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CURRENT POSITION

Professor of Religion, Howard College of Arts and Sciences, Samford University

EDUCATION

Ph.D. *The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Religious Studies, 2002*
M.A. *The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Religious Studies, 1998*
M.A. *Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Theology, 1996*
M.B.A. *The University of Alabama, 1993*
B.S. *Samford University, Business Administration, summa cum laude, 1990*

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

George Gifford and the Reformation of the Common Sort: Puritan Priorities in Elizabethan Religious Life, Sixteenth Century Essays and Studies, vol. 70 (Kirksville, MO: Truman State University Press, 2004).

Edited Book

Teaching Augustine (with Chris Metress) (Basel: Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute, 2015).

Articles and Essays

“Luther, Bach, and the Jews: The Place of Objectionable Texts in the Classroom,” (with Beth McGinnis), *Religions* 8:4 (2017), article 53.

“Swingebreeches and Schollers: Images of Pastoral Leadership in Elizabethan Puritan Dialogues,” in *Leadership and Elizabethan Culture*, ed. Peter Iver Kaufman (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013).

“Thomas Cartwright” and “Andrew Melville,” in *The Encyclopedia of Protestantism*, ed. Hans Hillerbrand (New York: Routledge Press, 2003).

“*Subtiltie Exposed: Pastoral Perspectives on Witch Belief in the Thought of George Gifford.*” *Sixteenth Century Journal*, XXXIII/3 (Fall 2002): 665-86.

Book Reviews

Karl Gunther, *Reformation Unbound: Protestant Visions of Reform in England, 1525-1590*, Cambridge Studies in Early Modern British History (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014). *Journal of British Studies*, 54/4 (October 2015): 1014-16.

Andy Kesson and Emma Smith, ed., *The Elizabethan Top Ten: Defining Print Popularity in Early Modern England* (Farnham, UK: Ashgate Publishing, 2013). *Sixteenth Century Journal*, XLV/4 (Winter 2014): 1030-31.

Antoinina Bevan Zlatar, *Reformation Fictions: Polemical Protestant Dialogues in Elizabethan England* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011). *Church History* 82/1 (March 2013): 201-03.

Isabel Rivers and David L. Wykes, eds., *Dissenting Praise: Religious Dissent and the Hymn in England Wales* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011). *Church History* 81/3 (September 2012): 704-05.

Eamon Duffy, *Fires of Faith: Catholic England under Mary Tudor* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009). *The Journal of Religion* 91/4 (October 2011): 554-55.

Malcolm Gaskill, *Witchfinders: A Seventeenth-Century English Tragedy* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2005; ppr, 2007). *The Journal of Religion* 89/2 (April 2009): 286-87.

James Simpson, *Burning to Read: English Fundamentalism and its Reformation Opponents* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2007). *American Historical Review* 113/4 (October 2008): 1228-29.

S. F. Davies, ed., *A Dialogue Concerning Witches and Witchcraftes* by George Gifford (Brighton, UK: Puckrel Publishing, 2007) and *The Discovery of Witches and Witchcraft: The Writings of the Witchfinders* by Matthew Hopkins and John Stearne (Brighton, UK: Puckrel Publishing, 2007). *Reformation & Renaissance Review* 8/3 (December 2006): 378-79.

David Loewenstein and John Marshall, eds., *Heresy, Literature and Politics in Early Modern English Culture* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006). *Church History* 77/3 (September 2008): 728-30.

C. S. Knighton, *Acts of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, 1609-1642*, Westminster Abbey Record Series 5 (Woodbridge and Rochester: Boydell and Brewer, 2006). *Renaissance Quarterly* 60/4 (December 2007): 1442-43.

Dennis C. Bustin, *Paradox and Perseverance: Hanserd Knollys, Particular Baptist Pioneer in Seventeenth-Century England*, Studies in Baptist History and Thought 23 (Paternoster Press, 2006). *American Historical Review* 112/5 (December 2007): 1607-08.

J. William Black, *Reformation Pastors: Richard Baxter and the Ideal of the Reformed Pastor*, Studies in Christian History and Thought Series (Paternoster Press, 2004). *Journal of Presbyterian History*, (fall/winter, 2009): 85.

David P. Field, *Rigide Calvinisme in a Softer Dresse: The Moderate Presbyterianism of John Howe, 1630-1705* (Edinburgh: Rutherford House, 2004). *Sixteenth Century Journal* XXXVIII/1 (Spring 2007): 261-62.

Betty S. Travitsky, *Subordination and Authorship in Early Modern England: The Case of Elizabeth Cavendish Egerton and Her "Loose Papers"* (Tempe, AZ: Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, 1999). *Sixteenth Century Journal* XXXII/3 (Fall 2001): 778-79.

