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CURRICULUM VITAE

EDUCATION

DEGREES:

- Ph.D. (1999) The Pennsylvania State University, Speech Communication.
 M.A. (1995) Texas A&M University, Speech Communication.
 B.A. (1993) Trinity University, Speech Communication, *cum laude*.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

EMPLOYMENT:

- Professor, 2011-present, Dept. of Communication Arts & Sciences, Calvin College.
 Associate Professor, 2005-2011, Dept. of Communication Arts & Sciences, Calvin College.
 Assistant Professor, 1998-2005, Dept. of Communication Arts & Sciences, Calvin College.

COURSES TAUGHT:

Oral Rhetoric, Communication & Culture, Visual Rhetoric, Advanced Oral Rhetoric, American Oratory, Argumentation & Advocacy, Rhetorical & Communication Theory, Rhetorical Criticism, Persuasion & Propaganda, American Politics & Mass Media, Crime & Detective Fiction.

RESEARCH

UNIVERSITY PRESS BOOKS:

Lyndon Johnson's American Promise: The Voting Rights Address. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2007.

The Modern Presidency and Civil Rights: Rhetoric on Race from Roosevelt to Nixon. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2001.

REFEREED ARTICLES:

"Soundly Gathered from the Text? Biblical Interpretation in *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*." *Westminster Theological Journal* 76 (2014): 95-117.

"Militancy and Moderation at the 1963 March on Washington." *Voices of Democracy* 5 (2010): 18-36.

"Kenneth Burke and The Rhetoric of *Mein Kampf*." *KB Journal* 6.1 (2009), online.

"Lyndon Johnson, Voting Rights, and the American Promise." *Voices of Democracy* 3 (2008): 17-33.

"W.E.B. Du Bois on Woman Suffrage: A Rhetorical Analysis of His *Crisis* Writings." *Journal of Black Studies* 30 (2000): 383-410.

"Harry Truman and the NAACP: A Case Study in Presidential Persuasion on Civil Rights," *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 2 (1999): 211-41.

"Documentary Desegregation: A Rhetorical Analysis of *Crisis: Behind a Presidential Commitment*," *Southern Communication Journal* 64 (1999): 123-42.

"John Lewis's 'Serious Revolution': Rhetoric, Resistance, and Revision at the March on Washington," *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 84 (1998): 320-40.

"Rhetoric and Timeliness: An Analysis of Lyndon B. Johnson's Voting Rights Address," *Western Journal of Communication* 62 (1998): 26-53.

"Presidential Rhetoric and Interest Group Politics: Lyndon B. Johnson and the Civil Rights Act of 1964," *Southern Communication Journal* 63 (1997): 1-19.

BOOK CHAPTERS:

"Sinners in the Hands of An Angry God," *A Jonathan Edwards Encyclopedia* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, forthcoming).

"W.E.B. Du Bois and *The Crisis* of Woman Suffrage," *Protest and Propaganda: W.E.B. DuBois, the Crisis, and American History*, eds. Philip Sinitiere and Amy Helene Kirschke (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2014), 135-55.

"The Genesis of a Rhetorical Commitment: Lyndon B. Johnson, Civil Rights, and the Vice Presidency," in *Civil Rights Rhetoric and the American Presidency*, ed. James A. Aune and Enrique D. Rigsby (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2005), 155-97.

"John Robert Lewis," in *African American Orators: A Bio-Critical Sourcebook*, ed. Richard W. Leeman (Westport: Greenwood Press, 1996), 226-38 (with Kurt Ritter).

BOOK REVIEWS:

Rev. of *A Matter of Justice: Eisenhower and the Beginning of the Civil Rights Revolution*, by David A. Nichols. *The Historian* 71 (2009): 860-61

Rev. of *Nixon's Civil Rights: Politics, Principle, and Policy*, by Dean J. Kotlowksi. *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 5 (2002): 769-71.

ARTICLES IN POPULAR PERIODICALS:

"Seeing Abraham and Isaac," *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought*, March 2011.

"Communication Will Be Key to Political Change," op-ed, *Detroit Free Press*, December 22, 2000, 20A.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS:

Harnessing Atomic Anxiety, Popular Culture Association & American Culture Association Joint Convention, San Antonio, TX, April 2011.

