poetry
 - English 331, The Restoration and Eighteenth Century
 - English 334, British Romanticism (as an independent study)
 - English 380, Critical Theory
 - English 401, Special Topics: Faith and Fantasy
 - English 401, Special Topics: Metaphorical Truth (philosophy and poetry)
 - English 401, Special Topics: Speculative Fiction
 - English 401, Special Topics: Poetry of Richard Wilbur
 - English 299 and 401, Special Topics: The Environmental Imagination
 - English 418, Shakespeare
- Ora Carr Cansler Chair in English, Campbell University, Buies Creek, NC (2006-2007)
- Assistant/Associate Professor, English Department, Campbell University, Buies Creek, NC (1997-2007; tenured 2004)
 - English 101, Freshman Composition I
 - English 102, Freshman Composition II

- English 201, British Literature I
- English 202, British Literature II
- English 203, American Literature I
- English 204, American Literature II
- English 403, English Renaissance
- English 407, Nineteenth-Century American Literature
- English 408, Twentieth-Century Literature
- English 410, Shakespeare
- English 413, English Drama
- English 415, History of the American Novel
- English 416, Modern/Contemporary Fiction
- English 417, Modern/Contemporary Poetry
- English 419, Seminar on Faith and Fairy Tales (focus on literary, theological and cultural issues in such works as C. S. Lewis's *Narnia Chronicles*, Ursula LeGuin's *Earthsea Sequence*, and Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials*)
- English 419, Philosophical Hermeneutics for the Study of Literature (Fall 2005 seminar: focus on the historical development, theological and philosophical implications, and practical relevance of hermeneutics)
- English 420, Independent Studies (focusing on various special topics, including Science Fiction, Utopian/Dystopian literature, Hermeneutics and Translation, and Metaphysical Poetry)
- Adjunct Instructor, English Department, Campbell University, Buies Creek, NC (1996-1997)
 - English 101, Freshman Composition I
 - English 102, Freshman Composition II
 - English 201, British Literature I
 - English 413, English Drama
 - English 203, American Literature I (at Fort Bragg campus)
 - English 204, American Literature II (at Fort Bragg campus)

- Teaching Assistant, English Department, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC (1990-1996)
 - Freshman Composition
 - Introduction to Poetry
 - Seventeenth-Century English Literature (discussion leader/teacher and grader)
 - Shakespeare (discussion leader/teacher and grader)
 - Invited lecturer for Milton class of Professor William McQueen (1989)
- Adjunct Instructor, English Department, Campbell University, Buies Creek, NC (1988-1989)
 - English 101, Freshman Composition I
 - English 102, Freshman Composition II
 - English 201, British Literature I
- Teaching Assistant, English Department, Duke University, Durham, NC (1984-1986)
 - Freshman Composition (University Writing Course I)
 - Introduction to Literature (University Writing Course II, topical courses: (1) on Arthurian Literature, and (2) on Utopian and Dystopian Literature)
- Teaching Assistant, English Department, Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC (1982-1984)
 - Freshman Composition I and II

Interdisciplinary Teaching

- Philosophy 380, Figure Seminar: Jean-Luc Marion (with Professor John Wingard, Fall 2022)
- Philosophy 380, Figure Seminar: Hans-Georg Gadamer (with Professor John Wingard, Spring 2014)
- Invited lecturer on Hans-Georg Gadamer and Paul Ricoeur (for Professor Bill Davis in Continental Philosophy at Covenant College, Fall 2010)
- Invited lecturer on Hans-Georg Gadamer and Paul Ricoeur (for Professors Bill Davis and John Wingard in Continental Philosophy at Covenant College, Fall 2008)
- “At Cross Purposes: Cultural Plurality and Christian Mission” (a 3.0 credit hour course taught in the Campbell University School of Religion, Spring 2006)

