# James Homer Thrall

Knox College

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**Education**

Ph.D. Religion and Culture, Duke University (December 2005)

M.A.R. Theology, *magna cum laude*, Yale University Divinity School (May 1986)

B.A. English, *magna cum laude*, with distinction in the major, Colby College (May 1978)

 Junior Year, School of Divinity, St. Mary’s College, University of St Andrews, Scotland

## **Academic Employment**

Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois (Fall 2010–)

Knight Distinguished Professor for the Study of Religion and Culture (Fall 2021–)

Knight Distinguished Associate Professor for the Study of Religion and Culture (Fall 2014–Summer 2021)

Knight Distinguished Assistant Professor for the Study of Religion and Culture (Fall 2010–Summer 2014)

International College, University of Bridgeport, Connecticut (Fall 2008­–Spring 2010)

Visiting Assistant Professor and Co-director, World Religions Department

Visiting Assistant Professor, Graduate Program in Global Development and Peace

Duke University, Durham, North Carolina (Fall 2004­­­­­­­–Spring 2008­­)

 Mellon Lecturing Fellow, Thompson Writing Program

#### **Academic Publications**

**Books**

*Media, Religion and Culture: An Introduction*. 2nd ed. Co-author with Jeffrey H. Mahan. London & New York: Routledge (forthcoming).

*Religion and Science Fiction: An Introduction*. London & New York: Routledge (forthcoming May 2024).

*Mystic Moderns: Agency and Enchantment in Evelyn Underhill, May Sinclair, and Mary Webb*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books (Rowman & Littlefield), 2020.

**Articles and Book Chapters**

“Tapping the Power: Uncanny Communication and Sublimated Will in May Sinclair.” In *May Sinclair in Her Time: Reappraising May Sinclair’s Role in Early-20th-Century Literature and Philosophy,* edited by Isabelle Brasme, et al. Horizons Anglophones: Past Perfect. Montpelier, France: Presses Universitaires de La Méditerranée (forthcoming).

“Building on the Vision: Mormon ‘Humanism’ in *Battlestar Galactica* (2004-2009).” *SFRA Review* 51:3 (Summer 2021): 176-183.

“Shifting Histories, Blurred Borders, and Mediated Sacred Texts in Philip K. Dick’s *The Man in the High Castle*.” *Literature and Theology* 32:2 (1 June 2018): 211–225.

“The Authority of Sacred Texts in Science Fiction.” In *The Routledge Companion to Literature and Religion*, edited by Mark Knight. New York and London: Routledge, 2016.

“What the Frak, Frankenstein!: Teenagers, Gods, and Postcolonial Monsters on *Caprica*.” *Extrapolation* 56.2 (Summer 2015): 169-193.

“Authoring the Sacred: Humanism and Invented Scripture in Octavia Butler, Kurt Vonnegut, and Dan Simmons.” *Implicit Religion: Journal of the Centre for the Study of Implicit Religion and Contemporary Spirituality*, 17:4 (December 2014): 509-531.

“Making Dinner: The Artistry of Communal Meals in *Babette’s Feast* and *Antonia’s Line*.” *Light Shining in a Dark Place: Discovering Theology Through Film*, edited by Jeff Sellars. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2012.

“Learning to Listen, Listening to Learn: The Taoist Way in Ursula K. Le Guin’s *The Telling*.” In *Practicing Science Fiction: Critical Essays on Writing, Reading and Teaching the Genre*, edited by Karen Hellekson, et al. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2010.

“Postcolonial Science Fiction?: Science, Religion and the Transformation of Genre in Amitav Ghosh’s *The Calcutta Chromosome.*” *Literature and Theology* 23.3 (September 2009): 1-14.

“The Religions of *Battlestar Galactica*: Making Human/Making Other.” *When Genres Collide: Selected Essays from the 37th Annual Meeting of the Science Fiction Research Association*, edited by Thomas J. Morrissey and Oscar De Los Santos. Waterbury, CT: Fine Tooth Press, 2007.

“Immersing the Chela: Religion and Empire in Rudyard Kipling’s *Kim*.” *Religion and Literature* 36.3 (Autumn 2004): 45-66.

“Love, Loss, and Utopian Community on William Gibson’s Bridge.” *Foundation: The International Review of Science Fiction* 33.91 (Summer 2004): 97-115.