Newspaper columns

Commentary on the *Bible Studies for Life* Sunday School literature series, *The Alabama Baptist*, spring 2013; January-February, 2011, January 2007, fall 2003

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Samford University, Department of Biblical and Religious Studies, Howard College of Arts and Sciences

Professor, 2018-present

Associate Professor, 2008-2018

Assistant Professor, 2005-2008

Visiting Assistant Professor, 2002-2005

Courses taught:

- ⇒ Christian Theology
- ⇒ Contemporary Theology
- ⇒ History of Christianity
- ⇒ Global Christianity
- ⇒ American Religious History
- ⇒ Method and Research
- ⇒ Special Topics: Toleration and Freedom in Christian Thought
- ⇒ Special Topics: Heresy and Violence in Christian Thought
- ⇒ Religion Senior Seminar
- ⇒ Monarch, Bishops, and Martyrs: The English Reformation (travel course)
- ⇒ The Reformation on the Continent (travel course)

- ⇒ Biblical Foundations (formerly Biblical Perspectives)
- ⇒ Cultural Perspectives I
- ⇒ Cultural Perspectives II
- ⇒ Western Intellectual Tradition I: The Heritage of Greece and Rome
- ⇒ Western Intellectual Tradition II: Christianity from Antiquity to the Renaissance
- ⇒ Western Intellectual Tradition III: Reformation, Revolution, and Enlightenment
- ⇒ Western Intellectual Tradition IV: The Challenge of Modernity

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of Religious Studies

Teaching Fellow: Full responsibility for course design and teaching, 2000-01.

- ⇒ Introduction to the History of the Christian Tradition
- ⇒ Persecution, Tolerance, and Freedom in the Christian Tradition
- ⇒ Orthodoxy, Heresy, and Reform in the Christian Tradition

Teaching Associate: Responsible for discussion sections and grading, 1997-99.

- ⇒ Topics in the History of Western Christianity
- ⇒ Introduction to the History of the Christian Traditions

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Luther, Bach, and the Jews” (with Beth McGinnis). Teaching the Reformations conference, Samford University, October, 2016.

“Edward Herbert on Religious Truth and Religious Strife.” American Society of Church History, Washington, D.C., January 2014.

“Weedes of Poperie and Pudles of Corruption: Elizabethan Puritans and the Rhetoric of Complaint.” Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico, October 2013.

“Religious Identity and Language in Seventeenth-Century England.” Panel response presented at the American Society of Church History, Washington, D.C., January 2008.

“Imagining Failure: Indeterminacy in the English Puritan Dialogue.” American Society of Church History, Salt Lake City, April 2007.

“A Response to *Christianity and the Soul of the University: Faith as a Foundation for Intellectual Community* (Edited by Douglas V. Henry and Michael D. Beaty, Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006).” National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion Southeast Region Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, March 2006.

“Election and the 'Common Sort' of Christian.” American Society of Church History Conference, Seattle, Washington, January 2005.

“Taming Reform: Puritans and Separatists in the Elizabethan Church.” Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 2003.

“Expiring Pigs and Inspiring Puritans.” North Carolina Religious Studies Association Annual Meeting, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, October 2000.

“Witches, Devils, Cunning Men and Wise Women: A Puritan Appropriation of Lay Religiosity.” American Academy of Religion Southeastern Regional Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, March 2000.

“A Comparison of Lollard and Puritan Antitheatrical Polemic.” Paper presented at the Medieval Studies Association Conference, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, April 1999.

“A Puritan Via Media: George Gifford on the Authority of Tradition.” Paper presented at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, Toronto, Canada, October 1998.

“Religion and Identity in Early Modern England, 1500-1580” and “Religion and Identity in Early Modern England, 1580-1640.” Two sessions organized for the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, Toronto, Canada, October 1998.

“Exclusive Power: Church, State, and Excommunication in Calvin's Geneva.” Paper presented at the North Carolina Religious Studies Association Annual Meeting, Cullowhee, North Carolina, October 1997.

