

Joshua R. Eyer

Curriculum Vitae

Rice University
Center for Teaching Excellence
Houston, TX 77005
jeyer@rice.edu

Education

Ph.D. in Medieval Studies (Emphasis: Medieval English Language and Literature)
University of Connecticut, 2006

M.A. in Medieval Studies (Emphasis: Medieval English Language and Literature)
University of Connecticut, 2002

B.A. in English
Gettysburg College, *magna cum laude*, 2000

Academic Employment

Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence, Rice University, 2013-present.

- Adjunct Associate Professor of Humanities

Associate Director of the Center for Teaching and Faculty Excellence, George Mason University, 2011-2013.

- Affiliate Associate Professor of English.
- Affiliate Faculty, Center for the Study of Sports and Leisure in Society.

Assistant Professor of English, Columbus State University, 2006-2011.

- Approved for Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor, 2011.
- Assistant Chair of the English Department, 2009-2011.
- Acting Assistant Dean—College of Arts and Letters (temporary position), July-December 2008.

Scholarly Publications

Books

How Human Beings Learn: A New Model for Teaching in Higher Education.
Under contract with West Virginia University Press.

Disability and Difference in the Oz Narratives.
Under contract with McFarland Publishing.

Edited Collections

Disability in the Middle Ages: Reconsiderations and Reverberations (Ashgate, 2010).
Editor and Contributor.

A Cultural History of Disability in the Middle Ages (with Jonathan Hsy and Tory Vandeventer Pearman). Volume 2 in the *Cultural History of Disability* Series, Gen. Eds. David Bolt and Robert McRuer.
Under contract with Bloomsbury Press. Editor.

Essays in Peer-Reviewed Journals

“Disability and Prosthesis in L. Frank Baum’s *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. *Children’s Literature Association Quarterly* 38.3 (2013): 319-34.

“The Athletes of Christ: Spiritual Athleticism in Medieval Christian Thought.” *The International Journal of Religion and Sport* 2 (2012).

“The Rhetorical Significance of Wrestling in *Ancrene Wisse*.” *The Mediaeval Journal* 2.1 (2012): 1-12

“Cain’s *marke*: N-Town’s *Noah* and the Lamech Interlude Reconsidered.” *Neophilologus* 94.2 (2010): 353-62.

“The *Miller’s Tale*, ll. 3466-99: Narrative Inconsistency and the First Fragment of *The Canterbury Tales*.” *ANQ: American Notes and Queries* 21 (2008): 2-6. (with John P. Sexton)

“Once More to the Grove: A Note on Symbolic Space in the *Knight’s Tale*.” *The Chaucer Review* 40 (2006): 433-39. (with John P. Sexton)

“The Manuscripts of *Piers Plowman*.” *Literature Compass* 2 (2005): ME 132, 1-11. (with C. David Benson) [Peer-reviewed essay for Blackwell Publishing at: <<http://www.literature-compass.com>>.]

“Reassessing the Wrestling in *Beowulf*.” *English Language Notes* 41.3 (2004): 1-11.

Encyclopedia Entries

“Aldhelm.” In *Companion to British Poetry Before 1600*. Ed. Michelle M. Sauer. New York: Facts on File, 2008.

“*Piers Plowman*, Passūs XIX and XX.” In *Companion to British Poetry Before 1600*. Ed. Michelle M. Sauer. New York: Facts on File, 2008.

Book Reviews

Bernard of Clairvaux, *On Baptism and the Office of Bishops*, trans. Pauline Matarasso with introductions by Martha G. Newman and Emero Stiegman (Kalamazoo, MI: Cistercian Publications, 2004). *Mystics Quarterly* 31 (2005): 131-34.

Grants

Funded

PI. Humanities Research Innovation Fund Grant to support research for my book project, *How Human Beings Learn: A New Paradigm for Teaching in Higher Education*. \$4,000. [**Internal Award**]

Senior Personnel. Faculty Initiatives Fund Grant: “Inside the Undergraduate Experience: An Investigation of Current and Best Practices, and Barriers to Implementing Evidence-based Teaching Strategies at Rice University.” \$29,921. [**Internal Award; PI—Margaret Beier, Rice University**]

Other Research, Writing, and Scholarship

“Conversations: Instructional Design, Trust, and Discovery.” *Hybrid Pedagogy*. 29 January 2016. (with Sean Michael Morris) <http://www.digitalpedagogylab.com/hybridped/mmids-conversations-design-trust-discovery/>

“Biology, the Brain, and Learning” and “Teaching Lessons from Pixar.” Interviews by Bonni Stachowiak for the podcast “Teaching in Higher Ed.” Aired 25 September 2014 and 8 September 2015.

