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ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor (tenured), University of Alabama, Department of Religious Studies and New College, August 2004-present

Visiting Professor, College of the Humanities, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, July 2005-July 2006

Assistant Professor, University of Alabama, Department of Religious Studies and New College, 1998-2004

Visiting Lecturer, Wesleyan University (Connecticut), Department of Religion, 1994

Visiting Lecturer, Trinity College (Connecticut), Department of Religion, 1992-1994

Teaching Assistant and Tutor, Harvard University, Committee on the Study of Religion and Department of English, 1991-1995

EDUCATION

PhD Harvard University, Committee on the Study of Religion (American Religious History), 1998

AM Harvard University, Committee on the Study of Religion, 1992

MA Graduate Theological Union (Biblical Studies, thesis passed with honor), 1989

MDiv San Francisco Theological Seminary, 1988

BGS University of Michigan (Languages and Literature), 1976

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Flight Attendant, Purser, and In-Flight Services Instructor, Pan American World Airways, San Francisco (1980-1986), Honolulu (1979), and London, England (1977-1979)

AUTHORED BOOK

Douglas Horton and the Ecumenical Impulse in American Religion, Harvard Theological Studies Series, 50 (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2002).

EDITED BOOKS

The African Diaspora and the Study of Religion, Theodore Louis Trost, ed. (New York: Palgrave-Macmillan, 2007).

Teaching African American Religions, Carolyn M. Jones and Theodore Louis Trost, eds. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005).

BOOK CHAPTERS

"The Passion and the Compassion of the Christ" in Scott Paeth, ed., *Who Do You Say That I Am? Christology and Identity in the United Church of Christ* (Cleveland, OH: United Church Press, 2006), 145-166; 217-220.

"Marking the New Humanity: Discourses on the Way" in Douglas R. McGaughey and Cornelia Cys-Wittenstein, eds., *From Biblical Interpretation to Human Transformation: Reopening the Past to Actualize New Possibilities in the Future* (Salem, OR: Chora-Strangers, 2006), 156-170.

"Mining the Motherlode of African American Religious Traditions," co-authored with Carolyn M. Jones in Carolyn M. Jones and Theodore Louis Trost, eds., *Teaching African American Religions* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 3-10.

"Watching for Religion and Race at the Movies" in Carolyn M. Jones and Theodore Louis Trost, eds., *Teaching African American Religions* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 219-240.

"Story, Product, Franchise: Images of Postmodern Cinema," co-authored with Bruce Isaacs in Matthew Kapell and William G. Doty, eds., *Jacking into the Matrix Franchise: Cultural Reception and Interpretation* (New York: Continuum, 2004), 65-79.

"Confessional Identity: An Early Exchange" in M. Douglas Meeks and Robert D. Mutton, eds., *In Essentials Unity: Reflections on the Nature and Purpose of the Church* (Minneapolis: Kirk House, 2001), 108-112.

INVITED ARTICLES

"Identity and Identification: The United Church of Christ's 'God is Still Speaking,' Television Ad Campaign" *Prism*, 21/2 (Fall 2007): 102-122.

"'Never Have I Witnessed Such Hospitality': Malcolm X's Pilgrimage to Mecca," *FootSteps Magazine of African American Heritage* 8/2 (March-April 2006): 17-19.

"May I Share an Interpretive Task With You?: Religion and Film in the Introduction to Religion Course," *Bulletin of the Council of Societies for the Study of Religion* 33/2 (April 2004): 39-42.

"An Inevitable and Unique Compatibility: Some Factors Leading to the Creation of the Evangelical and Reformed Church," *The New Mercersburg Review* 32 (Spring 2003): 3-24.

"Christian Salvation in *The Matrix*," *The Clergy Journal* 77/9 (August 2001): 6-8.

"Douglas Horton Before the Fall" in *The Annual Historical Lectures of the Historical Council of the United Church of Christ, 1999-2000* (Cleveland, OH: United Church of Christ, 2001): 1-33.

Biographical and theological introductions to the writings of John Nevin, George Richards, and Samuel Press, in *The Living Theological Heritage of the United Church of Christ, Volume 5* (Boston: Pilgrim, 2000): 111-112; 485-486; 490-491.

