

J. ALBERT HARRILL

Professor of Ancient History

Department of History
The Ohio State University
106 Dulles Hall
230 Annie and John Glenn Ave.
Columbus, Ohio 43210

harrill.5@osu.edu Email
(614) 292-2674 Phone
history.osu.edu Web

Education

Ph.D., University of Chicago, 1993.
Director: Hans Dieter Betz
Department of New Testament and Early Christian Literature.
M.A., University of Chicago, 1989.
Department of New Testament and Early Christian Literature.
B.A., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1986.
With Highest Honors in Religious Studies, and with Distinction.

Additional Study

Yale University, Department of Religious Studies, Exchange Scholar Program, Autumn 1990.
Goethe-Institut Germany, Freiburg and Göttingen, 1986–87.
Duke University, Summer Program in Israel/Joint Sepphoris Project Excavations, 1985.

Academic Appointments

Professional Employment

The Ohio State University, 2012–present.
Professor, Department of Classics, and then (2016) Department of History. Affiliated faculty member of Classics, Near Eastern and South Asian Languages and Cultures, Jewish Studies, Medieval and Renaissance Studies, and Center for the Study of Religion.
Indiana University, Bloomington, 2002–12.
Associate, and then (2007) full Professor of Religious Studies.
Adjunct Professor of History, Classical Studies, and Jewish Studies.
Boston University, 2001–02.
Associate Professor of New Testament and Early Christian Literature.
School of Theology, joint appointment with Department of Religion.
DePaul University, 1996–2001.
Assistant to Associate Professor of Religious Studies.
Creighton University, 1994–96.
Assistant Professor of Theology.
Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, 1993–94.
Assistant Professor of New Testament Studies (two-thirds time).

University of Chicago, 1992–94.

Lecturer in Koine Greek, Department of New Testament and Early Christian Literature.

University of Chicago, Autumn 1991.

Lecturer in Continuing Education.

Invited Guest Professorships

Williams College, Autumn 2015.

Croghan Bicentennial Visiting Professor in Biblical and Early Christian Studies.

University of Chicago Divinity School, Spring 2012.

Visiting Professor of New Testament and Early Christian Literature.

Publications

Books

Paul the Apostle: His Life and Legacy in Their Roman Context. Cambridge and New York:

Cambridge University Press, 2012. Cloth, paperback, and eBook (xv + 207 pp.).

Czech language edition: *Pavel Apoštol: Jeho život a odkaz v kontextu Římské říše* (Prague: Mladá fronta, 2015).

Slaves in the New Testament: Literary, Social, and Moral Dimensions. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006. Cloth and paperback (xiv + 322 pp.).

Chapter 2 anthologized as “The Slave Self: Paul and the Discursive ‘I’,” in *The English Bible, King James Version, Volume 2: The New Testament and the Apocrypha*, ed. Gerald Hammond and Austin Busch, Norton Critical Editions (New York: W. W. Norton, 2012), 1448–59.

The Manumission of Slaves in Early Christianity. Hermeneutische Untersuchungen zur Theologie, 32. Tübingen: J. C. B. Mohr (Paul Siebeck), 1995. Cloth (xvii + 255 pp.). Paperback reissue (2. Auflage), 1998.

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

“Paul and Corinth: A Historiographical Perspective.” *The Corinthian Letters*. Edited by Eve-Marie Becker. Bibliotheca Ephemeridum Theologicarum Lovaniensium. Leuven: Peeters and Leuven University Press, 2026 (forthcoming).

“No Idle Hands: Tertullian's Funerary Tale of a *vernacula ecclesiae* and Her Animated Corpse (An. 51.6–8).” *Studia Patristica* (2026), in press.

“Philosophical Armament in Ephesians.” *Wege zu einem intellektuellen Paulus / Paths to an Intellectual Paul: Festschrift zum 80. Geburtstag von Oda Wischmeyer*. Edited by Eve-Marie Becker, Sigurvin Lárus Jónsson, and Susanne Luther. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2025 (forthcoming).

“Teacher and Student as Ideal Ascetics in the Astrological Handbook of Vettius Valens.” *Discipline, Authority, and Texts in Late Antique Religion: Essays in Honor of David Brakke*, ed. Ellen Muehlberger and Bradley K. Storin, Cultural Encounters in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages. Turnhout: Brepols, 2025 (in press).

