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Ph.D. in English Literature, 2021

EDUCATION

Baylor University, Waco, TX

From Thaumaturgy to Dramaturgy: Staging Occult Modernism

Director: Richard Rankin Russell; Committee: Julia Daniel, Philip Jenkins, Sarah Gilbreath Ford

M.A. in English Literature, 2007

The Bread Loaf School of English, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT *Heraldry of Heaven: The Development of Sehnsucht in the Writings of C. S. Lewis* Adviser: John Fyler; Second Reader, Isobel Armstrong

B.A. in English and Music, magna cum laude, 2002

Gordon College, Wenham, MA

Certificate of Biblical Studies, magna cum laude, 1998

The Berkshire Institute for Christian Studies, Lenox, MA

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

Consultant, Wyrdhoard: Services for Writers (online), *present*.

Founding Editor-in-Chief, the Signum University Press (online), 2022–2023

Faculty Member, Signum University (online), 2014–2023

Graduate Writing Consultant, Baylor University, Waco, TX, fall 2021

Teacher of Record, Baylor University, Waco, TX, 2016–2021

Chair of the Language and Literature Department, Signum University (online), 2015–2019

Adjunct Faculty Member, The King's College, New York City, Spring 2016

Adjunct Faculty Member, Lehigh Carbon Community College, Schnecksville, PA, 2010–2016

Adjunct Faculty Member, Penn State Lehigh Valley, Center Valley, PA, 2012–2013

Instructor and Course Designer, Master's Academy of Fine Arts, Greenville, PA, 2005–2010

English Teacher, Players of the Stage Fine Arts Center, Allentown, PA, 2006–2008

English Teacher, Lehigh Valley Christian High School, Allentown, PA, 2008–2009

Adjunct Faculty Member, Berkshire Institute for Christian Studies, Lenox, MA, 2003–2004

Teaching Assistant, Berkshire Institute for Christian Studies, Lenox, MA, 2002

FORTHCOMING

- An Introduction to The Oddest Inkling, Charles Williams. A work of popular scholarship from Apocryphile Press.
- Gardeners of the Galaxies: How Imaginary Worlds Teach Us To Care for this One. An academic essay collection, co-edited with Brenton Dickieson, on the ethical turn in speculative fiction.
- Shall These Bones Breathe? A collection of short stories (under consideration).
- C.S. Lewis: Writer, Scholar, Seeker. An Audible Original course from Wondrium/The Teaching Company. Nov. 16, 2023.

EDITED BOOKS

- The Inklings and King Arthur: J. R. R. Tolkien, Charles Williams, C. S. Lewis, and Owen Barfield on the Matter of Britain (Apocryphile Press, 2017).
- The Chapel of the Thorn: A Dramatic Poem by Charles Williams (Apocryphile Press, 2014).
- *The Soul of Wit.* Prize-Winning Flash Fiction and Short-Form Poetry from Signum University's "Almost an Inkling" Creative Writing Contest 2015 (Oloris Press, 2016).

REFEREED ARTICLES

- "Spirits on Stage: Rosicrucian Magic in *The Countess Cathleen*." *International Yeats Studies* Vol. 6, Is. 1 (January 2022). 21–45.
- "[Re]Cycled Fragments: The End of *Sweeney Agonistes*." *The T. S. Eliot Studies Annual* Vol. 3 (October 2021). 181–213.
- "Charles Williams and Friendship Sub Specie Arthuriana." VII: Journal of the Marion E. Wade Center (December 2018). 31–50.
- "Double Affirmation: Medievalism as Christian Apologetic in the Arthurian Poetry of Charles Williams." *Journal of Inklings Studies*, vol. 3, no. 2 (October 2013). 59–96.
- "Is a 'Christian' Mystery Story Possible? Charles Williams' *War in Heaven* as a Generic Case Study." *Mythlore* vol. 30 no. 1/2 issue 115/116 (Fall/Winter 2011). 77–90.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "The Weird Dominions of the Infinite': Edgar Allan Poe and the Scientific Gothic." *Penumbra: A Journal of Weird Fiction* No. 1 (Summer 2020). 203–23.
- "The Inklings Among Other Arthurs." The Lamp-Post, vol. 37/38, no. 3/1 (2018). 35–67.
- "Intertextuality in Beowulf and the Inklings." The Lamp-Post, vol. 36, no. 2 (2018). 30–41.
- "Introduction—Present and Past: The Inklings and King Arthur." *The Inklings and King Arthur* (Apocryphile Press, 2017). 1–11.
- "The Matter of Logres: Arthuriana and the Inklings." *The Inklings and King Arthur* (Apocryphile Press, 2017). 25–59.
- Introduction. *Taliessin through Logres and The Region of the Summer Stars* by Charles Williams (Apocryphile Press, 2016). 1–16.