- Invited lecturer on American Theology and the Novel in the Nineteenth Century (for Professor Glenn Jonas of the Campbell University School of Religion, Fall 2004)
- Invited lecturer on C. S. Lewis's *The Abolition of Man* (for Professor Alan Button of the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law, Fall 2004)
- Invited lecturer on Theology and Contemporary Literary Culture (for Professor Steven Harmon of the Campbell University School of Religion, Spring 2001)
- Invited lecturer on Jonathan Edwards and American Literature (for Professor Glenn Jonas of the Campbell University School of Religion, Spring 2001)
- Invited lecturer on Jonathan Edwards and American Religious History (for Professor Pam Durso of the Campbell University School of Religion, Fall 2001)

Teaching in the Campbell University Honors Program

- Honors 101-2 (Fall 2001-Spring 2007: proposed, helped design, and taught this two-hour [one-hour per semester] interdisciplinary and integrative freshman orientation sequence for students entering the Honors Program)
- Honors 302 (Spring 2002: proposed, designed, and taught St. Augustine's Astronomy, an interdisciplinary course exploring the interdependence and mutual influence of the Augustinian tradition in theology and developing scientific knowledge in the Copernican period)
- Honors 351 (Spring 2006: proposed, designed, and co-taught an interdisciplinary course examining and developing insights from Miroslav Volf's *Exclusion and Embrace*)

Additional Teaching

- Teacher for Home Bible Study, Chattanooga Valley Presbyterian Church (2010-2018; Colossians, 2 Corinthians, Gospel of John, etc.)
- Teacher for Adult Sunday School, Chattanooga Valley Presbyterian Church, Flintstone, Georgia (2009-2010 taught through portions of the *Westminster Confession of Faith*)
- Teacher for Adult Sunday School, Grace Presbyterian Church, Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina (studies through 1 and 2 Samuel, a class on Apologetics, etc., 2000-present)
- Teacher for home Bible study group from Grace Church (studies through Genesis, Exodus, Romans, Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, the Five Solas of the Reformation, 1999-2007)
- Teacher for the School of Discipleship at Blacknall Memorial Presbyterian Church, Durham, North Carolina (an adult evening education program: courses on American Puritan Poetry, Saint Augustine's Astronomy, Contemporary Poetry and Christian Reading, etc., between 1990 and 1999)

- Teacher for two home Bible study groups from Blacknall Church (studies through John's gospel, Genesis, etc., between 1990 and 1999)
- Teacher for Adult Sunday School at Blacknall Church (studies of the parables of Jesus, the Westminster Confession, etc., between 1990 and 1999)
- Associate Pastor, Cornerstone Bible Church (responsible for music and education programs; taught Adult Sunday School classes on all of the Minor Prophets, the Pastoral Epistles, 1 and 2 Peter, 2 and 3 John, Jude, etc., 1986-1988)

SERVICE

Professional Service

- Chair, nominations committee, Conference on Christianity and Literature, 2014
- Essay reviewer for *Christianity and Literature* (2010-)
- Southeast Regional Representative, Conference on Christianity and Literature (2 years)

Departmental Service, English Department, Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, GA

- Department Chair, (2009-2019)

Institutional Service, Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, GA

- Dean, Division of Arts and Letters (July 2012-)
- Respondent to Michael Vendsel, presentation on Jean-Luc Marion, Gordon Clark Symposium, Spring 2021
- Panel member, "Cremation," a program of the Philosopher's Club, Fall 2009
- Invited speaker for "Minding the Audience," a campus series of Conversations on the Arts, Fall 2009
- Panel member, "Philosopher's Pub," a program of the Philosopher's Club, Fall 2009
- Invited speaker for Chapel Series, Books that Changed My Life, (September 26, 2008)
- Initiator and convener for various faculty/staff book discussion groups
- Member, Faculty Status Committee (2008-2012; chair, 2010-2012)

Departmental Service, English Department, Campbell University, Buies Creek, NC

- Co-chair for search committee (1999-2000)
- Chair for search committee (1998-1999)