 **Edited Works**

Contributing Editor, Discussion Questions. In *Strange Religion: Speculative Fiction of Spirituality, Belief, & Practice*, edited by Andy Dibble. Toronto, Canada: TDotSpec, 2022.

Volume Advisor, Annotated Bibliography, “Philip K. Dick.” In *Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism*. Vol 416. Farmington Mills, MI: Gale, 2022.

Guest Editor, “So Say We All: Religion and Society in Science Fiction” Special Issue. *Religions* Vol. 9 (2018). <https://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions/special_issues/sciencefiction>

 **Encyclopedia and Encyclopedia Entries**

*Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*. Edited by Hermann Spieckermann, *et al.*Berlin/Boston: de Gruyter.

 “Science Fiction” literature. Forthcoming.

 “Foreigner” in film. Vol. 9 (2014): 430-1

 “Eating and Drinking” in film. Vol. 7(2013): 235-238

Assistant editor for *Encyclopedia of Protestantism*. Edited by Hans Hillerbrand. 4 vols. New York: Taylor and Francis, 2003.

 **Book Reviews**

Review of *The Scientist as God: A Typological Study of a Literary Motif, 1818 to the Present*, by Sven Wagner. *Extrapolation*. 57:3 (Winter 2016): 376-379.

Review of *A Communication Perspective on Interfaith Dialogue: Living within the Abrahamic Traditions*, ed. Daniel S. Brown, Jr. *Journal of Media and Religion*. 14:2 (Summer 2015): 117-119.

Review essay of *Outside the Fold: Conversion, Modernity and Belief*, by Gauri Viswanathan. *Polygraph: An International Journal of Culture and Politics* 12 (2000): 187-95.

 **Film and Television Reviews**

Review of *The Time Traveler’s Wife* (New Line Cinema, 2009)*. Science Fiction Research Association Review* (Fall 2009).

 Review of *Pushing Daisies* television series (ABC, 2007–2009). *Science Fiction Research Association Review* (Spring 2009).

Review of *Before the Devil Knows You’re Dead* (Linsefilm, 2007). *The Journal of Religion and Film* 12:1 (April 2008). <http://www.unomaha.edu/jrf/>.

Review of *The Golden Compass* (New Line Cinema, 2007). *The Journal of Religion and Film* 12:1 (April 2008). <http://www.unomaha.edu/jrf/>.

**Selected Other Publications**

“The Golden Kingdom” [Ann Hasseltine Judson’s perceptions of nineteenth-century Burma]. *Christian History and Biography* 90 (Spring 2006). Also served as consultant on Burma and provided photographs for this special issue on Adoniram and Ann Judson.

Three-article series on Christian presence in Burma under military rule for *Episcopal News Service*, *Episcopal Life* newspaper, and *Anglican World* magazine (October 2001).

**Conference Presentations and Leadership**

“What to do About the Boys?: Goddess Worship and Gender Segregation in Feminist SF” (virtual), Science Fiction Research Association, University of Tartu, Estonia (May 2024).

“Disruptive Harmonizing in Nnedi Okorafor’s *Binti Trilogy*,” Religion and Science Fiction Unit, American Academy of Religion, San Antonio (November 2023). Also Science Fiction Research Association, Technische Universität, Dresden, Germany (August 2023).

Co-convenor and moderator, “Asian Religions in Global Popular Culture” Panel, International Society of Religion, Literature, and Culture, University of Chester, England (September 2022; postponed from September 2020).

“Agency and the Modern Mysticism of May Sinclair.” Virtual Networking May Sinclair Conference, Université de Nantes, France (June 2021; postponed from June 2020).

“Lifted Children and Artificial Friends: Religion and Inequality in Kazuo Ishiguro’s *Klara and the Sun*.” Virtual Science Fiction Research Association, Seneca College, Toronto (June 2021).

Invited talk on “Life, Death and the Bourgeoisie in Evelyn Underhill’s *The Grey World* and *The Column of Dust*.” Virtual Celebration of Evelyn Underhill sponsored by Chelmsford Diocesan House of Retreat at Pleshey, Evelyn Underhill Association USA, and Hampstead Parish Church (June 2021).

Moderator, “Global Fandoms and Religion: New Case Studies from Scandinavia and Korea” Panel, Religion and Popular Culture Unit, Virtual American Academy of Religion (December 2020).