"Exposing, Experiencing, and Explaining America: Philip Schaff's Progress from *The Principle of Protestantism* to *America* (1844 to 1856)," *The New Mercersburg Review* 23 (Spring 1998): 3-24.

"Of Scarecrows and Red Flags," *Prism* 11/2 (Fall 1996): 7-10.

"Hostage to Public Radio," *The Christian Science Monitor*, October 28, 1996, 11.

"Of Networks and Nets: An Exegesis of Mark 1: 14-20," *No Other Foundation* 17/1 (Summer 1996): 35-38.

"An Exegesis of Luke 8: 26-39," *No Other Foundation* 15/2 (Winter 1994): 29-34.

"The Anxious Bench: An Invitation to Lutheran-Reformed Dialogue," *The New Mercersburg Review* 12 (Fall 1992): 16-25.

"The Trivial Entry into Jerusalem," *No Other Foundation* 11/2 (Winter 1991): 19-22.

"Unreal City," *Pacific Theological Review* 19/1 (Fall 1985): 60-64.

REVIEW ESSAYS

A review of Terry Lindvall, *Sanctuary Cinema: Origins of the Christian Film Industry* (New York: New York University Press, 2007) in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* [forthcoming].

A review of James B. Bennett, *Religion and the Rise of Jim Crow in New Orleans*, (Princeton: Princeton, 2005) in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 75/2 (June 2007): 490-493.

"Religion's Role in 'Our' County." A review of Alan Mittleman, ed., *Religion as a Public Good: Jews and other Americans on Religion in the Public Square* (New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 2003).

H-NET Book Review. Published by H-AMREL@h-net.msu.edu (August 2004).

<http://www.h-net.msu.edu/reviews/showpdf.cgi?path=99741095269594>

"Hooray for Our Side!": Songs, Identity Construction, and Sound Doctrine," *Religious Studies Review* 29/3 (July 2003): 215-223. A comprehensive review of eight books that focus upon the "religious" as expressed in popular and sacred songs.

A review of Stephen Graham, *Cosmos in the Chaos: Philip Schaff's Interpretation of Nineteenth-Century American Religion* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1995) in the *Journal of Religion* 78/8 (October 1999): 668-669.

CURRENT AND FUTURE RESEARCH PROJECTS

"End of Decline or End of the Line?: The United Church of Christ's 'God is Still Speaking,' Identity Campaign in Cultural, Theological, and Historical Context." In the aftermath of a sabbatical grant from the Louisville Institute, I continue to investigating the television advertising campaign launched by the United Church of Christ in 2004 in an effort to attract new members to the denomination. I expect my on-going research to result in three additional articles focused on the significance of this campaign in the history of mainline Protestantism (or the Protestant Establishment) in America.

"Tradition and Trajectory: The Mercersburg Movement in the 21st Century." A collection of essays by eight authors edited with an introduction by Theodore Louis Trost. This book concerns the nineteenth century liturgical and confessional reform movement in the German Reformed Church (mainly in Pennsylvania) and its relevance to American religious history. This book proposal is currently under review.

"Religion in the Marketplace: Expressions of the Religious in Popular Culture." A collection of eleven of my own essays, culled from recent lectures and academic presentations concerning "religion" in popular songs, film, and television.

"Naked Faith: The Messenger in the Gospel of Mark." A book-length manuscript that centers upon the naked youth in Mark 14.51-52. Using narrative theory and attention to ritual practices embedded in the text, this book argues that the obscure youth provides the interpretive key to the entire Gospel. A complete revision of the 1989 MA thesis currently in an early stage of rewriting.

PRESENTATIONS

National and International

"Pampered Tourists and Tasty Meats: Ironies of Resilience in Tuscan Eco-tourism" with Catherine Roach. Association for the Study of Food and Society. New Orleans. June 8, 2008.

"Fits and Starts; Or, Field Notes in Search of a Narrative: The 'God is Still Speaking,' Campaign as Identity Crisis." Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies Research Group. Ottawa University, Canada. May 15, 2006.

"The Marketing of the United Church of Christ: Edgy Branding and 'The Bouncer Ad.'" Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies Research Group. Ottawa University, Canada. December 12, 2005.