- "The Development of *Sehnsucht* in the Letters of C.S. Lewis." New York C.S. Lewis Society *Bulletin* 471 (January/February 2016). 1–10.
- Introduction. *The Chapel of the Thorn: A Dramatic Poem*, by Charles Williams, edited by Sørina Higgins, (Apocryphile Press, 2014). 5–38.
- "Arthurian Geographies in Tolkien, Williams and Lewis." New York C.S. Lewis Society *Bulletin* 462 (July/August 2014). 1–8.
- "Is a 'Christian' Mystery Story Possible? Charles Williams' *War in Heaven* as a Generic Case Study." *Christianity and the Detective Story*, Walter Raubicheck and Anya Morlan, eds. (Cambridge Scholars, 2013). 2–19.

PUBLIC-IMPACT WORK

Blog: *The Oddest Inkling: An Exploration of the Works of Poet Charles Williams*. 2013–present. 1619 & 1776. A podcast exploring contemporary American Christianity. Launched June 20th, 2022.

CREATIVE WORK

Poetry Collection: Caduceus (David Robert Books, 2012).

Poetry Chapbook: The Significance of Swans (Finishing Line Press, 2008).

Poems in journals, including Alive Now, Avatar Review, The BioLogos Forum, The Deronda Review, The Eclectic Muse, idiom, Innisfree, The Lyric, Mythic Circle, Perspectives, Radix, Relief, Studio, and Windhover.

AWARDS & HONORS

- **Presidential Fellowship,** Baylor University. This distinctive non-service award from the Graduate School is given to only the top 1–2% of applicants each year. \$8,000/year for five years, 2016–2021.
- **Winner, Fall 2020 Outstanding Research Award,** Baylor University. This competitive award exists to promote the research productivity of graduate students. \$400 in travel funding for dissertation research (*research travel cancelled due to COVID-19*).
- **The Robert G. Collmer Family Archival Research Fellowship**, Baylor University English Department. \$2,000 for archival dissertation research, for summer 2020 (*research travel cancelled due to COVID-19*).
- Full Tuition Scholarship, T. S. Eliot International Summer School 2020 (cancelled due to COVID-19).
- Third Place Winner in the Ph.D. classification of the Three-Minute Thesis Contest, spring 2020.
- **2018 Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Inklings Studies Winner** for *The Inklings and King Arthur* (Apocryphile Press, 2017) from the Mythopoeic Society.
- **Annual Eliot Seminar Prize**, "[Re]Cycled Fragments: The End of *Sweeney Agonistes*," Annual Meeting of the International T. S. Eliot Society, Atlanta, GA, September 2018. \$100 prize.
- **First Place for Best Graduate Student Paper**, "Barfieldiana: Owen Barfield and the Matter of Britain," at The 20th Annual Conference of the C. S. Lewis and Inklings Society, Tulsa, OK, April 2017.
- **Second Place Winner**, Modern/Contemporary Research Seminar Graduate Student Paper Prize, "Spirits on Stage: Rosicrucian Magic in *The Countess Cathleen*," Baylor University, Waco, TX, September 2017.