Moderator, “The End of the World as We Know It: Apocalyptic Themes in Black Metal, Reggae, and Punk Music” Panel, Religion and Popular Culture Unit, American Academy of Religion, San Diego (November 2019).

Discussion group leader for Religion and Media Workshop on “Techno-Utopias,” American Academy of Religion, San Diego (November 2019).

“Truth, Lies, and Colonization in Neil Gaiman’s *American Gods*.” Science Fiction Research Association, Chaminade University, Honolulu, Hawai’i (June 2019).

“Song of the Other: Kon Ichikawa’s *Biruma no Tategoto* (*The Burmese Harp*).” International Conference on Religion and Film, Halifax, Nova Scotia (June 2019).

Moderator, “Faking It: Guns, Apocalypse, Family Values, and the Original Fake News in the Post-Truth Era” Panel, Religion and Popular Culture Unit, American Academy of Religion (November 2018).

“Modern Mythology and the Tricky Gods of Neil Gaiman.” International Society for Religion, Literature and Culture. Uppsala, Sweden (September 2018).

Moderator, “*Religion and Popular Culture in America*: A Critical Analysis” Book Panel, Religion and Popular Culture Unit, American Academy of Religion, Boston (November 2017).

Respondent, Genji and Gaia Conference, Knox College (October 2017).

Respondent, “Participation, Identity, and Social Materiality in Contemporary Popular Religion” Panel, Religion and Popular Culture Unit, American Academy of Religion, San Antonio (November 2016).

“Mediated Borders and Sacred Texts in Philip K. Dick’s *The Man in the High Castle*.” International Society for Religion, Literature and Culture. Glasgow, Scotland (September 2016).

“Histories, Publics, and Mediated Sacred Texts in *The Man in the High Castle*.” International Society for Media, Religion and Culture. Seoul, South Korea (August 2016).

Discussion group leader for Religion and Media Workshop on “Law, Public Culture, and Religion,” American Academy of Religion, Atlanta (November 2015).

“Authoring the Sacred: Humanism and Invented Scripture in Octavia Butler, Kurt Vonnegut, and Dan Simmons.” Developing research presented at Science Fiction Research Association (SFRA) Conference, Stony Brook University (June 2015); and American Academy of Religion Midwest Region Conference, Ohio Northern University (April 2015).

“What the Frak, Frankenstein!: Teenagers, Gods, and Postcolonial Monsters on *Caprica*.” Developing research presented at International Society of Religion, Literature, and Culture, University of Leuven, Belgium (September 2014); joint Eaton/Science Fiction Research Association (SFRA) Conference, University of California–Riverside (April 2013); and SFRA Conference, Carefree, AZ (June 2010).

Discussion group leader for Religion and Media Workshop on “Feeling Political: Religion, Media, and the Politics of Emotion,” American Academy of Religion and Auburn Media, Chicago (November 2012).

“Memory, Loss, and Return in Kore-eda Hirokazu’s *Still Walking* (*Aruitemo aruitemo*).” International Society of Religion, Literature, and Culture, Copenhagen, Denmark (October 2012).

Moderator, Film and Religion Panel, International Society of Religion, Literature, and Culture, Copenhagen, Denmark (October 2012).

Moderator, “Endo Shusaku: Religion, Literature, and Missionary Endeavor” Panel for Arts, Literature, and Religion Section, American Academy of Religion, San Francisco (November 2011).

Moderator, “Bookish Objects: Then and Now” Panel, Religion and Media Workshop on “What’s Next for Texts: Scripting Religion in a Networked World,” American Academy of Religion and Auburn Media, San Francisco (November 2011).

“Teaching Peace: Hiroshima’s Mary McMillan.” American Academy of Religion Midwest Region, Augustana College (April 2011).

“Women, Spirits, and Postcolonial Speculation in Nalo Hopkinson’s *The Salt Roads*.” Developing research presented at Eaton Science Fiction, Univ. of California–Riverside (February 2011); Arts, Literature, and Religion Section, American Academy of Religion, Atlanta (October 2010); and Science Fiction Research Association, Atlanta (June 2009).

Moderator, “Multicultural Identity in Religion and the Arts” Panel for Arts, Literature, and Religion Section, American Academy of Religion, Atlanta (October 2010).

Panel Moderator and Discussion Leader, “Religion Counts: Demographic Technologies and the Politics of Secularism,” Religion and Media Workshop, American Academy of Religion and Auburn Media, Atlanta (October 2010).