“The Rhetoric of the CV.” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. 5 April 2012.

“This Is Your Brain on Medieval Studies.” In *Burn after Reading: Miniature Manifestoes on Post/medieval Studies*. Ed. Eileen Joy. Punctum Books, 2014.

“A Lifetime’s Training.” Academic Blog on Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. <http://josheyleyler.wordpress.com/>

Teaching Experience

Rice University (2013-present)

- FWIS 136: The World According to Pixar
- FWIS 193: America and the Yellow Brick Road: The Cultural, Historical, and Literary Significance of Oz

- UNIV 500: Principles of Effective College Teaching
- UNIV 501: Research in Teaching and Learning
- UNIV 502: Practicum in College Teaching
- UNIV 599: Teaching Portfolio

George Mason University (2011-2013)

- PROV 701: Preparing for Careers in the Academy (graduate seminar) [2 sections]
- English 203: Western Literary Foundations I
- English 320: Literature of the Middle Ages

Columbus State University (2006-2011):

- English 1101: English Composition I [1 section]
- English 1102: English Composition II [3 sections]
- English 2111: World Literature I [12 sections]
- English 2146: Introduction to Fiction [2 sections]
- English 2149: Introduction to Drama [3 sections]
- English 3115: Studies in the American Novel (Topic: Winners of the Pulitzer Prize) [1 section]
- English 3118: Readings in British Literature (Topic: Arthurian Legend) [1 section]
- English 3120: Chaucer [3 sections]
- English 3125: Studies in the British Novel (Topic: The Gothic Novel) [1 section]
- English 3135: Medieval Literature in Britain [5 sections]
- English 3175: Readings in American Literature (Topics: Sports in American Literature and Film; American Children's Literature) [2 sections]
- English 4555: Senior Capstone [1 section]
- English 5166: History of the English Language [3 sections]
- English 5545: Selected Topics (Topic: Children's Literature) [1 section]
- ITDS 1145: Comparative Arts (Topics: *The Wizard of Oz* in Literature, Film, and Popular Culture; Disability in Literature, Film, and the Arts; Sports in Literature and Film) [4 sections]

University of Connecticut (2000-2006):

[As a graduate student, I designed and taught sections of all of the following courses]

- English 104: Basic Writing
- English 110: Seminar in Academic Writing
- English 111: Seminar in Writing through Literature
- English 113: Western Literature: Renaissance to Modern
- English 220: Medieval English Literature
- English 249: Advanced Expository Writing—Disability Studies Focus

Administrative Experience

- **Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence**, Rice University, 2013-present.
- **Associate Director of the Center for Teaching and Faculty Excellence**, George Mason University, 2011-2013.
I helped facilitate all of the CTFE's major initiatives, workshops, etc. I had primary responsibility for our annual Innovations in Teaching and Learning conference, graduate student professional development programs, and our social media and web presences.
- **Assistant Chair of the English Department**, Columbus State University, 2009-2011.
Assisted with departmental duties and filled in for the chair when necessary.
- **Acting Assistant Dean**, College of Arts and Letters, Columbus State University, 2008.
Duties included: chairing committees, managing curriculum changes, processing travel applications, redesigning the college's website, etc.
- **Co-Founder and Co-Administrator of the Initiative to Establish a Minor in Interdisciplinary Disability Studies at the University of Connecticut**, 2005-2006.
In conjunction with the director of the university's center for developmental disabilities, I worked with deans and department heads to establish a minor in Disability Studies.
- **Academic Coordinator—English and Philosophy**, Student Support Services, Center for Academic Programs, University of Connecticut, 2004.
Directed one-half of the academic curriculum for this federal- and state-funded intensive, residential summer program serving 125 low-income, first-generation, or minority pre-freshmen at the University of Connecticut. Responsible for hiring, training, and supervising all teachers and tutors.

Honors and Awards

Outstanding Faculty Associate, McMurtry College, Rice University, 2016.

Invited Participant, Rice Leaders Program, Rice University, 2015-16.

Nominee, Rookie of the Year, Dean of Undergraduates Division, Rice University.
2014

CSU's Nominee - University System of Georgia's Board of Regents' Teaching Excellence Award.

2008 and 2010

Finalist, Educator of the Year, Columbus State University.

2008 and 2009

Nominee, QEP Outstanding Teacher of Writing Award, Columbus State University.