TEACHING POSITIONS & COURSES TAUGHT

Adjunct Faculty Member, Hartwick College, Oneonta, NY

ENGL 110: College Writing, Fall 2023

Instructor, Signum Portals for Adult Continuing Education

An Introduction to The Oddest Inkling (Charles Williams), February 2023

Creative Writing: Poetic Meter, January 2023

Poetry in Tolkien's Time, December 2022

Literature and Mental Health, October 2022

Here Be Dragons, September 2022

Creative Writing: Poetry in Forms, August 2022

Till We Have Faces: Lewis's Finest Work, June 2022

Tolkien & Magic, May 2022 and November 2022

Tolkien's Ents and the Environment, January 2022

Precepting Professor, Signum University's M.A. in Language & Literature, 2014–2022

LITD 5308: The Return of King Arthur (with Gabriel Schenk, Lecturer)

LITD 5307: The Inklings and King Arthur (with Maggie Parke and Gabriel Schenk, Lecturers)

LITA 5312: Tolkien's Wars and Middle-earth (with John Garth, Lecturer)

LITD 5304: Beowulf Through Tolkien (with Tom Shippey, Lecturer)

LITA 5302: Lewis and Tolkien (with Corey Olsen, Lecturer)

Teacher of Record, Baylor University, Waco, TX, 2016–2021

ENG 1302: Thinking and Writing—Theme: "Vocation"

ENG 1304: Thinking, Writing, and Research—Theme: "What Does It Mean to Be Human?"

ENG 2301: British Literature—Themes: "Political Leadership" and "Creation Care"

Adjunct Faculty Member, The King's College, New York City, Spring 2016

LIT 254: Fantasy and Science Fiction of C. S. Lewis

Adjunct Faculty Member, Lehigh Carbon Community College, Schnecksville, PA, 2010–2016

ENG 235: Creative Writing

ENG 215: Introduction to Poetry

ENG 106: College English II

ENG 105: College English I

ENG 100: Fundamentals of Writing

Adjunct Faculty Member, Penn State Lehigh Valley, Center Valley, PA, 2012–2013

ENGL 202-B: Writing in the Humanities

ENGL 015: Rhetoric and Composition

English Teacher, Lehigh Valley Christian High School, Allentown, PA, 2008–2009

Survey of British Literature, Survey of World Literature, Introduction to Literary Genres and Themes Creative Writing, & Drama

Instructor and Course Designer, Master's Academy of Fine Arts, Greenville, PA, 2005–2010

Creative Writing, Literature & Language Arts, Music Composition, Music History, Study Skills

English Teacher, Players of the Stage Fine Arts Center, Allentown, PA, 2006–2008

Advanced Inklings, Beginning Inklings, Intro to Philosophy, Shakespearean Readers' Theatre

Adjunct Faculty Member, Berkshire Institute for Christian Studies, Lenox, MA, 2003–2004

ENG 230: Writing for Publication

ENG 117: Christian Classics and Composition

Teaching Assistant, Berkshire Institute for Christian Studies, Lenox, MA, 2002

ENG 117: Christian Classics and Composition

GUEST LECTURES

Guest Lecturer, Lake Forest College.

"Choreographing the Archetypes: Charles Williams & the Tarot" (10/24/22)

Distinguished Lecturer in Romantic Theology, Northwind Seminary.

Lecture on Charles Williams's play, upcoming (October 2023)

"Charles Williams's Hermetic Foundations" (9/7/21)

Guest Lecturer, Signum University.

- "Charles Williams's Arthuriad: An Introduction" (6/4/19)
- "Tracing Themes in *Taliessin Through Logres*" (6/6/19)
- "The Inklings and Literary Criticism," with Dr. Corey Olsen (4/4/17)
- "Overview of Critical Theory," with Dr. Corey Olsen (2/21/17)
- "Little Loosed Dragons: Intertextuality in *Beowulf* and the Inklings" (3/13/2015)
- "Heraldry of Heaven: The Development of *Sehnsucht* in the Writings of C.S. Lewis" (10/7/14)

MENTORSHIPS

Mentor, NeMLA 2023 Job Clinic, working on a Cover Letter with Elizabeth Laughlin. March 2023

Mentor, Patrick Henry College: Katherine E. Forster, Directed Writing Project in Poetry, spring 2022

Thesis Second Reader, Signum University

Jacob R. Schreiner, Sub-Creation Through Speech-Acts in Tolkien's Legendarium, 2022 Mark Lachniet, Hacker Qua Magician in Cybermancer Fiction, 2020