“Song of the Other: Kon Ichikawa’s *Biruma no Tategoto* (*The Burmese Harp*).” International Society of Religion, Literature and Culture, St. Catherine’s College, Oxford University, UK (September 2010).

Moderator, Panel on Science Fiction Film, Science Fiction Research Association, Carefree, AZ (June 2010).

Panelist, Roundtable on Teaching Science Fiction, Science Fiction Research Association, Carefree, AZ (June 2010).

Film Presenter for *Jesus of Montreal* Screening, Religion, Film and Visual Culture Group, American Academy of Religion, Montreal (November 2009).

Moderator, “Poetry, Religion, and the Environment” Panel for Arts, Literature, and Religion Section, American Academy of Religion, Montreal (November 2009).

“Magic Words and Magic Rites: Roman Catholicism in Warren Rochelle’s *Harvest of Changelings*.” Science Fiction Research Association, Atlanta (June 2009).

Panelist, Roundtable on Teaching Science Fiction (topic: using science fiction to teach other subjects), Science Fiction Research Association, Atlanta, (June 2009).

“Postcolonial Science Fiction?: Science, Religion and the Transformation of Genre in Amitav Ghosh’s *The Calcutta Chromosome*,” International Society of Religion, Literature and Culture, Aarhus University, Denmark (October 2008).

“Learning to Listen, Listening to Learn: The Taoist Way in Ursula K. Le Guin’s *The Telling*,” Science Fiction Research Association, Lawrence, Kansas (July 2008).

Moderator, “Creating Community” Panel, Women and Religion Section, American Academy of Religion Southeast Region, Atlanta (March 2008).

“*Battlestar Galactica*’s Women of Faith.” Women and Religion Section, American Academy of Religion Southeast Region, Nashville (March 2007).

“‘Space’ as Sacred Space?: Science Fiction Television Images the Void.” International Society of Religion, Literature and Culture, University of Stirling, Scotland (October 2006).

“Facing Danger: May Sinclair’s Erotics of War.” Arts, Literature, and Religion Section, American Academy of Religion Southeast Region, Atlanta (March 2006).

“Life, Death and the Bourgeoisie in Evelyn Underhill’s *The Grey World* and *The Column of Dust*.” Co-organizer and presenter, joint session of Religion and Popular Culture/Christian Spirituality Groups, American Academy of Religion, San Antonio (November 2004).

“Who’s in Charge of Heaven?: The Afterlife, Film, and Ethics.” Developing research presented at joint session of Religion and Popular Culture Group/Religion, Culture, and Communication Consultation, American Academy of Religion, Toronto (November 2002); and at International Society of Religion, Literature and Culture, York, England (September 2002).

“Resisting the Bomb: Hiroshima’s Mary McMillan,” Yale-Edinburgh Group on the History of the Missionary Movement & Non-Western Christianity, Edinburgh (July 2002).

“Love, Loss, and Utopian Community on William Gibson’s Bridge,” Science Fiction Research Association conference, New Lanark, Scotland (June 2002).

“Mother Wants You: Frontiers of Desire in *Shane*,” Arts, Literature, and Religion Section, American Academy of Religion, Denver (November 2001).

“Passing for Human: Hybridity and Border Issues for *Roswell*’s Aliens,” joint session of Religion, Film and Visual Culture Group/Religion, Culture, and Communication Consultation, American Academy of Religion, Denver (November 2001).

“Meeting for Dinner: Movie Meals and Religious Communities,” Graduate Student Symposium on the Function of Food in Religious Life, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (August 2000).

“Finding Middle Ground with the Middle Way: Christian/Buddhist Synthesis in *Modern Buddhism in Burma*,” History of Religions Section, American Academy of Religion Southeastern Region, Atlanta (March 2000). Graduate Student Essay Award.

**Selected Speaking Engagements**

Invited speaker for digital panel on “Theology and Multimedia: Understanding Visual Narratives of Religion,” *Tell Me Your Story Review* (December 2022), Mumbai, India. [www.tellmeyourstory.biz](http://www.tellmeyourstory.biz)

Presentation on Peace & Justice Studies Program for North Carolina Knox Alumni Group, Durham, NC (August 2019), and Washington D.C. Alumni Group (September 2019).

Presenter and workshop leader for Global Learning Retreat, Augustana College (April 2015).