"Protest Songs and Battle Hymns of the Republic: Singing America in a Dangerous Time." Religion and Popular Culture Group, American Academy of Religion. Atlanta. November 24, 2003.

"Salvation in *The Matrix*: New World Order or Same Old Hierarchy?" Religion, Film, and Visual Culture Group, American Academy of Religion. Nashville. November 19, 2000.

"Approaching *Apocalypse Now*." Arts, Literature, and Religion Section, American Academy of Religion. Boston. November 1999.

"Religious Yearnings in U2's *Pop*." Third International Conference on Religion, Media, and Culture. Edinburgh, Scotland. July 1999.

"What if God Was [sic] One of Us?: Religious Quests, Questions, and Quandaries in Popular Songs." American Academy of Religion. New Orleans. November 1997.

Regional

"What if God Was [sic] One of Us?: Religious Questions in Popular Songs." New England/Maritime Regional AAR. Quincy, Massachusetts. Spring 1997.

"Religion in Popular Songs." North East Popular Culture Association. Hamden, Connecticut. Fall 1996.

"Traversing Bruce Springsteen's *Nebraska*: A Pilgrimage from Unholy to Holy Land." New England American Studies Association. Providence, Rhode Island. Spring 1994.

"The Theology of Bruce Springsteen." North East Popular Culture Association. Providence, Rhode Island. Spring 1993.

"Mercersburg Theology as a Critique of Evangelical Atomism." Lilly Endowment Research Group Conference "Protestantism and Cultural Change in American History." Cambridge, Massachusetts. Spring 1992.

"Where Were the Churches? Protestant Social Witness and the *Brown v Board of Education* Decision (1954)." Lilly Endowment Research Group Conference "The Protestant Establishment and Cultural Change: Intended and Unintended Adaptations Since the Late 19th Century." Cambridge, Massachusetts. Spring 1990.

Other Conference Activities

"Religious Institutions Consultation" participant. The Louisville Institute. Louisville, Kentucky. May 29-30, 2008.

"Engaging the Affective: Music, the Senses, and Subjectivity in Film Experiences" panel president. Religion, Film, and Visual Culture Group, American Academy of Religion. San Diego. November 18, 2007.

"Religious and Theological Reflection upon Musical Meaning" panel president. Religious and Theological Reflection upon Musical Meaning Wildcard session, American Academy of Religion. San Diego. November 19, 2007.

"Horror, Heroes, and the Supernatural in Film" panel president. Religion, Film, and Visual Culture Group, American Academy of Religion. Washington, DC. November 18, 2006.

"Religion, Popular Culture, and Community Formation" panel president. Religion and Popular Culture Group, American Academy of Religion. Nashville. November 20, 2000.

INVITED LECTURES

"Douglas Horton and the Writing of American Religious History." Featured speaker at a discussion of my book. Southern Historians of Religion, Samford University. October 31 and November 1, 2003.

"Re-conceptualizing the Problem of Race and Religion as Portrayed in Popular Films." Wabash/Oxford University Press Book Project: Teaching African American Religions. Dallas, Texas. October 20, 2002.

"Problematizing the Popular: Religion, Race, and Film." Wabash/Oxford University Press Book Project: Teaching African American Religions. Dallas, Texas. June 1, 2002.

"My Own Personal Jesus Christ': The Curiously Christian Worldview in the Movie *The Matrix*." Second Annual Faculty Lecture, College of Continuing Education, University of Alabama. September 2000.

"Douglas Horton's Ecumenism: Nostalgia for a Previous Century or Vision for the Next One?" Annual Meeting of the United Church of Christ Historical Society, Cleveland. October 1999.

"Tradition and Trajectory: The Mercersburg Movement into the 21st Century." The Mercersburg Society Annual Conference, Pittsfield, Massachusetts. June 1997.

"John Nevin's Appeal for Lutheran Confessional Identity." The Mercersburg Society Annual Conference, Philadelphia. June 1992.

CREATIVE WORKS

The One You Love: Blues, Ballads, Hymns, and other Songs of Protest by Thaddaeus Quince and the New Originals. WreckLoose Recordings CD, 2007. Writer, arranger, producer, and vocalist for all songs.