Thesis Director, Signum University

Gwen Grant, M.A. Thesis, "Charles Williams's Magical Language," 2020

PLENARY TALKS

- "Cruel and Cold: Tolkien's *The Homecoming of Beorhtnoth Beorhthelm's Son* and Modern Drama." Signum University's Mythmoot V, Leesburg, VA (6/24/23).
- "The Holy Grail from the Gospels to the Vault of the Adepti." Presbyterian Heritage Center Conference, Montreat, NC (9/8/22).
- "Real Magic from Tolkien's Time: Academic Approaches to Magic in the Inklings' Milieu." Signum University's Sunshine Moot 2022; online presentation (4/2/22).
- "The Inklings Among Other Arthurs." Southern California C. S. Lewis Society, Redlands, CA (3/9/19).
- "Real Modernisms: Revising (Meta)Fictional Modernist Narratives." Signum University's Mythmoot IV, Leesburg, VA (6/4/17).
- "Charles Williams and Friendship *sub specie Arthuriana*." Frances Ewbank Colloquium on C. S. Lewis and Friends, Upland, IN (6/3/16).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Conversation with Dominic De Souza about Arthuriana's ongoing relevance. Legend Fiction's LegendHaven Conference. (upcoming 10/14/23).
- Workshop: "Yellow Stockings: Yes or No? Using Rogerian Rhetoric on Tom Bombadil." Signum University's MiddleMoot 2002; online presentation (10/8/22).
- Talk: "Tolkien and Williams as World-Builders." Signum University's Buckeye Moot; online presentation (9/30/22).
- Paper: "Magical Theatrics: Remaking Ancient Ritual on the Modern Stage." Signum University's Mythmoot IX, Dulles, VA (6/26/22).
- Workshop: "How to Present at Conferences." Signum University's Mythmoot IX, Dulles, VA (6/24/22).
- Paper: "Religious Drama: Does It Work?" Annual Meeting of the International T. S. Eliot Society, online (10/3/20).
- Paper: "Treading the Board(er)s: Mysticism and Magic in Irish Occult Theatrical Networks." American Conference for Irish Studies, Houston, TX, April 1–4, 2020 (cancelled due to COVID-19).
- Paper: "Sister of my Soul: Coercion and Control in Occult Theatrical Networks." Midwest Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL (11/16/19).
- Moderator: "Literature and Trauma," Midwest Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL (11/15/19).
- Paper: "They Have the Cathedral in Common: T. S. Eliot and Charles Williams as Canterbury Playwrights." Annual Meeting of the International T. S. Eliot Society, St. Louis, MO (9/28/19).
- Seminar Paper: "Sympathizing with the Dead: *A Christmas Carol* as Hospitable Medium." Midwest Victorian Studies Association, Fort Worth, TX (4/27/19).
- Paper: "The dread forbidden wine': Yeats's Early Occult Dramas." American Conference for Irish Studies Southern Regional Meeting, The College of Charleston, Charleston, SC (2/1/19).
- Seminar Paper: "[Re]Cycled Fragments: The End of *Sweeney Agonistes*." Annual Meeting of the International T. S. Eliot Society, Atlanta, GA (9/21/18).
- Paper: "The Red Side of the Green Ground: W. B. Yeats on Conflict and Creation Care." Baylor Symposium on Faith and Culture, Waco, TX (10/24/18).
- Paper: "Little Loosed Dragons: Intertextuality in *Beowulf* and the Inklings." Texas Medieval Association Annual Conference, Waco, TX (9/30/17).
- Roundtable Participant: "The Future of Inklings Studies." C.S. Lewis & Inklings, Tulsa, OK (4/8/17).
- Paper: "Barfieldiana: Owen Barfield and the Matter of Britain." C.S. Lewis & Inklings, Tulsa, OK (4/8/17).
- Paper: "Spirits on Stage: Rosicrucian Magic in *The Countess Cathleen*." American Conference on Irish Studies Annual Conference, Kansas City, MI (3/3/17).
- Paper: "Collaboration in Community: An Application of Diana Glyer's Theories of Influence to Higher Education." Baylor Symposium on Faith and Culture, Waco, TX (10/28/16).
- Roundtable Participant: "The Future of Inklings Studies." Frances Ewbank Colloquium on C. S. Lewis and Friends, Upland, IN (6/3/16).
- Presentation: "The Inklings and King Arthur," Charles Williams Society Annual General Meeting, Oxford University (6/6/15).
- Paper: "How to Handle the Hallows: Editing a 100-year-old Play for the Twenty-First Century." Signum University's Mythmoot III, Linthicum, MD (1/11/15).
- Roundtable Participant: "Fantasy and Faith." The Mythopoeic Society's Mythcon 45, Norton, MA (8/10/14).