- Departmental contact person for adjunct hires (1997-1999)
- Proctor for departmental MFAT examinations (1999, 2000, 2003, 2005)
- Faculty sponsor for Sigma Tau Delta (National English Honor Society, 1997-1999)

Institutional Service, Campbell University, Buies Creek, NC

- Invited speaker for the Campbell University Honors Program spring banquet, April 3, 2007 (“The Ending End of All Earthly Learning”)
- Co-director, Campbell University Honors Program (2001-2007; committee member 1999-present)
- Invited speaker for Campbell University Worship (November 15, 2005)
- Faculty advisor and teacher (teaching shared with two student leaders) for the Monday Night Bible Study (a student-led campus group, 2004-present; studies through Colossians, Philippians, and the Gospel of John; 2004-2007)
- Invited speaker for spring seminars hosted by the Monday Night Bible Study (for April 14, 2007, “While Creation Waits: Creation, Fall, Redemption, Consummation”)
- Invited speaker for Campbell University Worship (September 2, 2004)
- Invited respondent to Dr. Ralph Wood, Faculty Symposium Speaker (on J. R. R. Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings* and Christian education, during Campbell’s Presidential Inauguration festivities, March 29-30, 2004)
- Invited speaker on leadership, Campbell Presidential Scholars (Fall 2002)
- Invited respondent to Dr. Steven Garber, guest speaker in Campbell University Faculty Orientation (August 15, 2002)
- Eager participant in scholarship interviews and other opportunities to meet incoming and prospective students (1997-2007)
- Organizer and host for the Campbell University Cultural Enrichment Program visit of Don W. King, Professor of English at Montreat College and Editor of *Christian Scholar’s Review* (Spring 2001)
- Chair, Campbell University Library Committee (2000-2001)
- Member, General College Curriculum Committee (2000-2001; actively participated in evaluating the current requirements of the GCC and in developing proposals for improving the GCC in terms of the needs of students and the University Statement of Purpose)

- Member, Computer Literacy Committee (1999; worked to evaluate faculty awareness and use of technology)
- Initiator and convener of the *Communitas* project (an interdisciplinary discussion and writing group for Campbell College of Arts and Sciences faculty addressing the integration of faith and learning)
- Participant, Faith and Learning Discussion Group
- Member, search committee for Campbell University Theatre Arts faculty (2000)
- Textual advisor for Campbell University Theatre Arts production of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* (Spring 1999)

Community Service

- Small Groups Committee, Chattanooga Valley Presbyterian Church (2010-2019)
- Invited speaker, C. S. Lewis Society of Chattanooga, January 16, 2009 (presentation on Lewis's *Spenser's Images of Life*)
- Invited speaker, Cordelia Campbell Pearson Book Club, Buies Creek, North Carolina (November 2005, presentation on Hans Holbein's *The Ambassadors*)
- Invited speaker, Cordelia Campbell Pearson Book Club, Buies Creek, North Carolina (January 2005, presentation on illustrated children's books)
- Invited speaker, Cordelia Campbell Pearson Book Club, Buies Creek, North Carolina (Spring 2003, presentation on J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*)
- Invited speaker for a faculty workshop on the integration of faith and learning, Trinity Academy in Raleigh, North Carolina (Fall 2002)
- Chair, Pastoral Search Committee, Grace Presbyterian Church (2000-2003)
- Various service as Bible teacher (indicated above)
- Invited speaker, Cordelia Campbell Pearson Book Club, Buies Creek, North Carolina (Spring 2000, presentation on Richard Wilbur's "Love Calls Us to the Things of This World")

PUBLICATION

Articles and Reviews

- "The Incompletable Openness of Language: Richard Wilbur's 'Fabrications.'" *Humanitas* (Summer 2023) [forthcoming].