The Wrest by Thaddaeus Quince and the New Originals. WreckLoose Recordings CD, 2004. Writer, arranger, producer, and vocalist for all songs.

Communitas by Thaddaeus Quince and the New Originals. WreckLoose Recordings CD, 1999. Writer, arranger, producer, and vocalist for all songs.

Cold War, Baby by Thaddaeus Quince and the New Originals. WreckLoose Recordings CD, 1996. Writer, arranger, producer, and vocalist for all songs.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

The Louisville Institute for the Study of American Religion, Religious Institutions Program Grant: "End of Decline or End of the Line? The United Church of Christ's 'God is Still Speaking,' Identity Campaign." July 2005-July 2006 (Sabbatical grant). \$45,000.

University of Alabama, College of Arts and Sciences. Faculty Development Grant to develop the course "Organic Farming and Slow Food in Italy." July 2005. \$2,000.

University of Alabama, College of Arts and Sciences. Research and Advisory Committee Summer Grant. May 2002 to May 2004. \$3,000.

Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion. Project Grant, "Mining the Motherlode: Teaching and Learning African American Religious Life." November 2001 to October 2003. \$35,000.

University of Alabama. Arts and Sciences Collegiate Fund Teaching Grant. May 2001 to May 2002. \$3,000.

University of Alabama, College of Arts and Sciences. Research and Advisory Committee Summer Grant. May 2000 to May 2002. \$4,000.

Louisville Institute for the Study of American Religion Dissertation Grant, 1996-1997. \$12,000.

Lilly Endowment Fellowship for the Project on American Protestantism, 1989-1990; 1990-1991; 1995-1996.

Louisville Institute for the Study of American Protestantism. Grant to convene a conference on the contemporary significance of the Mercersburg Movement (1840-1880) at Lancaster Theological Seminary. March 1995.

Derek Bok Center for Teaching, Harvard University, Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1994.

Writing Fellow at the Danforth Center for Teaching Development, Harvard University. Fall 1993.

San Francisco Theological Seminary Alumni Scholarship Award, 1988.

Martin Dwelle Kneeland Preaching Prize, San Francisco Theological Seminary, 1988.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies Research Group, Ottawa University, Canada. September 2005-June 2006.

Interdisciplinary and Integrative Research Group, The University of Alabama. January 1999 to 2005.

American Academy of Religion and the Lilly Endowment. Teaching workshop, "Mining the Motherlode of African American Religious Life," a national teaching and research seminar. August 1999 to August 2000.

Valparaiso Project on the Education and Formation of People in Faith, a national seminar sponsored by the Lilly Endowment. March 1997.

TEACHING

Undergraduate Courses in Religious Studies: REL 100 Introduction to Religious Studies; REL 124 Religion and Popular Culture in America; REL 240 Portraits of the Apocalypse in Film; REL 241 The Narrative Construction of American Religious History; REL 311 The English Bible; REL 371 Viewing *Apocalypse Now* as a Religious Text; REL 420 Critical Approaches to the Gospel of Mark

Undergraduate Course in New College: NEW 212 Creativity: Artistic Sensibilities and the Self; NEW 412 Songcraft: The Art of Song Writing; NEW 490 Food, Farm, and Culture in Italy

Undergraduate Course in the Blount Undergraduate Initiative: BUI 301 Rhetorics of Conviction: Sojourner Truth, Mahatma Gandhi, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and Martin Luther King, Jr.

PhD Committees: David DeWitt, "The Star Wars Franchise as Global Religious Phenomenon," Interdisciplinary Studies, 2004-2006; Jonathan Berry, "Theories of Religion and Culture," Interdisciplinary Studies, 1999-2005.

DMA (Music) Thesis Committee: Wayne Bucknor, "The Changing Role of Music in the Liturgy of the Black Seventh Day Adventist Church," 2007 (Document Adviser).

