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School of Arts & Humanities
The University of Texas at Dallas
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Educational History:

- Ph.D., August 2004, The University of Texas at Dallas, Dallas, TX, Humanities (Concentration in Studies in Literature)
 - Dissertation: "*Ghosts Still Recovering*": *Identity, Religion, and Spirit Possession in Southern Literature*
- M. A., December 1998, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, English (Concentration in Creative Writing)
- B.A., May 1996, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, English (Honors in Creative Writing)

Professional Experience:

- Clinical Assistant Professor, August 2009 -- Present
The University of Texas at Dallas, Dallas, TX
 - Graduate Seminar in 20th Century American Literature, Exploration of the Humanities, Literature of Science Fiction and Fantasy, Contemporary American Literature, American Modernism, Literature of the American South
- Visiting Assistant Professor, January 2008 -- August 2009
The University of Texas at Dallas, Dallas, TX
 - Exploration of the Humanities, Mid-20th Century American Literature, Contemporary American Literature
- First-Year Writing Program Faculty, August 2005 -- December 2007
Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX
 - Introduction to College Writing, Seminar in Critical Writing
- Lecturer, August 2004 -- August 2005
North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC

- Introduction to Academic Writing, Academic Writing and Research, American Literature: Colonial - Present

Research Interests:

- Manner in which religious affiliation influences social, cultural, and personal identity in American literature, specifically literature of the American South. Related interest in concepts of the uncanny and otherness as these apply to personal and social identity. Most recently, the notion of the swamp as a space of ambiguity which challenges southern white hegemony in works of popular American fiction.
- Appalachian literature.
- Utopia and dystopia as expressed in cultural, social, and philosophical contexts in the Western tradition.
- Points of intersection between the humanities and the sciences and the values, potentials, and ethical considerations that arise from said intersections.
- The trope of monstrosity in literature and film.
- Heroic archetypes in literature and film.

Professional Memberships:

- Phi Beta Kappa
- Flannery O'Connor Society
- American Literature Association
- South Atlantic Modern Language Association
- Society for the Study of Southern Literature
- Southern American Studies Association

Awards:

- The University of Texas at Dallas
 - Nominated for the President's Teaching Excellence Award
 - Nominated for ROTA (Regents' Outstanding Teaching Awards)

- Finalist for the President's Teaching Excellence Award

Achievements in Original Achievement, Investigation, and Research:

- Academic Publications
 - “The Master of Slaughter Swamp: Race, Rebellion, and Zombies,” forthcoming from LSU in *Swamp Souths: Literary and Cultural Ecologies*
 - "The Graphic Novel and Science Fiction," August 2011, *Sense of Wonder: A Century of Science Fiction*
- Short Fiction and Poetry
 - “The Roar of Flies,” Summer 2001, *Poetry Now*
 - “The Lame to Walk,” Spring 2001, *Sojourn: A Journal of Interdisciplinary Arts*
- Papers Presented at Professional Meetings
 - “*Swamp Souths*,” upcoming February 2018, SSSL Conference
 - “Man-Horse-Dybbuk: Hybridity, Faulkner, and the Global Undead,” September 2017, ALA Symposium
 - “The Contemporary South” (panel chair), September 2017, ALA Symposium
 - “Distilling Appalachia: Reconsidering Heritage in the Discovery Channel’s *Moonshiners*,” May 2017, ALA Conference
 - “Los Muertos, Y’all: *Fear the Walking Dead* and the International (After)Life of Southern Home Burial,” March 2017, SASA Conference
 - “Superstitious South: The Influence of Magic, Folklore, Witchcraft & Taboo in Southern Places, Narratives & Stories” (panel chair), March 2017, SASA Conference
 - "Horrors of the Swamp: Reassessing Enslaved Bodies in *Swamp Thing*," November 2015, SAMLA Conference
 - "Anse Bundren and the Vampire of the South," July 2015, University of Mississippi Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference
 - “The past is . . . (un)dead”: Faulkner, Zombies, and Alden Bell’s *The Reapers are the Angels*," March 2014, SSSL Conference