- “Ephesians as a Circular Letter: Forms and Functions of a General Address.” Pages 87–115 in *Reconsidering the Letter to the Ephesians in Context*, ed. Annette Weissenrieder and Mark Grundeken, Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2024.
- “Revisiting the Problem of 1 Corinthians 7:21.” *Biblical Research* 65 (2020): 77–94.
- “Atheist Catalogues as an Organizing Technique in Classical Literary Culture.” *Early Christianity* 11 (2020): 149–70.
- “Shaping Buildings into Stories: Architectural Ekphrasis and the Epistle to the Ephesians in Roman Literary Culture.” Pages 223–46 in *Literature and Culture in the Roman Empire, 96–235: Cross-Cultural Interactions*, ed. Alice König, Rebecca Langlands, and James Uden. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020.
- “Saint Paul and the Christian Communities of Nero’s Rome.” Pages 276–89 in *The Cambridge Companion to the Age of Nero*, ed. Shadi Bartsch, Cedric Littlewood, and Kirk Freudenburg. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017.
- “‘Without Lies or Deception’: Oracular Claims to Truth in the Epistle to Titus.” *New Testament Studies* 63 (2017): 451–72.
- “‘Exegetical Torture’ in Early Christian Biblical Interpretation: The Case of Origen of Alexandria.” *Biblical Interpretation* 25 (2017): 39–57.
- “Paul and Slavery.” Pages 301–345 in vol. 2 of *Paul in the Greco-Roman World: A Handbook*, 2nd edition, ed. J. Paul Sampley, 2 vols. London: Bloomsbury T. & T. Clark, 2016.
- “Accusing Philosophy of Causing Headaches: Tertullian’s Use of a Comedic Topos (*Praescr.* 16.2).” *Studia Patristica* 65 (2013): 359–65.
- “Slavery and Inhumanity: Keith Bradley’s Legacy on Slavery in New Testament Studies.” *Biblical Interpretation* 21 (2013): 506–514.
- “Empire and New Testament: A Methodological Caution.” *Conversations with the Biblical World* 34 (2014): 14–34.
- “Ethnic Fluidity in Ephesians.” *New Testament Studies* 60 (2014): 379–402.
- “Paul and Empire: Studying Roman Identity after the Cultural Turn.” *Early Christianity* 2 (2011): 281–311.
- “Divine Judgment against Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1–11): A Stock Scene of Perjury and Death.” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 130 (2011): 351–69.
- “The Psychology of Slaves in the Gospel Parables: A Case Study in Social History.” *Biblische Zeitschrift* 55 (2011): 63–74.
- “Stoic Physics, the Universal Conflagration, and the Eschatological Destruction of ‘the Ignorant and Unstable’ in 2 Peter.” Pages 115–40 in *Stoicism in Early Christianity*, ed. Tuomas Rasimus, Troels Engberg-Pedersen, and Ismo Dunderberg. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2010.
- “Cannibalistic Language in the Fourth Gospel and Greco-Roman Polemics of Factionalism (John 6:52–66).” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 127 (2008): 133–58.
- “The Slave Still Appears: A Historiographical Response to Jennifer Glancy.” *Biblical Interpretation* 15 (2007): 212–21.
- “The Metaphor of Slavery in the Writings of Tertullian.” *Studia Patristica* 42 (2006): 385–90.

- “Servile Functionaries or Priestly Leaders? Roman Domestic Religion, Narrative Intertextuality, and Pliny’s Reference to Slave Christian *Ministrae* (Ep. 10,96,8).” *Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft* 97 (2006): 111–30.
- “Paul and the Slave Self.” Pages 51–69 in *Religion and the Self in Antiquity*, ed. David Brakke, Steven Weitzman, and Michael Satlow. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2005.
- “The Domestic Enemy: A Moral Polarity of Household Slaves in Early Christian Apologies and Martyrdoms.” Pages 231–54 in *Early Christian Families in Context: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue*, ed. David Balch and Carolyn Osiek, Religion, Marriage, and Family. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2003.
- “Paul and Slavery.” Pages 575–607 in *Paul in the Greco-Roman World: A Handbook*, ed. J. Paul Sampley. Harrisburg, Penn.: Trinity Press International, 2003.
Translated into Portuguese as “Paulo e a escravidão,” in *Paulo no mundo greco-romano: Um compêndio*, ed. Sampley (São Paulo: Paulus, 2008), 505–534.
- “Coming of Age and Putting on Christ: The *Toga Virilis* Ceremony, Its Paraenesis, and Paul’s Language of Baptism in Galatians.” *Novum Testamentum* 44 (2002): 251–77.
- “Invective against Paul (2 Cor 10:10), the Physiognomics of the Ancient Slave Body, and the Greco-Roman Rhetoric of Manhood.” Pages 189–213 in *Antiquity and Humanity: Essays on Ancient Religion and Philosophy Presented to Hans Dieter Betz on his 70th Birthday*, ed. Adela Yarbro Collins and Margaret M. Mitchell. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2001.
- “The Influence of Roman Contract Law on Early Baptismal Formulae (Tertullian, *Ad martyras* 3).” *Studia Patristica* 35 (2001): 275–82.
- “The Use of the New Testament in the American Slave Controversy: A Case History in the Hermeneutical Tension between Biblical Interpretation and Christian Moral Debate.” *Religion and American Culture* 10 (2000): 149–86.
- “The Dramatic Function of the Running Slave Rhoda (Acts 12.12–16): A Piece of Greco-Roman Comedy.” *New Testament Studies* 46 (2000): 150–57.
- “Using the Roman Jurists to Interpret Philemon: A Response to Peter Lampe.” *Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft* 90 (1999): 135–38.
- “The Vice of Slave Dealers in Greco-Roman Society: The Use of a Topos in 1 Timothy 1:10.” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 118 (1999): 97–122.
- “The Indentured Labor of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:15).” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 115 (1996): 714–17.
- “Paul and Slavery: The Problem of 1 Corinthians 7:21.” *Biblical Research* 39 (1994): 5–28.
- “Ignatius, *Ad Polycarp*. 4.3 and the Corporate Manumission of Christian Slaves.” *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 1 (1993): 107–42.
Anthologized in *Christianity and Society: The Social World of Early Christianity*, ed. Everett Ferguson, Recent Studies in Early Christianity 1 (New York: Garland, 1999), 279–31.