- Moderator: "The Inklings and King Arthur," Mythcon 45 (8/10/14).
- Paper: "Arthurian Geographies in Tolkien, Williams and Lewis." NY C. S. Lewis Society (1/10/14).
- Paper: "King Arthur Was an Elf? An Imaginary, Composite, Inklings Arthuriad." Signum University's Mythmoot II, Linthicum, MD (12/15/13).
- Paper, co-authored with Rebecca Tirrell Talbot: "Between Two Strange Hearts': Spiritual Desolation in the Later Poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins and Charles Williams." Frances Ewbank Colloquium on C. S. Lewis and Friends, Upland, IN (5/29/12).
- Paper: "Checking Out and Hooking Up: Reading Eugenides through the National Study of Youth and Religion." Western Regional Meeting of the Conference on Christianity and Literature, Seattle, WA (5/24/12).
- Paper: "Hallows Within and Without: Grail Relics in the Mythos of Charles Williams and J.K. Rowling." National Popular Culture and American Culture Association, Boston, MA (4/14/12).
- Paper: "Double Affirmation: Medieval Chronology, Geography, and Devotion in the Arthuriad of Charles Williams." International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI (5/14/11).
- Paper: "Charles Williams's *War in Heaven* as a Generic Case Study." Northeast Regional Meeting of the Conference on Christianity and Literature, NYC (3/6/10).
- Paper: "Cosmic Longing in Lewis's Dantean Universe." Oxford C.S. Lewis Society's International Colloquium on *Perelandra*, Oxford, UK (1/27/09).
- Paper: "The Development of Lewis's *Sehnsucht* in his Correspondence and Cultural Context." C. S. Lewis—The Man and His Work: A 21st Century Legacy, Wake Forest, NC (10/27/07).

INTERVIEWS & GUEST APPEARANCES

- Podcast Guest: "How can we learn to speak the language of the other?" *The Whole Church Podcast*, hosted by Joshua Noel (8/16/23).
- Interview: Half Pint Session ("Signum University Press"), Pints with Jack, hosted by David Bates (3/29/23).
- Interview: "The Rings of Power Season 1 Reflections" with Charlie Starr, Knowing and Understanding C.S. Lewis, hosted by William O'Flaherty (10/24/22).
- Interview: "Initial Reactions to *The Rings of Power*." *Knowing and Understanding C.S. Lewis*, hosted by William O'Flaherty (9/7/22).
- Podcast Guest Co-Host: "The Inklings Variety Hour," episode on C. S. Lewis's *Till We Have Faces* (1/27/21) and series on Charles Williams's *Descent Into Hell* (5/3/22, 5/10/22, 5/23/22, and 7/7/22).
- Interview: "How Imaginary Worlds Teach Us to Care for This One," *This is The End: Pop Culture & Collapse* (2/9/22).
- Interview: "Charles Williams: The Discarded Mage," *Wade Center Podcast*, hosted by Crystal and David Downing (11/14/19).
- Interview: The Mars Hill Audio Journal 143, hosted by Ken Myers (5/3/19).
- Interview: "The Inklings and King Arthur," Agnus podcast, hosted by Glenn McDorman (3/9/19).
- Interview: "Arthur of the Century," *The Prancing Pony* podcast, hosted by Sean Marchese and Alan Sisto (11/11/18).
- Interview: "Sorina Higgins discusses Charles Williams and the Inklings," *Image for Hire*, hosted by "The Skrauss," Milwaukee RiverWest Radio (10/2/18).
- Interview: "The Inklings and King Arthur" *All About Jack* podcast, hosted by William O'Flaherty, (2/16/18).