- "That (Really) Old Time Religion: Tabernacles and Blood Sacrifices in Cormac McCarthy's *The Road* and Donald Ray Pollock's *The Devil All the Time*," May 2013, ALA Conference
- "Strategies for Teaching McCarthy's *The Road* as Poem, Eco-Dystopia, and Zombie Survival Guide," October 2012, ALA Symposium
- "Now the Dead Sit Up with Us: The South, the American Way of Death, and Zombies," May 2012, ALA Conference
- "Growing Gothic in the Pumpkin Patch: The Difficulty of Appalachian Stereotypes in Stan Winston's *Pumpkinhead*," November 2010, SAMLA Conference
- "'What do you walk on rocks for?': Self-Mortification and Irony in *Wise Blood*," October 2006, SAMLA Conference
- "Morrison's Brilliant Failure: Demonic Possession and *Beloved*," PCA/ACA Conference (Southern Literature and Culture), April 2006
- "Doing God's Work: Labor and Community in Randall Kenan's *A Visitation of Spirits*," March 2006, Society for the Study of Southern Culture Conference
- "Remembering Me: Identity and Demonic Possession in William Peter Blatty's *The Exorcist* and Randall Kenan's *A Visitation of Spirits*," March 2005, Southwest Commission on Religious Studies Conference
- "Haunted Homes, Sad Cafés, and the Body as Mobile Home: Place and Identity in Southern Literature" (panel chair), July 2004, University of Mississippi Southern Writers, Southern Writing Conference
- "'I use to be wid de circus': Sideshow Identity and Beyond in Welty, McCullers and Goyen," November 2003, SAMLA Conference
- "Religious Enthusiasm and the Serious Grotesque: Serpent-Handling in Lee Smith and Harry Crews," October 2003, SCMLA Conference
- "'I ain't like Jesus': Faith and the Grotesque in Larry Brown's 'A Roadside Resurrection'" (panel chair), July 2003, University of Mississippi Southern Writers, Southern Writing Conference
- "Cats, Mules, and Miss Emily: Hemingway and Faulkner's Andersonian Grotesque," May 2003, Hemingway/Faulkner ALA Conference

- “‘Parrotlike Underworld Epithet’: The Hard-Boiled Language of *Sanctuary*,” July 2002, University of Mississippi Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference
- “But Seriously: Using Humor to Punctuate the Serious in Contemporary Literature,” February 2002, SW Texas PCA/ACA Conference

Professional and University Citizenship:

- Professional Committees
 - Chair, Flannery O’Connor Society, November 2008, SAMLA Conference
 - Secretary, Flannery O’Connor Society, November 2007, SAMLA Conference
- Departmental Activities and Committees
 - Manage teaching assistants each spring and fall semester in conjunction with teaching Exploration of the Humanities:
 1. Determine teaching assistant duties and evaluate performance.
 2. Aid teaching assistants in grading and interacting with students.
 3. Encourage teaching assistants in development of teaching strategies and implementation of same.
 4. Advise teaching assistants concerning professional development.
- University Activities and Committees
 - Committee on Learning Management Systems, August 2015 – August 2018, University of Texas at Dallas, Concurrent Committee of the Academic Senate
 - UTD Task Force on Student Evaluations, January 2018 – May 2018, University of Texas at Dallas, CTL Task Force
 - “Sips of Science,” October 2017, University of Texas at Dallas Graduate Studies Event
 - "*It Comes at Night* Question and Answer, October 2017, University of Texas at Dallas Meteor Theater Event
 - "*Blade Runner* Question and Answer," March 2017, University of Texas at Dallas Meteor Theater Event

- Podcast Interview with Dr. Stephen T. Asma, February 2017, University of Texas at Dallas GSA Event
- “Mysterious Mannerisms”
Peter J. Ingrao, Moderator
RAW Conference, February 2017, University of Texas at Dallas GSA Event
- Faculty Advisor CARP, March 2016 – December 2016
University of Texas at Dallas Student Organization
- "The Justice War: Ideological Difference in Batman versus Superman Combat,"
Comet Con, March 2016, University of Texas at Dallas SUAAB Event
- “Social Interdisciplinarity” and “The Faulkner Files”
Peter J. Ingrao, Moderator
RAW Conference, March 2016, University of Texas at Dallas GSA Event
- “Writing a Syllabus,” February 2016, University of Texas at Dallas Graduate Student Seminar
- “Who Owns the Knight?: Batman, Film, and Fan Culture,”
Comet Con, March 2015, University of Texas at Dallas SUAAB Event
- “The Science of Scares,” October 2014, University of Texas at Dallas, UTD *Mercury* Interview
- “The Physicist in Contemporary Popular Culture,” April 2014, University of Texas at Dallas, SPS lecture
- “‘They were trying to kill it’: Godzilla’s Persistence in Popular Culture,”
Comet Con, March 2014, University of Texas at Dallas SUAAB Event
- “The Distance between American Reality and the American Dream: Springsteen's *Born in the U.S.A.* and *Wrecking Ball*,” October 2013, University of Texas at Dallas Radio UTD Lecture Series
- "Zombies: A Living History Question and Answer," Zombie Month, October 2013, University of Texas at Dallas Meteor Theater Event
- "Batman’s Costume Through Time,” Comet Con, October 2012, University of Texas at Dallas SUAAB Event
- "Freshman Advice Column," May 2011, University of Texas at Dallas *Mercury* Orientation Issue

- “Organizing and Editing the Doctoral Dissertation,” February 2008,
University of Texas at Dallas ABD Seminar