2008 and 2010

Departmental Nominee, Faculty Service Award, Columbus State University.

2009

Literary Sage Award, Columbus State University.

- 2008—Award given by CSU’s chapter of Sigma Tau Delta each year.
William B. and Maryloo Schallek Award for Dissertation Research.
 2005—Grant issued jointly by the Medieval Academy of America and the Richard III Society (American Branch).
- Research Foundation Dissertation Fellowship**, University of Connecticut.
 2005
- Aetna Graduate Student Teaching Award**, University of Connecticut.
 Nominee: 2003; Recipient: 2004
- Aetna Graduate Writing Award Winner**, University of Connecticut.
 2003 and 2004
- Phi Beta Kappa**, Gettysburg College.
 2000

Invited Talks

- “The Science of Learning, and Why It Matters.”
University of Texas School of Dentistry—5 December 2016
- “Why Failure is Essential for Student Learning.”
University of Michigan-Flint—1 September 2016
Columbus State University—19 October 2016
- “Innovation in Education: What Does It Mean, and Why Do We Need It?”
Baylor College of Medicine (Education Retreat for Medical Residents)—15 April 2016
- “Curiosity in the College Classroom.”
Radford University—29 September 2015
- “The Changing Nature of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education.”
Baylor College of Medicine—13 November 2014
Rice Alumni College—14 June 2014
- “‘If I only had a brain’: Disability and Difference in the Oz Narratives.”
Rice University’s MLS Program—17 June 2014
Shippensburg University—6 March 2014
- “Surveying a New Landscape: The Medieval Disability Studies Digital Glossary Project.”
George Washington University’s Inaugural Digital Humanities Symposium—25-26 January 2013

Papers, Conferences, and Colloquia

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

“Leveraging Twitter for Pedagogical Enhancement, Professional Development, and Center Visibility.” Professional and Organization Development Conference in Dallas, TX. 5-9 November 2014.

“The Science of Learning and Why It Matters.” De Lange Conference IX at Rice University. 13-14 October 2014.

“Concept Development Studies: Active Learning and Constructivism in Chemistry Education at Rice University.” AAU Innovations in STEM Education Conference in Washington, DC. 21-23 July 2014. **Authors: Lesa Tran, Joshua R. Eyler, Margaret E. Beier, Elizabeth A. Barre, and John S. Hutchinson.**

“The Engaged Brain: Cognitive Neuroscience and the Necessity of Active Learning Techniques.” 6th Annual SoTL Commons Conference in Statesboro, GA. 27-29 March 2013.

“This is Your Brain on Medieval Studies: Teaching, Neuroscience, and the Way Forward.” Presented as part of “Burn after Reading: Miniature Manifestos on Post/medieval Studies” (A Roundtable). 47th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 10-13 May 2012.

“Nothing to Fear but Fear Itself? How the Brain’s Amygdala Can Impede the Learning Process.” Lilly South Conference in Greensboro, NC. 10-12 February 2012.

“Teaching about Disability in Medieval Survey Courses.” Presented as part of “Teaching about Medieval Disabilities: Texts and Pedagogy” (A Roundtable Discussion). 46th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 12-15 May 2011.

Medieval Studies and Disability Studies

“Teaching and Access.” Accepted for the 52nd International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 11-14 May 2017.

“Heurodis, away with the Fairies: Mental Illness in *Sir Orfeo*.” 51st International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 12-15 May 2016.

Participant—“Teaching the Humanities in the Current Climate of Higher Education” (A Roundtable). 51st International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 12-15 May 2016.

Organizer and Moderator—“ ‘Crippling’ the Middle Ages: What Medieval Studies Can Do for Disability Studies and Vice Versa.” 51st International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 12-15 May 2016.

“Preparing for the Academic Job Market: A Workshop.” 50th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 14-17 May 2015.

Organizer and Moderator—“Disability and Medieval Saints’ Lives.” 50th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 14-17 May 2015.

“The View from Zacchaeus’s Sycamore: Perspectives on Disability in the Medieval English Biblical Plays.” 49th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 8-11 May 2014.

Participant—“Medievalists and the Social Media Pilgrimage: The Digital Life of 21st-Century Medieval Studies” (A Roundtable). 49th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 8-11 May 2014.

“, (A Breath).” 49th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 8-11 May 2014.

Organizer—“Medieval Disability Studies and the Posthuman.” 49th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 8-11 May 2014.

Organizer—“Disability Studies and the Digital Humanities” (A Roundtable). 49th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 8-11 May 2014.