- “Bell Speech in John Donne, Richard Wilbur, and Connie Willis’s Doomsday Book,” chapter for *Doomsday Every Day: Connie Willis’s Science Fiction* (Taylor & Francis, 2023): 143-162.
- “Richard Wilbur’s Right Listening,” *Pro Rege* 50.3 (March 2022).
- “A Rite of Finitude: Richard Wilbur’s Hermeneutic Ontology,” *Texas Studies in Literature and Language* 64.1 (Spring 2022): 89-113.
- “Converting the Gaze: From Gazing to Seeing in Richard Wilbur’s ‘The Eye,’” *Christian Scholar’s Review* 51.2 (Winter 2022): 153-170.
- “Labor of Love: Richard Wilbur’s ‘A Plain Song for Comadre,’” *Scintilla* 24 (2021): 71-80.
- “Richard Wilbur’s Book of Nature,” *Pro Rege* 49.3 (March, 2021): 41-50.
- “To Mean What Once We Said: Richard Wilbur Celebrates the Fourth of July,” *Christianity and Literature* 69.4 (December, 2020): 549-567
- “‘Stalled by our Lassitude’: Time and Attunement in Wilbur’s Lying,” *Renascence* 72.4 (Fall 2020): 231-248; **recipient of the Joseph M. Schwartz Memorial Prize for 2022 (awarded for best essay published in *Renascence* during 2020-2021, vols. 72-73)**
- “Richard Purdy Wilbur (1921-2017).” *Twentieth-Century and Contemporary American Literature in Context*. Ed. Linda De Roche. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO.
- “‘A Set Mind, Blessed by Doubt’: Phenomenologies of Misperception in Frost, Wilbur, Heidegger, and Merleau-Ponty.” *Christian Scholar’s Review* 48.4 (Summer 2019): 351-370.
- Review of Colleen Ruth Rosenfeld *Indecorous Thinking: Figures of Speech in Early Modern Poetics* (New York: Fordham University Press, 2018). *Journal of British Studies* 58.2 (April 2019): 423-424.
- “‘Shades of Bliss’: Imagining Heaven in Wallace Stevens and Richard Wilbur.” *Christianity and Literature* 68.2 (March 2019): 252-271.
- Invited review of Robert Bagg and Mary Bagg, *Let us Watch Richard Wilbur: A Biographical Study* (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2017). *Resources for American Literary Study* 40 (2018): 378-384. [published 2019]
- “‘Where Eyes Become the Sunlight’: Roman Fountains in Martin Heidegger and Richard Wilbur.” *Janus Head: Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature, Continental Philosophy, Phenomenological Psychology, and the Arts* 15:2 (Summer/Fall 2016): 137-158.
- “‘How the Sun Came Shining’: Stevens and Wilbur on Waking Up.” *Logos: A Journal of Catholic Thought and Culture* 19:3 (Summer 2016): 87-112.