Roundtable Participant: "The Inklings and King Arthur," Signum University Symposium with Brenton Dickieson and Malcolm Guite, moderated by Corey Olsen, (2/5/18).

Roundtable Moderator and Participant: "On Being a Public Intellectual," Signum University, LITZ 5301: Research Methods (1/24/17).

Interview: IAM Conversations podcast, hosted by Christy Tennant (8/16/12).

Guest Poet: "Poets' Pause," Berks Community TV, with host Doug Arnold (8/13/08).

SERVICE

TO THE PROFESSION

Host & Organizer of "Ready, Professor One?" a fellowship-and-support group for faculty who had to pivot swiftly to online and hybrid teaching modalities. 2020.

Outside Reader of abstracts for a forthcoming academic essay collection on Frank Herbert's *Dune* (McFarland, 2021 or 2022).

Reviews Editor for Sehnsucht: The C. S. Lewis Journal, 2010–2016.

TO SIGNUM UNIVERSITY

Member of New England Moot Organization Team, Derry, NH, 2022.

Graduation Coordinator, 2018–2022.

Conference Organizer of the Annual Texas Literature and Language Symposium: TexMoot 2018, Fort Worth, TX (1/13/18); TexMoot 2019, Waco, TX (1/19/19); TexMoot 2020, Houston, TX (2/8/20); TexMoot 2021, online (2/13/21); and TexMoot 2022, Austin (2/12/22).

Thesis Panel Chair and Organizer, Mythmoot VIII, Leesburg, VA, chaired remotely (6/25/21).

Facilitator, Theology Breakout Session, "Summit on Teaching the Humanities," 7/25/20.

Faculty Representative Member of the Board, 2019–2020.

Chair and Organizer, Thesis Panels and Panel in honor of Verlyn Flieger, Mythmoot VI, Leesburg, VA (June 2019).

Member of the Admissions Team and the Strategy Team (2017–2019).

Thesis Panel Chair and Organizer, "Where Imagination Takes Us: Investigations into Literary Traditions Old and New," Mythmoot IV, Leesburg, VA (6/3/17).

Thesis Panel Chair and Organizer, "Women and Men: Gender, Imagination, and the Chain of Being in Lewis and Tolkien," Mythmoot IV, Leesburg, VA (6/4/17).

Course Co-Designer with Karl Persson, LITZ 5301: Research Methods (2016).

Host and Judge, "Almost an Inkling" Creative Writing Contest (October 2016).

TO BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

Graduate Student Representative on the Teaching, Learning, and Technology Committee, 2020—2021.

English Department Representative to the Graduate Student Association, 2019–2021. Representative of the Month, November 2020. Host of a discussion on Jemar Tisby's book *The Color of Compromise*, October 2020. Member of committees on Academic Affairs, Constitutional Revision, Policy, and Mental Health.

Panelist on "With All Your Heart, Soul, and Mind: A Conversation on Faith and Graduate School," Graduate Student Association (10/20/20).

Panelist for a Group Discussion on Mental Health, MacNair Scholar's Workshop (7/31/20).

Colloquium Instructor for the Honors College, 2018–2019 (once per semester).

Alternate English Department Representative to the Graduate Student Association, 2018–2019.

Convener of the Modern/Contemporary Research Seminar, 2017–2018.

TO LEHIGH CARBON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Faculty Adviser to *Xanadu* literary club and magazine, 2012–2016.

TO THE COMMUNITY

- **Host & Organizer** of "Daily Choices," leading online discussions in ethical, sustainable living; waste reduction; gardening & composting. Inviting & coordinate guest speakers on anti-racism, diversity education, prison reform, & ecology. 2020–2021.
- **Co-Teacher** of a Sunday School class on Mental Health, with Mark Roberts, PA-C, at Redeemer Presbyterian Church, Waco, October & November 2019.
- **Host & Organizer** of "Ekphrasis: Fellowship of Christians in the Arts," a monthly sharing-and-critique group for writers, artists, actors, musicians, etc. in the Allentown, PA area, 2009–2016.