INVITED LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS, AND WRITINGS

University

“Global Citizenship,” panel discussion hosted by Samford Global Engagement Office, November 15, 2021

“Medieval/Early Modern Conceptions of Justice: Aquinas and Calvin,” Cultural Perspectives Faculty Seminar, January 19, 2021

Panel Review and Response, Teaching the Christian Intellectual Tradition conference (Dante), October 25-27, 2018

“The Reformation and the Modern World,” panel discussion, October 31, 2017

“Luther, Bach, and the Jews,” with Beth McGinnis, Christian Faith and Critical Thinking Forum hosted by Theta Alpha Kappa October 31, 2016

“Christians and the Death Penalty,” University Convocation Address, April 20, 2016

“Faith and the Academic Study of the Bible,” Preministerial Fellows, September 25, 2012

“When Teaching Challenges Core Beliefs and Values,” Faculty Shoptalk with Stephen Chew and Betsy Dobbins, Feb 21, 2012

“Biblical Perspectives on the Death Penalty,” hosted by campus chapter of Amnesty International, April 13, 2011

“Edward Herbert, Deism, and the Politics of Religious Toleration,” Faculty Shoptalk, February 17, 2011

“Tolerance and Freedom in Christian Thought,” Christian Faith and Critical Thinking Forum, October 28, 2010

“Teaching as a Vocation,” Preministerial Fellows Cadre, spring 2010

Radio interview on Christians and the death penalty, *Samford Spotlight* program, WVSU 91.1 FM, February 2009

“Religious Themes in *On the Waterfront*,” Samford Film Club, October 23, 2008

“Teaching as a Vocation, Preministerial Fellows Cadre, October 14, 2008

“Faith and Politics,” The Socratic Club, October 5, 2008

“The Christian’s Role in Society,” LEAD Scholars roundtable, April 21, 2008

“Why Christians Should in Spite of the Bible and Because of the Bible Oppose the Death Penalty in all Circumstances,” Christian Faith and Critical Thinking forum, March 27, 2008

“The Cost,” devotional in Lenten booklet, spring 2008

“Why I Teach,” Preministerial Fellows Cadre, November 12, 2007

“The Christian’s Role in Society,” LEAD Scholars roundtable, April 2006

“Dying and Rising with Christ,” devotional in Lenten booklet, spring 2005

“Faith and the Public Square,” LEAD Scholars Panel Discussion, April 6, 2004

Review of Armand M. Nicholi, Jr., *The Question of God: C.S. Lewis and Sigmund Freud Debate God, Sex, Love and the Meaning of Life for Seasons* (Samford magazine), spring 2004

“Hunger in America,” hosted by Student Ministries Council, November 17, 2003

Church and Community

“Encountering the Risen Christ in Gospel and Art,” FBC Gainesville, FL (online), Easter 2021

“Who is Our Neighbor?” Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, May 2021

“How We Got This Way: Evangelicalism in America,” three-part series, Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, October, 2018

“Baptists and Freedom,” four-week series, Baptist Church of the Covenant, February/March, 2018

“Reformation Matters,” four-part series, Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, October, 2017

Panel member for discussion of the play *The Amish Project*, Virginia Samford Theater, April 2, 2017

“Counting on Lent,” Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, March 8, 2017

“Dante’s *Divine Comedy*,” three-week series, Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, October, 2016

“Christian Attitudes Toward Other Religions,” Canterbury United Methodist Church, June, 2016

“Dante’s *Divine Comedy*,” four-week series, Canterbury United Methodist Church, April, 2015

“Three Persons, One Substance: Thinking about the Trinity,” four-part series, Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, March 2015

“War and Violence in Christian Thought,” Trinity United Methodist Church Sunday School, January 18, 2015

“Reading N.T. Wright’s *Evil and the Justice of God*,” five-week series, Canterbury United Methodist Church, February-March, 2014

“The Christian in Society,” Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, February 5, 2014

“N.T. Wright on the Historical Jesus,” Canterbury United Methodist Church, November 24, 2013

“Following Jesus and Enacting Justice,” Oakmont Presbyterian Church, November 6, 2013

“The *Gospel of Thomas* and Early Christian Gnosticism,” Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, February 17, 2013

“Life Together: Paul and the Corinthian Church,” four-week series, Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, October-November 2012

“On Anxiety,” homily in community worship, Corrymeela Community, Ballycastle, Northern Ireland, July 26, 2012

“On Welcoming the Stranger: A Theological Response to Alabama’s Immigration Law,” University of Alabama-Birmingham Episcopal Campus Ministry, November 28, 2011

“In the Beginning: The History of the King James Bible,” Oakmont Presbyterian Church, November 9, 2011

“The Christian in Two Worlds,” Trinity United Methodist Church, September 25, 2011

“Render Unto Caesar? Christians and Government throughout the Ages,” St. Francis Episcopal Church, September 14, 2011

“The Christian in Society,” five-week series, Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, July 2011

“Not of this World: Anabaptists and the Rejection of Christian Society,” Birmingham Theology on Tap meeting, May 10, 2011

“The Christian in Society,” five-week series, St. Mary’s on the Highlands, March/April 2011

“Thinking about the Trinity,” three-week series, Independent Presbyterian Church, January 2011