Encyclopedia Entries and Contributed Essays

- “*Manumissio in ecclesia*.” *Brill Encyclopedia of Early Christianity*, ed. David G. Hunter et al. (Leiden: Brill, 2024), vol. 4, 365–67. Online edition, 2020.
- “The Letter of Paul to the Ephesians,” introduction and annotations. *The SBL Study Bible: New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition with the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books*, ed. Society of Biblical Literature (San Francisco: HarperOne, 2023), 2050–58.

- “The Physics of Destruction,” a sidebar to the Second Letter to Peter, *SBL Study Bible*, 2146.
- “The End of the World: A Physics of Destruction by Fire (2 Peter 3:1–13),” [2022]. *Bible Odyssey*, Society of Biblical Literature. Online: <https://www.bibleodyssey.org/>.
- “Cham/Ham.” *Handwörterbuch der antiken Sklaverei*, ed. Heinz Heinen, Johannes Deissler, et al., Forschungen zur antiken Sklaverei, Beiheft 5 (Stuttgart: Franz Steiner, 2017), vol. 1, 541–42. Previous CD-ROM edition, 2006.
- “Neues Testament.” *Handwörterbuch der antiken Sklaverei*, vol. 2, 2034–36. Previous CD-ROM edition, 2006.
- “Guest Editor’s Foreword.” *Biblical Interpretation* 25 (2017): 3–4.
- “Slavery: III. New Testament.” *Religion Past & Present: Encyclopedia of Theology and Religion*, ed. Hans Dieter Betz et al., vol. 12 (Leiden: Brill, 2012), 53–54. Translated into German as “Sklaverei: III. Neues Testament,” in *Die Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart*, 4th ed., vol. 7 (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2004), 384.
- “Asia Minor in the Bible.” *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*, ed. Hans-Josef Klauck et al., vol. 2 (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2009), 1006.
- “Slavery.” *The New Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible*, ed. Katherine Doob Sakenfeld et al., vol. 5 (Nashville: Abingdon, 2009), 299–308.
- “Philemon.” *New Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible*, vol. 4, 497–99.
- “Demas.” *New Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible*, vol. 2, 90.
- “Entscheidend ist das Wir. Die Unterscheidung von ‘Theology’ und ‘Religious Studies’ in den USA: Chancen und Grenzen.” With David Brakke. *Evangelische Aspekt* 14.1 (2004): 28–32.
- “Asia Minor.” *Dictionary of New Testament Background*, ed. Craig A. Evans and Stanley E. Porter (Downers Grove, Il.: InterVarsity Press, 2000), 130–36.
- “Slavery.” *Dictionary of New Testament Background*, 1124–27.
- “The *Humanitas* of Hans Dieter Betz.” *Criterion* 19.2 (2000): 5–6.
- “Servant.” *The Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*, ed. David Noel Freedman et al. (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2000), 1189.
- “Slave.” *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*, 1232. Translated into Portuguese as “Escravo,” in *Dicionário da Bíblia Eerdmans* (São Paulo: Hagnos, 2021). Translated into Spanish as “Eslavo,” in *Diccionario Bíblico Eerdmans* (Miami Gardens, Fl.: Editorial Patmos, 2016), 604–605.
- “The Bible.” *The Historical Encyclopedia of World Slavery*, ed. Junius P. Rodriguez et al. (Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 1997), vol. 1, 78–80.
- “Spartacus.” *Historical Encyclopedia of World Slavery*, vol. 2, 608.
- “Slavery and Society at Corinth: The Issues Facing Paul.” *The Bible Today* 35 (1997): 287–93.
- “Conscience.” *The Collegeville Pastoral Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, ed. Carroll Stuhlmueller et al. (Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, 1996), 162–64.
- “Judgment (New Testament).” *Collegeville Pastoral Dictionary*, 506–509.
- “Justice (New Testament).” *Collegeville Pastoral Dictionary*, 512–16.
- “Law (New Testament).” *Collegeville Pastoral Dictionary*, 541–47.
- “Liberty (New Testament).” *Collegeville Pastoral Dictionary*, 553–55.
- “Retribution (New Testament).” *Collegeville Pastoral Dictionary*, 844–45.
- “Throne of God (New Testament).” *Collegeville Pastoral Dictionary*, 995–97.