Domesticating the Atomic Bomb: Strategies of Civil Defense in *The House in the Middle* (with Stacy Ladenburger and Katie Landan), Eastern Communication Association Annual Convention, Philadelphia, PA, April 2009.

Harry Truman in Harlem (with Laura McGiness), National Communication Association Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, November 2007.

Shifting Expectations: Managing the Transition from Graduate School to a Liberal Arts College, National Communication Association Annual Convention, San Antonio, TX, November 2006.

A. Philip Randolph's Rhetorical Leadership, Association for the Study of African American Life and History Annual Convention, Atlanta, GA, September 2006.

The Evolution of Modern Presidential Rhetoric on Civil Rights, National Communication Association Annual Convention, Boston, MA, November 2005.

The Transformative Power of Oratory in *Invisible Man*, National Communication Association Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, November 2004.

The Politics of Presidential Speechwriting, Rhetoric Society of America Biennial Conference, Austin, TX, May 2004.

Putting King in Context: "I Have a Dream" and the March on Washington, National Communication Association Annual Convention, Miami, FL, November 2003.

"Arise and March": A. Philip Randolph and the March on Washington, National Communication Association Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, November 2002.

"We Shall Overcome": Lyndon B. Johnson's Voting Rights Address of March 15, 1965, National Communication Association Annual Convention, Atlanta, GA, November 2001.

The Genesis of a Rhetorical Commitment: Lyndon Johnson, Civil Rights, and the Vice Presidency, George Bush School of Government and Public Service Annual Conference on Presidential Rhetoric, College Station, TX, March 2000.

W.E.B. Du Bois on Woman Suffrage: A Rhetorical Analysis of His *Crisis* Writings, National Communication Association Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, November 1999. Awarded Top Paper for African American Communication and Culture Division.

Criticism in Context: Kenneth Burke and the Rhetoric of Hitler's "Battle," Triennial Kenneth Burke Society Conference, Iowa City, IA, May 1999. Awarded Top Graduate Paper.

Lyndon B. Johnson, Civil Rights, and Rhetorical Leadership (Roundtable Presentation), George Bush School of Government and Public Service Annual Conference on Presidential Rhetoric, College Station, TX, March 1999.

Harry Truman and the NAACP: A Case Study in Presidential Persuasion on Civil Rights, National Communication Association Annual Convention, New York, NY, November 1998.

John Lewis's "Serious Revolution": Rhetoric, Resistance, and Revision at the March on Washington, Southern States Communication Association Annual Convention, San Antonio, TX, April 1998. Vice-Presidential Panel for Outstanding Graduate Research.

Documentary Desegregation: A Rhetorical Analysis of *Crisis: Behind a Presidential Commitment*, National Communication Association Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, November 1997. Awarded Top Three Competitive Paper for Mass Communication Division.

Science, Nuclear War, and the Public Sphere: A Rhetorical Analysis of the Nuclear Winter Controversy, National Communication Association Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, November 1997.

John F. Kennedy, Civil Rights, and Public Morality: A Rhetorical History of the President's Address of 11 June 1963, Speech Communication Association Annual Convention, San Diego, CA, November 1996.

LBJ Descends upon the Congress: A Rhetorical Study of the Passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Southern States Communication Association Annual Convention, Memphis, TN, March 1996. Awarded Top Graduate Paper.

Presidential Rhetoric and Interest Group Politics: Lyndon B. Johnson and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Speech Communication Association Annual Convention, San Antonio, TX, November 1995.

John F. Kennedy and the Moral Crisis of 1963, Southern States Communication Association Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, April 1995.

Character, Plot, and Meaning: A Narrative Analysis of Lyndon B. Johnson's Civil Rights Discourse, Speech Communication Association Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, November 1994.

Rhetoric and Dialectic as Modes of Inquiry in the Works of Giambattista Vico, Texas Speech Communication Association Annual Convention, Dallas, TX, October 1993. Awarded Top Student Paper.

Reconciling Rhetoric and Dialectic in Aristotle's *Rhetorica*, Texas Speech Communication Association Annual Convention, Waco, TX, October 1992.

INVITED LECTURES

Rituals of Democracy: Inaugural Addresses in American History, The January Series, Grand Rapids, MI, January 2013.

Lyndon Johnson and America's Voting Rights Problem, Lyndon B. Johnson Centennial Celebration (a project of the National Archives, the Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation, the LBJ School of Public Affairs, and Texas State University), San Marcos, TX, September 2008.