Presentation on Knox Religious Studies for North Carolina Knox Alumni Group, Durham, NC (August 2014).

Presentation on Knox Religious Studies for Knox Fifty-year Club in Florida, Naples, FL (February 2014).

Faculty Panel, “Media and Globalization,” International Fair, Knox College (January 2013).

“What’s in an Image?: Picturing Religious Diversity at Knox,” Knox-Lombard Fifty-year Alumni Club, Knox College (June 2012).

Closing for Installation of President Teresa Amott, Knox College (May 2012).

 “Faith, Spirituality, Religion,” Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority, Knox College (April 2012).

Joint presentation with Prof. Bruce Lawrence, Duke University, for forum on Eliza Griswold’s *The Tenth Parallel: Dispatches from the Fault Line Between Christianity and Islam*, St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, Hillsborough, North Carolina (December 2011).

Joint presentation with Dr. Daniel Wack, Philosophy Department, Knox College, for *Tree of Life* film screening (November 2011).

 Commencement Opening and Closing, Knox College (May 2011).

Trustees’ Spouses Lunch, Knox College (May 2011).

Galesburg Men’s Ecumenical Lenten Breakfast (April 2011).

Galesburg Area Ministerial Alliance meeting (January 2011).

“Religion and Evolution,” Honors Program Symposium on Evolution, University of Bridgeport (November 2009).

“Christianity: A Western Religion?” Organizer and speaker for five-week world religions lecture series for Litchfield Community Center Adult Education Program, Litchfield, Connecticut (March–April 2009).

St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church Book Group, Hillsborough, North Carolina

 “Five Short Stories of Evelyn Underhill” (February 2006)

 *The Lovely Bones: A Novel*, Alice Sebold (March 2003)

“Crazy Saints: Movies, Sainthood and Mental Illness,” Duke University Psychiatry Residents Group (October 2001, February 2005).

“Studying Religion in College.” Invited as teaching award winner to address Durham public school eighth graders visiting Duke University for *School Days 2005*.

“Sex and the Episcopal Church,” guest lecture for Prof. Elizabeth Clark’s “Women, Gender, and Sexuality in the Christian Tradition” course, Duke University (April 2003).

**Peer Reviews**

Proposal for Introduction to the Study of Religion textbook for University of Toronto Press (2024)

Article for Religion and Literature journal (2023)

Textbook revision for Routledge Publishing (2022)

Full professor promotion portfolio, Goucher College (2020)

Article for *Clio* journal (2020)

Articles for *Religions* journal (2018–)

Referee for article submitted to *PMLA* journal (2015)

Article for *Nineteenth-Century Contexts: An Interdisciplinary Journal* (2013)

Article for *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture* (2013)

Articles for *Journal of Religion and Film* (2011–)

Book series proposal for Fortress-Augsburg Press (2010)

Article for *Transformative Works and Cultures* journal (2010)

*Religions of the West Today* textbook revision (2nd ed.) for Oxford University Press (2009)

**Self-designed Major Advising**

Co-advisor, Caroline Hickey, Middle East Studies (Fall 2017–Spring 2018)

Co-advisor, Evelyn Langley, Religion and Culture (Fall 2011–Spring 2014)

**Honors and Independent Study Advising**

 Knox College

 Advisor—Fionn Meehan, Independent Study (Winter 2024)

 Committee Member—Shuchita Poddar, Honors (2021-2022)

 Committee Member—Jada Bishop, Honors (2019–2020)

 Advisor—Patricia Duke, Independent Study (Spring 2019)

 Advisor—Melissa Smith, Independent Study (Winter 2018)

 Advisor—Caroline Hickey, Senior Capstone (Winter 2018)

 Advisor—Roberto Davila, Independent Study (Spring 2017)

 Advisor—Chloe Vollenweider, Independent Study (Spring 2017)

 Advisor—Amani Abu-Hashim, Independent Study (Winter 2017)

 Advisor—Sarah Choi, Independent Study (Fall 2016)

 Advisor—Alyana Eastman, Independent Study (Winter 2016)

 Advisor—Micah Wilger, Independent Study (Winter 2016)

 Advisor—Victoria Ezell, Independent Study (Fall 2014)

 Advisor—Raleigh DeRose, Independent Study (Winter 2014)

 Committee Member—Jennifer Kaufman, Honors (2012-2013)