“Tolerance and Freedom in the Christian Tradition,” Independent Presbyterian Church, June 20, 2010

“Baptist Beginnings and Religious Freedom,” Brookwood Baptist Church, August 16, 2009

“Baptist Beginnings and Religious Freedom,” Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, April 22, 2009

“Tolerance and Freedom in the Christian Tradition,” three-week series, Baptist Church of the Covenant, February/March 2009

“Living in Exile,” Ephesus Baptist Church, Durham, North Carolina, April 13, 2008

“Jesus and Justice,” Alabama Cooperative Baptist Fellowship meeting, September 2007

“Early Trinitarian Doctrine and the Council of Nicaea,” Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, May 2, 2007

“The History of the Bible: A Short Introduction to the Canon,” Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, September 27, 2006

“Election and Predestination,” Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, May 3, 2006

“On Forgiveness,” Liberty Hill Baptist Church, Clanton, Alabama, May 8, 2005

“Hope in Paul,” Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, January 19, 2005

“Wendell Berry, Don Henley, and Jesus,” sermon, University Baptist Church, Montevallo, Alabama, August 24, 2004

“The Table and the Kingdom,” Maundy Thursday, Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, April 8, 2004

“Worship” and “Foolishness and the Cross,” University Baptist Church, Montevallo, Alabama, August 24 and September 7, 2003

Communion devotional, Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, July 17, 2003

“The Doctrine of the Trinity,” three-part series, Westside Baptist Church, Bessemer, Alabama, February/March 2003

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

National Network Board, Lilly Fellows Program (www.lillyfellows.org), 2018 to present

Faculty Representative, Lilly Fellows Program, 2010 to present

Article Reviewer, *Religions*, 2015-present

Conference Committee, “Teaching the Reformations,” 2015-16, fall 2016

Regional LFP Conference Chair, “Teaching the Christian Intellectual Tradition: Augustine Across the Curriculum.” Led committee to host teaching conference at Samford in fall 2014. Wrote Lilly Fellows Program grant to support conference

Co-chair, Lilly Fellows Program National Conference, “Reconciliation in History, Literature, and Music,” Samford University, fall 2011

American Society of Church History Program Committee, 2006-2007: Helped organize the spring 2007 meeting through soliciting and evaluating paper proposals; chaired panel entitled “Religion and Secularization.”

Manuscript review, *The Church and the Holy Spirit in the Theology of William Tyndale*, Mercer University Press, September 2005

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Faculty Senate, Faculty Senate Chair-elect, 2021-22; Senator, 2014-17; Faculty Executive Committee, 2015-16

May Term Strategic Planning Committee, 2020

Sunshine and Shade Fund, Howard College of Arts and Sciences (Samford), 2019-present

Howard College of Arts and Sciences (Samford) Strategic Planning Committee, spring 2016, Co-chair, External Relations working group

Committee on Academic Affairs, 2014-15; Intellectual Property Subcommittee, 2014-15

Cadre, “Religion and Gender-based Violence,” with Lisa Battaglia and Allison Dearing, eight weeks, spring 2014

Committee on Undergraduate Enrollment, 2012-15

Great Ideas Summer Institute, June 2013. Seminar instructor for week-long residential program for high school students

Faculty Sponsor, University Fellows Rome/Florence trip, January 2012 and 2013

Cultural Perspectives/Core Text Revision Committee, fall 2012. Chaired Reformation/Scientific Revolution subcommittee

Campus Life Committee, 2007-10. Chaired for three semesters

Chair, President’s Task Force on Community, 2004-2005: Led a group of students, staff, and faculty in an examination of the quality of community life at the university

MAJOR WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS ATTENDED

Faculty Seminar, “The Protestant Reformation – Resistance and Renewal from 1517 to the Present,” Studienforum Berlin E.V., June/July 2016

Faculty Great Ideas Summer Institute, Samford University, “Rarely Read Augustine,” June 2014

Lilly Fellows Program Summer Seminar, “Teaching Peace and Reconciliation: Theory and Practice in Northern Ireland,” The Corrymeela Community, Ballycastle, Northern Ireland, July 2012

Faculty Great Ideas Summer Institute, Samford University, “The Apostolic Fathers,” June 2012

Samford-in-Mission/Cultural Perspectives Summer Workshops, June 2004, June 2003

Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D.C., Research Colloquium, “Puzzling Evidence: Literatures and Histories,” 2000-2001

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Lilly Fellows Program Regional Conference Grant
Grant to support conference, “Teaching the Christian Intellectual Tradition: Augustine Across the Curriculum,” fall 2014

Faculty Development Grant, *Samford University, 2008-09*

Revised: December 2021