MFA (Creative Writing) Thesis Committees: Carl Peterson, "Under Every Spreading Tree" (novel), 2008; Brooke Parks, "Situations That Cannot be Made Better" (poetry), 2007; Ben Gunsberg, "Half the World Outside" (poetry), 2001; Matthew Doherty, "Letters from the Albion Hotel" (poetry), 2000; Maurice Manning, "Lawrence Booth's Book of Visions" (poetry), 1999.

Study Abroad

Co-director, "Food, Farm, and Culture in Italy," University of Alabama course in Tuscany, June 2007.

Co-leader, "Holy Lands Tour: Egypt, Jordan, Israel," San Francisco Theological Seminary travel group, January 1990.

UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE, AND DEPARTMENT SERVICE

College of Arts and Sciences

Member, College of Arts and Sciences Tenure and Promotion Committee, 2006-current

Mentor, The McNair Undergraduate Program, 2008- current; 2004-2005; 2003-2004

Member, College of Arts and Sciences Diversity Committee, 2004-2005

Department of Religious Studies

Academic Adviser to all Religious Studies department majors and minors, 2004-2005; 2006-current

Chair, Learner Centered College outcomes assessment committee, 2007-current

Chair, Religious Studies tenure and promotion committee, 2004-2005; member, 2006-current

Member (for consultation purposes while on sabbatical), Religious Studies faculty search interviewing committee (Asian Religions position), Fall 2005

Member, Religious Studies scholarship committee, 2003-current

Chair, African Diaspora conference planning committee, 2004-2005

Chair, Religion in Culture lecture series committee, 2003-2004; 2004-2005

Chair, Religious Studies learning assessment committee, 2004

Chair, U of A-Stillman College Religion in Culture lecture coordinating committee, 2002-2003

Chair, Religious Studies tenure and promotion documents committee, 2002-2003

Member, Religion in Culture lecture series planning committee, 2002

Member, Religious Studies ad-hoc committee on curriculum revision, 2002

Member, Religious Studies ad-hoc committee on targeted affirmative action hire, 2001

Member, Religious Studies faculty search committee (Judaic Studies position), 2000-2001

Member, Religious Studies faculty search committee (Asian Religions position), 1999-2000; 2000-2001

Member, Religious Studies 5-year Plan committee, 2000-2001

Member, Aaron Aronov Chair in Judaic Studies Advisory Committee, 1998-2001

New College

Member, New College faculty search committee (Humanities and Fine Arts position), 2007-current
 Member, New College faculty search committee (Natural Sciences position), 2006- 2007
 Chair, New College Honors Day planning committee, 2000-2003
 Chair, New College Graduation Day planning committee, 2000-2003
 Member, New College faculty search committee (Director position), 2000-2001; 2001-2002
 Member, New College 5-year Plan committee, 2000-2001

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIPS**National**

Co-Chair, Music and Religion Consultation, American Academy of Religion, 2008-current
 Member, Board of Directors, Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, 2006-current
 Corresponding Editor, *The New Mercersburg Review*, 2002-current
 Manuscript Consultant, Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group; Duke University Press; Routledge Press; Westminster/John Knox Press
 Referee, *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture*
 Member, Steering Committee, Religion, Film and Visual Culture Group, American Academy of Religion, 2000-2007
 Member, Corporate Board of the Mercersburg Society, 1998-2004
 Member, Alumni Council of the San Francisco Theological Seminary, 2001-2003

Regional

Member, Senior Thesis Examination Committee, Religion Department, Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama, 2002 and 2003
 Chair, Host Committee for Southern Historians of Religion, Spring 2003
 Consultant on religion and American culture to the *Tuscaloosa News*, 1998-current
 Consultant on religion and American culture to *Fox 6 News* Tuscaloosa (television), 2000-current
 Consultant on religion and American culture to *ABC 33/40* Birmingham (television), 2001-current

Societies

American Academy of Religion; American Society of Church History; American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers; American Studies Association; Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society; The Mercersburg Society; Popular Culture Association

REFERENCES

Harvey Cox (Harvard Divinity School); Gabriel Fackre (Andover Newton Theological School); Naomi Goldenberg (Ottawa University); James Hall (University of Alabama); Russell McCutcheon (University of Alabama); Herman Waetjen (San Francisco Theological Seminary); Barbara Brown Zikmund (Catholic University of America)