 Committee Member—Katlin Ohlrich, Honors/Independent Study (Fall 2012)

 Advisor—Jessica Johnson, Independent Study (Fall 2011)

 University of Bridgeport

 Advisor—Shigemune Mori, Independent Study (Spring 2010)

 Advisor— Hannah Nilson, Independent Study (Spring 2009)

 Advisor—Ameika Daley, Independent Study (Spring 2009)

Duke University Department of Religion

 Committee Member—Michael Higgins, Honors (2006-2007)

**Selected Other Education**

“Christianity & Science Fiction: A Virtual Event” (11-13 October, 2021). Online conference hosted by Michigan Center for Early Christian Studies, in partnership with the Department of Middle East Studies (University of Michigan).

Peace and Justice Studies Association Annual Conference, Winnipeg, Canada (October 2019)

International Conference on Conflict Resolution Education, Columbus, Ohio (April 2019)

“Teaching Peace in the 21st Century” Summer Institute for Faculty, Kroc Institute of International Peace, University of Notre Dame (June 2016, June 2009)

Midwest Faculty Seminar on “Death and the Politics of Life,” University of Chicago Center for Teaching and Learning (February 2012)

“Revising Religion Course Syllabi,” Wabash Center workshop, American Academy of Religion Midwest Region conference, Augustana College (April 2011)

“Improving Introductory Courses in Religion,” Wabash Center workshop, American Academy of Religion Southeast Region conference, Atlanta (March 2008)

Wesleyan University Graduate Program of Liberal Studies (Summer 1994)

Wesleyan Writers Conference, Wesleyan University (June 1993)

Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference, Middlebury College (August 1979)

**Academic Leadership and Service**

Knox College

Chair, Religious Studies Program (Fall 2012–); Co-chair (Fall 2011–Summer 2012)

Co-chair, Peace and Justice Studies Program (Fall 2018–Summer 2023)

Member, Honorary Degree Subcommittee (Winter/Spring 2023)

Chair, Director of Spiritual Life Search (Spring 2021)

Chair, Peace and Justice Studies Program Director Search (Fall 2019–Spring 2021)

Chair, Faculty Personnel Committee (2019–2020; member 2017–2021)

Member, Ad-hoc Coordinating Committee (2020–21)

Stellyes Center for Global Studies Advisor

Buddhist Studies in Bodh Gaya, India (Carleton Global Engagement)

Oxford University St. Catherine's (IES Abroad)

CIEE Israel: International Relations with Honors Programs in Peace and Conflict Studies and Psychology (Haifa)

SIT Indonesia: Arts, Religion and Social Change

 Member, Reverend Pete Hosutt Scholarship Committee (Fall 2011–)

 Member, Vovis Center Advisory Board (2017–2018)

 Member, Registrar Search Committee (Winter/Spring 2017)

 Member, Budget and Financial Priorities Committee (Summer 2016–2017)

 Chair, Curriculum Committee Policy Subcommittee (Fall 2015–Winter 2016); Member (Fall 2014–Summer 2015)

 Member, Teagle Grant Student Advising Task Force (Fall 2014–Fall 2015)

 Co-chair, Second-Year Review Committee for James Dyer (Fall 2014)

 Member, Knox 2018: 21st-Century Education Committee (Fall 2013–Spring 2014)

 Member, Fulbright Fellowship Campus Committee (Fall 2013)

 Member, Journalism Faculty Search Committee (Winter 2013)

 Member, Honor Board (Fall 2011–Spring 2014)

 Faculty Advisor, *Fusion* journal of interreligious dialogue (Fall 2010–Spring 2012)

University of Bridgeport

 Co-director, World Religions Department (Spring 2009–Spring 2010)

 Co-chair, Religious Studies Search Committee (Spring 2010)

 Teaching Evaluator for International College junior faculty (Spring 2009­–Spring 2010)

 Judge, Kenneth R. and Lancy A. Gray Undergraduate Essay Contest (2008, 2009)

Duke University Writing Program

 Member-at-Large, Steering Committee (2007–2008)

Member, Editorial Board for *Deliberations*, annual publication of best essays by first-year students (2007–2008)

 Convener, Undergraduate Advisory Group (2007)

 Member, Course Curriculum Committee (2006–2007)

 Member, Mellon Fellows Search Committee (2005–2006)

Duke University Graduate Program in Religion

 Coordinator, Religion and Theory Reading Group (2003–2006)

 Fellow, Preparing Future Faculty program (2002–2003)

Founding Member, Graduate Student Association in Religion (GSAR), representative council for religion graduate students. Drafted bylaws. (2001–2002)

 Graduate Student Member, Graduate Program in Religion Bylaws Committee (2001)

 Graduate Assistant, Pivotal Ideas of World Civilizations Program (1999–2001). Arranged campus residencies for national/international scholars and artists.