AWARDS & HONORS

Karl R. Wallace Memorial Award, National Communication Association, 2003.

Gerald R. Miller Outstanding Dissertation Award, National Communication Association, 2000.

Carroll C. Arnold Award for Academic Excellence, The Pennsylvania State University, 1998.

Robert N. Bostrom Young Scholars Award, Southern States Communication Association, 1996.

Distinguished Graduate Research Award, Texas A&M University, 1996.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED

Calvin Research Fellowship, Calvin College, 2011-12.

Research Grant, Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship, 2008-09.

Grant for the Improvement of Teaching, Calvin College, 2006.

Calvin Alumni Association Faculty Research Grant, Calvin College, 2004.

Calvin Research Fellowship, Calvin College, 2002-04.

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Fellowship, 2001.

Moody Grant, Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation, 2001.

McGregor Fellowship, Calvin College, 2001, 2005, 2006.

Calvin Alumni Association Faculty Research Grant, Calvin College, 2001.

Calvin Research Fellowship, Calvin College, 2000.

Research Grant, Harry S. Truman Library Institute, 1998.

Research and Graduate Studies Office Travel Grant, Penn State University, 1997.

COLLEGE SERVICE

Vice President, Governing Board, H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies, 2014-present.

Member, College Faculty Senate, 2010-2013.

Member, College Institutional Review Board, 2010-2013.

Chair, College Curriculum Committee for the Interim Term, 2007-2010.

Member, Search Committee for the Dean for Arts & Languages, 2009.

Chair, Communication Arts & Sciences Dept. Curriculum Committee, 2005-2007.

Member, College Committee on Gender Equity, 1999-2003.

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Lecturer, "The Rhetoric of Martin Luther's Attack on Indulgences," Woodlawn Christian Reformed Church, January 2015.

Reviewer, National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Fellowship Program, 2009 and 2002.

Presenter, "Writing Sermons in an Oral Style," Calvin Symposium on Worship, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, January 2006.

Advisory Board Member, National Endowment for the Humanities Grant for Teaching and Learning Resources and Curriculum Development Project, 2005-present.

Associate Editor, *American Communication Journal*, 2005-present.

Associate Editor, *Journal of Communication and Religion*, 2004-2006.

Lecturer, "Rhetoric, Religion, and the Presidency," Westminster Presbyterian Church, January 2004.

Guest, "The March on Washington," *Inner Compass* television program, December 2003.

Guest, WOOD Radio's (AM 1310) broadcast on the 40th Anniversary of the March on Washington, August 2003.

Host, "Religion and the Presidency," *Habits of the Heart* radio program, January 2003.

Guest, WZZM TV-13 (ABC affiliate) broadcast on Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, January 2003.

Lecturer, "The Courage of Her Convictions: Fannie Lou Hamer and the Struggle for Civil Rights," Women's History Month Lecture Series, Calvin College, March 2001.

Lecturer, "The Rhetorical Imagination of Martin Luther King, Jr.," Central Reformed Church, January 2001.

External Reviewer, *Western Journal of Communication*, 2000-01.

External Reviewer, *The Historian*, 2000.

Guest, WGVU (FM 88.5, NPR affiliate) broadcast about civil rights and the American presidency, September 2000.

Guest, WZZM TV-13 (ABC affiliate) broadcast on the speeches delivered at the Democratic National Convention, August 2000.

Lecturer, "In Black and White: Representations of Race in American Television," Kelloggsville Christian Reformed Church, April 2000.

Guest (with Congressman John Lewis), "The Evolution of Civil Rights Protest," *Calvin Forum* television program, March 2000.

Guest, WOOD Radio's (AM 1310) broadcast on the Republican Presidential Candidate Debate at Calvin College, January 2000.

Consultant, Republican Presidential Candidate Debate at Calvin College, January 2000.

Adviser, Lambda Pi Eta (undergraduate honors society in communication), 2000-2001.

Host, "A Duke Ellington Centennial Tribute," WCAL (FM 95.1) radio program, April 1999.

Associate Editor, *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*, 2001-2003, 2009-2010.

Guest (with Michael Beschloss), "The Crafting of TV Presidents," *Calvin Forum* television program, January 1998.

REFERENCES

Dr. Thomas W. Benson
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