Critical Book Reviews

- Greco-Roman Associations, Deities, and Early Christianity*, ed. Bruce W. Longnecker. *Journal of Religious History* 48 (2024): 79–80.
- When Christians Were Jews: The First Generation*, by Paula Fredriksen. *American Historical Review* 125 (2020): 292–93.
- Social Justice and the Legitimacy of Slavery: The Role of Philosophical Asceticism from Ancient Judaism to Late Antiquity*, by Ilaria Ramelli. *Journal of Early Christian History* 8.1 (2018): 106–11
- The Unbound God: Slavery and the Formation of Early Christian Thought*, by Chris L. de Wet. *Church History* 87 (2018): 516–18.
- Outlaw Justice: The Messianic Politics of Paul*, by Theodore Jennings Jr. *Journal of Religion* 98 (2018): 146–47.
- “Two Approaches to Pauline Discourse.” *Ancient Jew Review* (4 July 2017). Online: <http://www.ancientjewreview.com/>
- Preaching Bondage: John Chrysostom and the Discourse of Slavery in Early Christianity*, by Chris L. de Wet. *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 24 (2016): 456–58.
- Slavery, Abolitionism, and the Ethics of Biblical Scholarship*, by Hector Avalos. *Biblical Interpretation* 21 (2013): 547–49.
- Transient Apostle: Paul, Travel, and the Rhetoric of Empire*, by Timothy Luckritz Marquis. *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (2013.06.28). Online: <https://bmc.brynmawr.edu/>
- The Cambridge World History of Slavery; Volume 1: The Ancient Mediterranean World*, ed. Keith Bradley and Paul Cartledge. *Classical Review* 62 (2012): 557–59.
- The Earliest History of the Christian Gathering: Origin, Development and Content of the Christian Gathering in the First to Third Centuries*, by Valeriy A. Alikin. *Church History* 81 (2012): 148–50.
- The Freedman in the Roman World*, by Henrik Mouritsen. *Ancient History Bulletin, Online Reviews* 1 (2011): 91–94. Online: <https://ancienthistorybulletin.org>
- Judaism and the Gentiles: Jewish Patterns of Universalism (to 135 CE)*, by Terence L. Donaldson. *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*, 27 (2009): 181–83.
- The Letters to Philemon, the Colossians, and the Ephesians: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary on the Captivity Epistles*, by Ben Witherington III. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 70 (2008): 851–52.
- Jewish Slavery in Antiquity*, by Catherine Hezser. *Journal of Semitic Studies* 53 (2008): 175–76.
- Greco-Roman Culture and the Galilee of Jesus*, by Mark A. Chancey. *Journal of Religion* 87 (2007): 266–68.
- Didache and Judaism: Jewish Roots of an Ancient Christian-Jewish Work*, by Marcello del Verme. *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 14 (2006): 117–18.
- Associations, Synagogues, and Congregations: Claiming a Place in Ancient Mediterranean Society*, by Philip A. Harland. *Theological Studies* 66 (2005): 668–69.
- Die Beendigung des Sklavenstatus im Altertum: Ein Beitrag zur vergleichenden Sozialgeschichte*, by Ingomar Weiler. *American Historical Review* 110 (2005): 530–31.
- Slavery Metaphors in Early Judaism and Pauline Christianity*, by John Byron. *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies* 23 (2005): 185–87.

- The Curse of Ham: Race and Slavery in Early Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*, by David M. Goldenberg. *Journal of Religion* 84 (2004): 511–12.
- Slavery in Early Christianity*, by Jennifer A. Glancy. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 64 (2002): 758–59.
- Fünfzig Jahre Forschungen zur antiken Sklaverei an der Mainzer Akademie, 1950–2000*, ed. Heinz Bellen and Heinz Heinen. *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (2002.07.30). Online: <https://bmcr.brynmawr.edu>
- The Epistle to the Ephesians*, by John Muddiman. *Journal of Religion* 82 (2002): 436–37.
- Paul and the Stoics*, by Troels Engberg-Pedersen. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 63 (2001): 743–44.
- Paul and Empire: Religion and Power in Roman Imperial Society*, ed. Richard A. Horsley. *Journal of Religion* 79 (1999): 711–12.
- The Metaphor of Slavery in the Writings of the Early Church*, by I. A. H. Combes. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 61 (1999): 775–77.
- Embassy of Onesimus: The Letter of Paul to Philemon*, by Allen D. Callahan. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 60 (1998): 757–59.
- The Corinthian Correspondence*, ed. R. Bieringer. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 59 (1997): 793–95.
- The Epidaurian Miracle Inscriptions: Text, Translation and Commentary*, by Lynn R. LiDonnici. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 59 (1997): 164–65.
- Paul, Scripture and Ethics: A Study of 1 Corinthians 5–7*, by Brian S. Rosner. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 58 (1996): 560–62.
- Gospel in Paul: Studies on Corinthians, Galatians and Romans for Richard N. Longenecker*, ed. L. Ann Jervis and Peter Richardson. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 58 (1996): 184–87.
- Reading Luke-Acts: Dynamics of Biblical Narrative*, by William S. Kurtz. *Ashland Theological Journal* 27 (1995): 152–54.
- Learn to Read New Testament Greek*, by David Alan Black. *Ashland Theological Journal* 27 (1995): 163–65.
- Ethnic Issues in Paul's Letter to the Romans*, by James C. Walters. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 57 (1995): 612–14.
- In der Mitte der Gemeinde: Kinder im Neuen Testament*, by Peter Müller. *Critical Review of Books in Religion* 7 (1994): 242–44.
- Pelagius's Commentary on St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans*, by Theodore de Bruyn. *Echos du Monde classique / Classical Views*, n.s., 13 (1994): 441–43.
- Slavery as Salvation: The Metaphor of Slavery in Pauline Christianity*, by Dale B. Martin. *Journal of Religion* 72 (1992): 426–27.

Fellowships and Grants, Awards

Arts and Humanities Small Grants, Ohio State University, annually 2015–20, 2023, 2024.
Faculty Travel Grants, Center for the Study of Religion, Ohio State University, 2023, 2024.
Faculty Travel Grants, Melton Center, Ohio State University, annually 2014–21, 2023.

Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship (Renewed Term), Abteilung für Neues Testament, Evangelisch-Theologische Fakultät, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität, Bonn, Germany, 2019.

Special Assignment Research Leave, Ohio State University, 2015.

Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship (Renewed Term), Neutestamentliches Seminar, Evangelisch-Theologische Fakultät, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Münster, Germany, 2014.

Grants-in-Aid, College of Arts and Sciences, Ohio State University, 2012, 2014.

Overseas Conference Grants, Indiana University, 2009, 2010, 2011.

Academic Short-Visit Grants, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation: Martin-Luther-Universität, Halle-Wittenberg, 2005; Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Münster, 2008; Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 2010.

Supplementary Research Grants, Jewish Studies Program, Indiana University, 2005, 2007, 2009.

University Research Leave Supplement Grants, Indiana University, 2002–2003, 2009.

Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship (Renewed Term), Neutestamentliches Seminar, Evangelisch-Theologische Fakultät, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Münster, Germany, 2009.

College Arts and Humanities Institute Fellow, Indiana University, 2006.

Arts and Humanities New Frontiers, New Perspectives Grant, Indiana University, 2006.

Summer Faculty Fellowships, Indiana University, 2003, 2006.

Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship, Neutestamentliches Seminar, Evangelisch-Theologische Fakultät, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Münster, Germany, 2002–03.

Faculty Development Travel Grant (Turkey and Greece), DePaul University, 2000.

Competitive Research Leave, DePaul University, 1999–2000.

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend, 1999.

Faculty Research and Development Summer Grants, DePaul University, 1997, 2000.

Faculty Research Grant, Creighton University, 1994.

Teaching Awards

Sphinx and Mortar Board Outstanding Faculty, Ohio State University, 2021.

Honors Faculty Service Award in the Arts and Sciences, Ohio State University, 2019.

Clio Award, Distinguished Faculty Teaching in History, Ohio State University, 2017.

Distinguished Teaching Award, Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University, 2012.

Nominee, Excellence in Teaching Award, DePaul University, 1999, 2001.

Academic Awards

University of Chicago Graduate Fellowship, 1987–1991.

Bernard Boyd Memorial Fellowship in Religious Studies, UNC Chapel Hill, 1986.

Daniel H. Moore Award for Undergraduate Scholarship in Religion, UNC Chapel Hill, 1985.

Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha of North Carolina, 1985.

Lectures, Papers and Presentations

Endowed and Plenary Lectures

- Croghan Bicentennial Lectures in Biblical Studies, Williams College. Williamstown, Mass., October and December 2015.
- Luther H. Harshbarger Lecture in Religious Studies, Pennsylvania State University. State College, Penn., March 2014.
- E. G. Weltin Lecture in Early Christianity, Washington University. St. Louis, Mo., March 2015.
- Plenary Address, Midwest Regional Society of Biblical Literature, Joint Annual Meeting. Bourbonnais, Il., February 2014.

Invited Lectures and Papers

- Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität, Bonn, Germany, July 2019.
- University of South Africa, Pretoria, July 2017.
- Smith College, Northampton, Mass., December 2015.
- Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, Mass., November 2015.
- Williams Collegae, Williamstown, Mass., October 2014.
- Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio, October 2013.
- The Ohio State University, Inaugural Lecture, Columbus, Ohio, February 2013.
- University of Chicago Divinity School, April 2012.
- Uppsala University, Sweden, May 2011.
- Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität [in German], Münster, Germany, November 2009.
- University of Helsinki, Finland, October 2009.
- Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Münster, Germany, October 2009.
- Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Münster, Germany, May 2003.
- Boston Theological Institute, New Testament Colloquium, March 2002.
- Association of Chicago Theological Schools, New Testament Group, December 2000.
- University of Chicago Divinity School, February 2000.
- Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind., October 1999.
- Association of Chicago Theological Schools, New Testament Group, December 1997.

Conference Papers

- “Paul and Corinth: A Historiographical Perspective.” Keynote Paper, Colloquium Biblicum Lovaniense LXXIV. Katholieke Universiteit Leuven/Université Catholique de Louvain. Leuven, Belgium, August 2025.
- “Tertullian’s Attempt to Render Irrelevant the *titulus* of Ephesians.” Annual Meeting, North American Patristics Society. Chicago, Il. May 2025.
- “Tertullian’s Funerary Tale of a *vernacula ecclesiae* and Her Animated Corpse (*An.* 51.6).” Nineteenth International Conference on Patristic Studies. University of Oxford. Oxford, England. August 2024.
- “Tatian’s Attack on Astrology (*Oratio ad Graecos* 9.2).” Annual Meeting, North American Patristics Society. Chicago, Il. May 2024.