- “Avian Diptych: Richard Wilbur’s Flights of Imagination,” *Christianity and Literature* 65:3 (2016): 310-326.
- Review of Daniel W. Doerksen, *Picturing Religious Experience: George Herbert, Calvin, and the Scriptures* (University of Delaware Press, 2011). *Christianity and Literature* 64:3 (Summer 2015): 365-368.
- “Karl Barth’s Secular Parables.” *CASE: The Quarterly Magazine of the Centre for Apologetic Scholarship and Education* 30 (2012): 22-26. Rpt. in *Journal for the Sociological Integration of Religion and Society* 2.2 (October 2012): 23-29.
- Review of Nancy Bradley Warren, *The Embodied Word: Female Spiritualities, Contested Orthodoxies, and English Religious Cultures, 1350-1700* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2010). *Christianity and Literature*.
- “Something in Us Like the Catbird’s Song.” *Logos: A Journal of Catholic Thought and Culture* 13:3 (Summer 2010): 105-123.
- Review of Theresa M. DiPasquale, *Refiguring the Sacred Feminine: The Poems of John Donne, Aemilia Lanyer, and John Milton* (Duquesne University Press, 2008). *Christianity and Literature* 59:1 (Autumn 2009): 129-132.
- “Learning from the Past.” *CASE: The Quarterly Magazine of the Centre for Apologetic Scholarship and Education*, 17 (2008): 23-26.
- Review of Beatrice Batson, ed. *Shakespeare’s Christianity: The Protestant and Catholic Poetics of Julius Caesar, Macbeth, and Hamlet* (Baylor University Press, 2006). *Perspectives in Religious Studies* 35.4 (2008): 449-452.
- Review of Trevor Hart and Ivan Khovacs, eds. *Tree of Tales: Tolkien, Literature, and Theology* (Baylor University Press, 2007). *Perspectives in Religious Studies* 35.4 (2008): 449-452.
- Review of John Sykes, Jr. *Flannery O’Connor, Walker Percy, and the Aesthetic of Revelation* (University of Missouri Press, 2007). *Perspectives in Religious Studies* 35.4 (2008): 449-452.
- “The Affirmation that God is Without Passions.” *Reformed Perspectives Magazine* [ezine at thirdmill.org] 9:45 (November 4-10, 2007).
- “Solomon, Gender, and Empire in Marlowe’s *Dr. Faustus*,” *Studies in English Literature 1500-1900* 37:2 (Spring 1997), 257-276.
- “King James I and the Queen of Sheba,” *English Literary Renaissance* 26:3 (Autumn 1996), 561-585.

Poetry

- “Thirst,” *Christianity and Literature* 47:1 (Autumn 1997), 117.

- “Offering,” *Christianity and Literature* 47:1 (Autumn 1997), 118.

Book

- *Solomonic Iconography in Early Stuart England: Solomon’s Wisdom, Solomon’s Folly*, Studies in British History, volume 63 (Lewiston, New York: The Edwin Mellen Press, 2001).

Conference Papers and Institutes

- “Bell Speech in Connie Willis’s *Doomsday Book*.” SECCL, Wingate University, October 22, 2021.
- “Richard Wilbur’s Book of Nature.” SECCL, Zoom meeting hosted by Milligan University, November 2020.
- “‘Stalled by Our Lassitude’: Time and Attunement in Richard Wilbur.” SECCL (keynote address), Lee University, June 2019.
- “‘To Mean What Once We Said’: Richard Wilbur Mediates ‘The Fourth of July.’” SECCL, Union University, April 2018.
- “‘The Fitting Rooms of Fact’: Richard Wilbur Celebrates ‘The Fourth of July.’” Plenary Talk, Lee University Literary Symposium (Sigma Tau Delta Conference), October 7, 2017. An earlier version of this talk was presented at the 2017 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America.
- “Labor of Love: Richard Wilbur’s ‘A Plain Song for Comadre.’” SECCL, Montreat College, April 2016.
- “The Reins of Love: Richard Wilbur’s ‘All These Birds.’” SECCL, Charleston Southern University, April 2015.
- “How the Sun Came Shining: Wallace Stevens in Cultural Context.” ACTC Intersection of Religious and Secular Cores Conference, September 25-27, 2014.
- “‘To Be Without a Description of To Be’: Wallace Stevens and Richard Wilbur on Waking Up.” SECCL, April 2012.
- “Gonzalo’s Garments: Skepticism and the Capacity for Wonder in Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*,” SECCL, April 2011. Presented again, in adapted form, at the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America, July 2012.
- Respondent to James K. A. Smith, Association of Reformed Institutions of Higher Education, Redeemer University College, Ancaster, Ontario, Canada.
- “Curious Alliance: William Perkins and William Shakespeare on Equity” for “Justice and Mercy Have Kissed,” the Conference on Christianity and Literature Session at SAMLA, November 6, 2009.