 Graduate Assistant, Wabash Graduate Teaching Training Program (1999–2000). Organized workshops for graduate students on undergraduate teaching.

Yale Divinity School

 Writing Consultant in academic writing (1983–86)

 Student Representative, Curriculum Committee (1984–86)

 President, Parents’ Cooperative Daycare Center (1983–85)

Science Fiction Research Association

 Chair, Student Paper Award Committee (2012–2013); Committee Member (2010–2012)

American Academy of Religion

 Member, Steering Committee for Religion and Popular Culture Unit (2016–2022)

 Member, Steering Committee for Religion and Media Workshop (2010–2020)

 Member, Steering Committee for Arts, Literature, and Religion Unit (2006–2012)

Journal of Religion and Film

 Member, Editorial Board (2011–)

**Academic and Service Awards**

Faculty Achievement Award, Knox College (2023)

Exemplary Service Award, International College, University of Bridgeport (2010)

Dean’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, Duke University (2003)

Graduate Student Essay Award, American Academy of Religion Southeast Region (2000)

Mary Cady Tew Prize for scholastic excellence, Yale Divinity School (1984–1985)

**Fellowships and Grants**

Council of Independent Colleges/Interfaith Youth Core Seminar on Teaching Interfaith Understanding, DePaul University, Chicago (August 2014)

Mellon Faculty Grant for Project Advancement, Knox College (2011–2012)

Evan Frankel Dissertation Year Fellowship (2003–2004)

Fellowship, Duke Graduate Program in Religion (1997–2003)

Duke Graduate School Travel Grant for research at Myanmar Institute of Theology (2001)

Graduate Student Teaching Grant, Duke Center for Teaching, Learning, and Writing (1999–2000)

**Administration/Journalism Employment**

The Episcopal Church, New York City (January 1995–August 1997)

 Deputy Director of News and Information

Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut, Hartford (September 1987–December 1994)

 Communications Officer

*New Haven Register* and *Journal-Courier*, New Haven, CT (September 1983–August 1987)

 Religion Reporter

*Central Maine Morning Sentinel*, Waterville, Maine(January 1978–August 1983)

 Senior City Reporter

 Lead District Reporter

 Religion Page Editor

**Administration/Journalism Leadership and Service**

Episcopal Communicators. President (1991–1994) and board member (1989–1995) of organization of communication professionals serving the Episcopal Church.

Episcopal Church General Convention. News director, assistant editor, or reporter for news service or *Convention Daily* newspaper at triennial General Conventions (Minneapolis, 2003; Denver, 2000; Indianapolis, 1994; Phoenix, 1991; Detroit, 1988).

Anglican Communion Lambeth Conference, Canterbury, England (July–August 1998). News Service Director.

International Advisory Committee on Communications for the Anglican Communion, London, England (January 1994). Member.

Anglican Primates and Anglican Consultative Council Joint Meeting, Cape Town, South Africa (January 1993). Assistant Editor–News Team.

**Courses Taught at Knox College**

Global Christianity

History of Christianity

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

Reading Islam: Texts and Images

Introduction to Religious Studies

Seminar in Religious Studies

 Freud, Jung, and Religion

 Death and Afterlife

 Spiritual Autobiography

Religion and Culture Cluster

 Religion and Popular Culture

 Religion and Film

 Religion and Media

 Religion and Science Fiction

Introduction to Peace and Justice Studies

Working for Peace and Social Change

**Other Courses Taught**

Introduction to Academic Writing

First-Year Seminar

New Testament & Early Christian Sources

Sociopolitical Implications of World Religions

Religion and Society

Media, Sports, and Society

Religion and Fiction

Magic and Mysticism: Early Twentieth-Century Enchantment

Holy Wars?: Constructing the Crusades

Medieval Myths and Marvels

Images of King Arthur

Utopian Literature and Film

Catholicism and Film