- “The Function of a Roman Board Game in an Astrological Handbook (Vettius Valens, *Anthologiae* 6.2).” Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. San Antonio, Tex. November 2023.
- “To Play the Soldier: Self-Apostrophe and Self-Command in Ephesians.” General Meeting, Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas. Universität Wien. Vienna, Austria. July 2023.
- “To Purify One’s Life by the Exact Science of Mathematical Calculations: Astrology as Ascetic Labor in the *Anthologiae* of Vettius Valens.” National conference on “New Approaches to Asceticism.” Louisiana State University. Baton Rouge, La. February 2023.
- “Laura Nasrallah’s *Archaeology and the Letters of Paul*—A Response.” Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. San Antonio, Tex., November 2021.
- “Basil of Caesarea’s Exegesis on Ephesians 1:1 (*Against Eunomius* 2.19): The Significance of a Lacunate Text.” Annual Meeting, North American Patristics Society. Chicago, Il. May 2021.
- “The Emotional Labor of Onesimus: Forced Family Performance in Paul’s Letter to Philemon.” Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. San Diego, Calif. November 2019.
- “Migration from Death Worlds in Ephesians.” Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. San Diego, Calif. November 2019.
- “Laying Down the Law for All: Hellenistic Circular Edicts (*entolai*) and the Epistolary Form of Ephesians.” General Meeting, Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas. Philipps-Universität Marburg. Marburg, Germany. August 2019.
- “Reading Paul at the End of the First Century.” International conference on “Reading the Bible in the First and Second Centuries: Christians, Jews, Pagans and Gnostics.” The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Jerusalem, Israel. January 2019.
- “The ‘Waves of Emotion’: A Stoic Metaphor in Ephesians 4:14.” Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. Denver, Colo. November 2018.
- “Atheist Lists as an Organizing Technique in Classical Literary Culture.” Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. Denver, Colo. November 2018.
- “Methodological Approaches to the Synoptic Slave Parables.” Annual International Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. University of Helsinki. Helsinki, Finland. July 2018.
- “Courtney Friesen’s ‘Gluttony and Drunkenness as Jewish and Christian Virtues: From the Comic Heracles to Christ in the Gospels’—A Response.” Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. Boston, Mass. November 2017.
- “The Historical Significance of Delayed Eschatology in the Slave Parables of Jesus.” Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. Boston, Mass. November 2017.
- “Contesting the Traditional Life: The Use of Anti-biography in the Study of the Historical Paul.” Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. Boston, Mass. November 2017.
- “The Imperial Aesthetics of Narrative Architecture: The Representation of Buildings and Monumentality in Literature.” General Meeting, Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas. University of Pretoria. Pretoria, South Africa. August 2017.
- “Matthew Thiessen’s *Paul and the Gentile Problem* and David Kaden’s *Matthew, Paul, and the Anthropology of Law*—A Response.” Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. San Antonio, Tex. November 2016.
- “John Kloppenborg’s ‘Associations, Christ Groups, and Their Place in the *Polis*’—A Response” General Meeting, Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas. McGill University. Montreal,

- Canada. August 2016.
- “The Influence of Roman Architectural Thinking on Early Christian Literature: The Case of *Ephesians*.” International conference on “Literary and Cultural Interactions in the Roman Empire: 96–235 C.E.” University of Exeter. Exeter, England. June 2016.
- “All Cretans Are Liars (Titus 1:12): A Pagan Oracle in Patristic Interpretation.” Annual Meeting, North American Patristics Society. Chicago, Il. May 2016.
- “Author’s Response,” Pauline Epistles Section book panel on Harrill, *Paul the Apostle: His Life and Legacy in Their Roman Context*, with John Barclay, Laura Dingeldein, and Paula Fredriksen, Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. Atlanta, Ga. November 2015.
- “‘Exegetical Torture’ in Early Christian Biblical Interpretation.” Seventeenth International Conference on Patristic Studies. University of Oxford. Oxford, England. August 2015.
- “Ephesians as an Epistolary Threshold to Paul.” General Meeting, Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas. Vrije Universiteit/Free University of Amsterdam. Amsterdam, Netherlands. July 2015.
- “Without Lies or Deception: Greco-Roman Cultural Protocols of Oracular Truth and Authority in the New Testament Letter to Titus.” International conference on “Literary Interactions under Nerva, Trajan and Hadrian across Linguistic, Cultural and Religious Boundaries.” Boston University. Boston, Mass. June 2015.
- “Empire and New Testament: Reinterpreting a Modern Opposition.” Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. Baltimore, Md. November 2013.
- “Ethnic Fluidity in Ephesians.” General Meeting, Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas. Murdoch University. Perth, Australia. July 2013.
- “Slavery and Inhumanity: Engaging the Work of Keith Bradley.” Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. Chicago, Il. November 2012.
- “Curse Tablets and Binding Spells as a Context for the Agonistic Scenario of Violence in Ephesians 6:5–7.” Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. San Francisco, Calif. November 2011.
- “Accusing Philosophy of Causing Headaches: Tertullian’s use of a Comedic Topos (*Praesc.* 16.2).” Sixteenth International Conference on Patristic Studies. University of Oxford. Oxford, England. August 2011.
- “Jesus and Roman Imperialism: The Problem of ‘Hidden Transcripts.’” Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. Atlanta, Ga. November 2010.
- “The Psychology of Slaves in the Gospel Parables: A Case Study in Social History.” General Meeting, Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas. Humboldt-Universität, Berlin. Berlin, Germany. August 2010.
- “The Roman Cultural Identity of Paul's Gospel and Mission.” International conference on “The Rise and Expansion of Christianity in the First Three Centuries C.E.” Humboldt-Universität, Berlin. Berlin, Germany. July 2010.
- “God Demands Death for Forswearing: Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1–11).” General Meeting, Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas. Universität Wien. Vienna, Austria. August 2009.
- “Divine Judgment against Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1–11): A Scene of Perjury.” National conference on “What the Gods Demand: Blood Sacrifice in Mediterranean Antiquity.” Boston University. Boston, Mass. November 2008.