Organizer and Moderator—“Incorporating Medieval Disability Studies into the Classroom” (A Roundtable). 48th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 9-12 May 2013.

Organizer and Moderator—Panel: “Queering Medieval Disability.” 48th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 9-12 May 2013.

Organizer and Moderator—“The Future of Medieval Disability Studies: Where Do We Go from Here?” (A Roundtable). 47th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 10-13 May 2012.

Organizer and Moderator—Panel: “Gender, Sexuality, and Disability.” 47th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 10-13 May 2012.

Organizer and Moderator—Panel: “Living with Disabilities in the Middle Ages.” 46th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 12-15 May 2011.

“*The Canterbury Tales*—Finished or Unfinished? Understanding the Importance of the *Canon’s Yeoman’s Tale*.” 45th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 13-16 May 2010.

Organizer and Moderator—“Disability Studies across the Curriculum” (A Roundtable Discussion). 45th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 13-16 May 2010.

Organizer and Moderator—Panel: “Disability and Power.” 45th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 13-16 May 2010.

Organizer and Participant—“The Theory Question: Intersections between Disability Studies and Medieval Studies” (A Roundtable Discussion). 44th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 7-10 May 2009.

Organizer and Moderator—Roundtable Discussion on Disability in the Middle Ages. 43rd International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 8-11 May 2008.

“Disability and the Construction of Identity in Bede’s *Historia Ecclesiastica*.” 42nd International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 10-13 May 2007.

“Figuring Disability in L. Frank Baum’s *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.” Faculty Research Forum, Columbus State University. 18 January 2007

“Sports and Medieval Culture: Reinterpreting the Evidence.” 41st International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 4-7 May 2006.

Organizer—“Sports in the Middle Ages: Historical and Literary Approaches.” 41st International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 4-7 May 2006.

“Medieval Asceticism and Disability Studies: Exploring Cultural Responses to the Impaired Body.” Conference of the Mid-Atlantic Popular Culture/American Culture Association, New Brunswick, NJ. 4-6 November 2005.

“Establishing a Minor in Disability Studies at UConn.” Presentation made to the Council of Deans, University of Connecticut. 13 October 2005.

“The Value of Interdisciplinary Disability Studies.” Presentation made to the A.J. Papanikou University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, University of Connecticut. 19 January 2006.

“The Rhetorical Significance of Wrestling in the *Ancrene Wisse*.” 19th Annual Conference on Medieval and Renaissance Studies, University of Virginia’s College at Wise. 15-17 September 2005.

“Wrestling with Desire: Athletic Discourse and the Feminine Spirituality of the Katherine Group’s *Marherete* and *Iuliene*.” 40th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 5-8 May 2005.

“Virgins as Athletes: Aldhelm and Anglo-Saxon Christian Thought.” 29th International Conference on Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies, Villanova University. 17-18 September 2004.

“Spiritual Athletics in the Katherine Group.” English Graduate Student Lecture Series, University of Connecticut. 16 September 2004.

“Recovering the Importance of Spiritual Athleticism for Anglo-Saxon Christianity.” 39th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 6-9 May 2004.

Organizer and Moderator—Panel: “New Directions in Research on Asceticism.” 39th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 6-9 May 2004.

Organizer and Moderator—Panel: “Representing the Body in Medieval Literature.” 21st Annual Medieval Graduate Student Conference, University of Connecticut. 18 October 2003.

"The Tournament in the *Knight's Tale*: Symbolism and Chaucer's Sense of History." 38th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 8-11 May 2003.

“Early Medieval Eschatological Hermeneutics: Rule IV of Tyconius’ *Liber Regularum* and its Influence on Augustine.” 28th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Medieval Association, Florida State University. 26-28 September 2002.

“Cain’s *marke*: N-Town’s *Noah* and the Lamech Interlude Reconsidered.” 37th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 2-5 May 2002.

Academic Service

Rice University

Service to University

Chair, Accessibility Advisory Committee for Disability Support Services, 2016-present.
Faculty Advisory Board, OpenStax (Rice University’s Non-Profit Textbook Initiative), 2015-present.

IT’s Scholarly and Academic Technologies Subcommittee, 2015-present.

Co-Chair, Accessibility Strategic Planning Committee, 2015-2016.

Classroom Quality Management Team, 2014-present.

Digital Education Advisory Council, 2013-present.

Faculty Senate Committee on Teaching (*ex officio*), 2013-present.

Subcommittees: Teaching Evaluations; External Awards; Internal Awards.

Various Search Committees, 2013-present.