- Chair for “Trinity and Text,” the Conference on Christianity and Literature Session at SAMLA, November 7, 2008.
- “‘The Man Behind the Curtain’: The Hidden Center in Early Modern Perspective.” Keynote Address for Revelations: Discoveries in Sacred & Secular Literature & Art (English Graduate Student Association Conference, Baylor University, April 18-19, 2008)
- Panel Participant, Revelations: Discoveries in Sacred & Secular Literature & Art (English Graduate Student Association Conference, Baylor University, April 18-19, 2008)
- “‘Something in Us Like the Catbird’s Song’: Richard Wilbur on the Truth of Poetry” (Southeastern Conference on Christianity and Literature, April 10-12, 2008; the paper was awarded the Daub-Maher Memorial Prize for best essay read at the conference)
- “Lesslie Newbigin’s Theology of Cultural Plurality and Christian Cultural Openness” (Southeastern Conference on Christianity and Literature, April 6-8, 2006; the paper was awarded the Daub-Maher Memorial Prize for best essay read at the conference)
- “Everything’s Related to Everything Else” (a presentation of the distinctives of the Campbell University Honors Program to representatives of other institutions in the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities, Campus-Based Faculty Development Project, Gordon College, May 30-June 1, 2002)
- “Post-Barthian Secular Parables and Postmodern Fiction” (Conference on Religious Faith and Literary Art, Baylor University, 2000)
- “Saint Augustine’s Astronomy and the Seventeenth Century” (Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, St. Louis, Missouri, 1996)
- “Solomon, Gender, and Empire in Marlowe’s *Dr. Faustus*” (Carolinas Symposium on British Studies, Boone, North Carolina—Awarded the Symposium Prize for best essay read at the 1995 Convention)
- InterVarsity Christian Fellowship Summer Institute in Literature: “Scripture, Theory and English Literary History” (directed by David Lyle Jeffrey, now at Baylor University)
- “Milton’s Solomon” (Southeastern Conference on Milton, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, 1993)
- “The Better Fortitude: Adam as Jobean Hero in *Paradise Lost*” (SAMLA Annual Convention, 1990)

Additional Conference Attendance

- The Council of Independent Colleges, 2012 Department and Division Chair Workshop, Charleston, May 2012

- Southeast Regional Conference on Christianity and Literature, Montreat College, April 2010.
- Using Innovations in First Year Advising to Enhance Retention and Graduation (webconference), November 22, 2005
- Housing as a Nexus for First-Year Student Success and Retention: Academic Impressions (webconference), August 3, 2005
- Emerging Culture Conference, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, October 26-27, 2004

Memberships

- Conference on Christianity and Literature

Recognitions and Invitations

- Joseph M. Schwartz Memorial Prize for 2022, awarded for best essay published in *Renascence* during 2020-2021, vols. 72-73 (“Stalled by Our Lassitude”)
- “Called Joyfully to See: Call and Response in the Patterns of Christian Higher Education.” Homecoming Lecture at Covenant College, October 3, 2020.
- “Labor of Love: ‘A Plain Song for Comadre.’” Convocation Address at Covenant College, August 28, 2014.
- “A Good Man is Hard to Find: Recovering Something Christian in *The Merchant of Venice*.” Inauguration Lecture for the Installation of Derek Halvorson as President of Covenant College, October 5, 2012.
- Keynote Speaker for the Covenant College Senior Banquet, 2010
- Daub-Maher Memorial Prize awarded for the best essay read at the 2008 meeting of the Southeastern Conference on Christianity and Literature
- Ora Carr Cansler Chair in English, Campbell University, Buies Creek, NC (2006-2007)
- Daub-Maher Memorial Prize awarded for the best essay read at the 2006 meeting of the Southeastern Conference on Christianity and Literature
- Dean’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, College of Arts and Sciences, Campbell University (2005)
- Symposium Prize awarded for best essay read at the 1995 meeting of the Carolinas Symposium on British Studies