- “Paul’s Anthropology in Romans 7: A Structured Self.” Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. Boston, Mass. November 2008.
- “The Structured Self in Stoicism and 2 Peter: The Eschatological Destruction of ‘the Ignorant and Unstable’ in Light of Stoic Moral Philosophy.” Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. San Diego, Calif. November 2007.
- “Cosmic Dissolution into Fire: Early Christian Appropriations of Stoic Conflagration Physics (*Ekpyrosis*).” National conference on “The End of Everything: Catastrophe and Community in the Ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern Worlds.” Indiana University. Bloomington, Ind. October 2007.
- “Cannibalistic Language in the Fourth Gospel: Ideology of Internal War.” Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. Washington, D.C. November 2006.
- “*Families*—A Useful Category in Early Christian Studies?” Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. Philadelphia, Penn. November 2005.
- “Slaves in the New Testament: Literary, Social, and Moral Dimensions.” General Meeting, Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas. Martin-Luther-Universität of Halle-Wittenberg. Halle, Germany. August 2005.
- “Pliny’s Reference to the Christian *Ministrae* (Ep. 10.96) and Emperor Worship in City Wards.” General Meeting, North American Patristics Society. Loyola University Chicago. Chicago, Il. June 2005.
- “Playing the Automaton: Comedy in the Slave Parables and the Roman Moral Value of *Auctoritas*.” General Meeting, Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas. Barcelona, Spain. August 2004.
- “Ritual Patterns in the Cult of the *Lares Augusti*.” Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. San Antonio, Tex. November 2004.
- “The Comedy of Slavery: The Historical Jesus on Masters and Slaves.” Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. San Antonio, Tex. November 2004.
- “The Apostolic *Haustafeln*: A Synoptic Comparison of *Didache* 4.9–11 and *The Epistle of Barnabas* 19.5–7. General Meeting, North American Patristics Society. Loyola University Chicago. Chicago, Il. May 2004.
- “Early Christian Definitions of the *Familia* in Light of Greek and Roman Agricultural Manuals.” Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. Atlanta, Ga. November 2003.
- “The Farce of the Dishonest Manager (Luke 16:1–8): Roman Slave Comedy and Early Christian Self-Definition.” Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. Atlanta, Ga. November 2003.
- “The Apostle Paul on the Slave Self.” National conference on “The Religious Self in Antiquity.” Indiana University. Bloomington, Ind. September 2003.
- “The Metaphor of Slavery in the Writings of Tertullian.” Fourteenth International Conference on Patristic Studies. University of Oxford. Oxford, England. August 2003.
- “Household Slaves in the Writings of Tertullian.” General Meeting, North American Patristics Society. Loyola University Chicago. Chicago, Il. May 2002.
- “Creation as a Tortured Slave: An Examination of the Manumission and Birth Imagery in Romans 8:19-25.” Annual Meeting, New England Regional Society of Biblical Literature. Brandeis University. Waltham, Mass. April 2002.

- “Max Weber and the Historiography of Slavery in France, Germany, and Italy.” Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. Denver, Colo. November 2001.
- “The Domestic Enemy: Slaves in Early Christian Households.” International conference on “The Early Christian Family.” Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University. Fort Worth, Tex. December 2000.
- “The Roman Puberty Rite of *Toga Virilis* in Paul’s Language of Baptism (Gal 3:27).” Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. Nashville, Tenn. November 2000.
- “The Greco-Roman ‘Faithful Slave’ Topos in Early Christian Apology: Athenagoras and Tertullian.” General Meeting, North American Patristics Society. Loyola University Chicago. Chicago, Il. May 2000.
- “The Dramatic Function of the Running Slave Rhoda.” Annual Meeting, Midwest Regional Society of Biblical Literature. Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. Chicago, Il. February 2000.
- “The Influence of Roman Contract Law on Early Baptismal Formulae (Tertullian, *Ad martyras* 3).” Thirteenth International Conference on Patristic Studies. University of Oxford. Oxford, England. August 1999.
- “The Physiognomics of the Ancient Slave Body.” International conference on “After the Body: Religion, Culture and Gender.” University of Manchester. Manchester, England. June 1998.
- “The Manumission of Slaves in Early Christianity.” Annual Meeting, Rocky Mountain and Great Plains Regional Society of Biblical Literature. Denver, Colo. April 1996.
- “The Indentured Labor of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:15).” Quarterly Meeting, Chicago Society of Biblical Research. Loyola University Chicago. Chicago, Il. April 1996.
- “Paul’s View of the Afterlife: A Response to James Tabor.” Annual Graduate Symposium, Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Chapel Hill, N.C. October 1995.
- “Using the Roman Jurists to Interpret Philemon.” Annual Meeting, Central States Regional Society of Biblical Literature. Tulsa, Okla. April 1995.
- “A Philological Solution to the Exegetical Crux of 1 Cor. 7:21.” Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. Washington, D.C. November 1993.
- “The Apostle Paul and Roman Slavery.” Quarterly Meeting, Chicago Society of Biblical Research. Saint Xavier University. Chicago, Il. October 1993.
- “The Social and Economic Position of Jewish Freedmen in Rome.” Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. San Francisco, Calif. November 1992.
- “Ignatius, *Ad Polycarp*. 4.3 and the Corporate Manumission of Slaves.” General Meeting, North American Patristics Society. Loyola University Chicago. Chicago, Il. May 1992.