Planning Committee for the De Lange Conference: “Teaching in the University of Tomorrow,” 2013-2014.
 Faculty Senate Working Group on Grade Inflation, 2013-2014.
 Student Association’s Working Group on Innovation in Undergraduate Education, 2013-2014.

Service to Profession

Reviewer and Panelist, NEH Office of Digital Humanities Digital Start-Up Grants, 2014.
 Reader, *To Improve the Academy*, 2012-present.
Journal on Excellence in College Teaching, 2012-present.
 Reviewer, Proposals for POD Conference, 2012-present.
 POD’s Research Committee, 2011-present.
 POD’s Graduate and Professional Student Development Committee, 2011-present.

George Mason University

Service to University

Steering Committee for MAP-Works, 2012-2013.
 Search Committee, Director of Graduate Student Life, 2012.
 Search Committee for 2 Instructional Designers, 2012.
 Reviewer, Critical Thinking across the Curriculum Portfolios, 2012.
 Coordinating Circle—Center for Teaching Excellence (*ex officio*), 2011-2013.
 Critical Thinking across the Curriculum Steering Committee, 2011-2013.
 Distance Education Advisory Council, 2011-2013.
 Distance Education Ph.D. Advisory Group, 2011-2013.
 Faculty and Curricular Activities Subcommittee for the QEP, 2011-2013.
 Office of Disability Services Advisory Board, 2011-2013.
 Teaching Excellence Award Committee, 2011-2013.

Service to Profession

Reviewer, Proposals for Society for Disability Studies Conference, 2013.
 Grant Reviewer, The Wellcome Trust for Medical Humanities, 2012.

Columbus State University:

Service to University

Faculty Senator, 2009-2011.
 University Faculty Development Committee, 2009-2011.
 Chair, Task Force on Faculty Recognition, 2009-2010.
 Athletics Committee, 2009-2010.
 University Strategic Planning Committee, 2008-2009.
 Chair, College of Arts and Letters Awards Committee, 2008-2009.
 Outside Member, Search Committee for Assistant Professor of Ceramics, 2008-2009.
 Early College Task Force, 2007-2011.
 Elected Representative for the College of Arts and Letters, Academic Standards Committee, 2007-2008.
 Disability Services Advisory Council, 2007-2011.
 Faculty Advisor, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, 2007-2009.

Women's Issues Advisory Council, 2007-2009.
 Grader, Quality Enhancement Program (QEP) Essays for Institutional Research, 2007.
 Regents' Exam Reader, 2006.

Service to Department

Strategic Planning Committee, 2009-2010.
 Coordinator, Undergraduate Research Group on Children's Literature, 2009-2010.
 Co-advisor, Sigma Tau Delta, 2008-2011.
 Undergraduate Advisor (fifteen students), 2007-2011.
 Coordinator, Graduate School and GRE Workshop Series, 2007-2011.
 Chair, Search Committee for Tenure-Track Position in Twentieth-Century Literature,
 2007-2008.
 First-Year Composition Rubric Subcommittee, 2007.
 English Majors Committee, 2006-2011 (**Chair, 2010-2011**).
 First-Year Composition Committee, 2006-2009.
 Coordinator, Undergraduate Research Group on Disability Studies, 2006-2008.
 Chair, English 1102 Best Practices Committee, 2006-2007.
 Early Mentoring Panels for English Education majors.

Service to Profession

Reader, *PMLA*, 2008.
 Reader, *Disability Studies Quarterly*, 2006.

Service to Community

Presenter, Continuing Education's "Medieval Times" Summer Camp for Children, 2007.
 Judge, Muscogee County School District Academic Decathlon, 2007.

University of Connecticut:

Aetna Teaching Award Committee, 2005.
 Steering Committee, Medieval Studies Program, 2003-2006.
 President, English Graduate Student Association, 2002-2003.

Teaching Interests

Pedagogy, Old English Language and Literature, Middle English Language and Literature (especially Chaucer and *Piers Plowman*), Medieval Drama, History of the English Language, Disability Studies, Sport Literature, Children's Literature.

Research Interests

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, Old English Literature, Middle English Literature, Chaucer, *Piers Plowman*, Medieval Latin and Vernacular Drama, Disability Studies, History and Literature of Sport, Children's Literature.

Languages

Old English [prepared to teach at graduate and undergraduate levels]; Classical and Medieval Latin; French (reading knowledge); Spanish (reading knowledge).

Professional Affiliations

POD (Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education)

Society for the Study of Disability in the Middle Ages (Co-founder and Member of the Executive Committee).