Academic Affiliations

Harvard Divinity School, Visiting Scholar, Spring 2009.

Indiana University, Visiting Scholar, Institute for Advanced Study, Bloomington, 1999–2000.

Learned Society Memberships

Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas, elected 2003
Society of Biblical Literature
North American Patristics Society
American Friends of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

Selected Professional Service

Editorial Appointments

Book Editor, Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, the Bible, New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (2018).
Editorial Board, The Anchor Yale Bible Series, Commentary and Reference Library, Yale University Press (2008–18).
Guest Editor, "Redrawing the Boundaries," engaging the work of Page duBois. Thematic Issue of *Biblical Interpretation*, 25, no. 1 (2017).
Editorial Board, *New Testament Studies*, Cambridge University Press (2014–16).
Editorial Board, *Journal of Biblical Literature* (2010–15).

Other Service

External Assessor, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (2024).
External Assessor, South Africa's National Research Foundation (2016).
Peer Reviewer, American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship Program (2012–14).
National Juror, the Theta Alpha Kappa Clark Award in Religious Studies/Theology (2007).
Steering Committee, the Pauline Epistles program unit, Society of Biblical Literature (2016–21).
Steering Committee, the Slavery, Resistance, and Freedom program unit, Society of Biblical Literature (2013–15).
Co-Chair, the Early Christian Families program unit, Society of Biblical Literature (2006–2009).
Acting Chair, the Seminar on the Graeco-Roman World of the New Testament, Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas (2004).
Session Co-Organizer, Annual Meeting, Association for Ancient Historians (2013).

Peer Reviewer of Manuscripts (outside of editorial board responsibilities)

Yale University Press
Cambridge University Press
Oxford University Press
Pennsylvania State University Press
Indiana University Press
Edinburgh University Press
Brown Judaic Studies Monograph Series
Hebrew University, Center for the Study of
Christianity

Routledge
T. & T. Clark
Wiley Blackwell
Bloomsbury Academic
HarperCollins Brasil
Journal of Religion
Journal of Biblical Literature
Journal of Early Christian Studies
Neotestamentica

External Tenure/Promotion Evaluator of Faculty Scholarship

Harvard University	Rutgers University
Yale University	University of San Francisco
Michigan State University (2)	Georgia State University
State University of New York at Brockport (2)	Rhodes College
Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn	

External Ph.D. Examiner

University of Toronto, Department for the Study of Religion (2014, 2023)
University of Minnesota, Department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies (2021)
Indiana University, Department of Classical Studies (2015, 2016)
McGill University, School of Religious Studies (2014)

Selected University Service

Ohio State University

Director of Graduate Studies, Department of History (2023–2025).
Member, Committees, Department of History: Center for Historical Research Program Planning (2024–present); Awards and Prizes (2020–23); Chair’s Advisory (2018–19); Workplace Climate (Chair, 2018–19); Undergraduate and Teaching (2016–19); Graduate Admissions (2016).
Member, Committees, Center for the Study of Religion: Oversight (2022–24); Programing (2022–2024); Visiting Scholars (2022–24); Travel/Research Grants (2023–24). Colloquia presentations: Page Series (2019, 2023), Community Lecture Series (2014).
Member, Steering Committee, Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Religions of the Ancient Mediterranean (2022–present).
Member, Committees, Melton Center for Jewish Studies Faculty Board: Faculty Services (2016–17, 2024–25); Student Services (2015, 2022–24);
Member, Committees, Department of Comparative Studies: Religious Studies Major (2017–23); Faculty Search in Religions of East Asia (2015–16).
Member, Committees, Department of Classics: Promotion and Tenure (Chair, 2014–15); Lectures (2012–13; Chair, 2013–14); Undergraduate Studies (2013–14); Chair’s Advisory (2013–14); Awards (2012–13); Graduate Studies (2012).
Member, Graduate School Fulbright Committee (2012).
Advising and Mentoring: Hoffman Leaders and Leadership in History (2022–23, 2023–24); Denman Undergraduate Research Forum (2013, 2015, 2019, 2022).

Indiana University

Director, Program in Ancient Studies, College of Arts and Sciences (2005–2008). Coordinated a national conference at Indiana University, “The End of Everything: Catastrophe and Community in the Ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern Worlds,” October 2007.
Member, Herman B. Wells Scholars Program, Admissions Selection Committee (2010).
Member, Vice President for International Affairs, Research Grants Selection Committee (2010).

Member, University General Education Committee, College Arts and Humanities (2007).
Official Delegate, Phi Beta Kappa, Gamma of Indiana, Triennial Council, Atlanta (2006).
Member, Bloomington Faculty Council Library Committee (2005–06).
Member, Vice Chancellor's Outstanding Junior Faculty Awards Selection Committee (2003).
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Religious Studies (2005–09).
Chair, Religious Studies Department Faculty Search Committees: Orthodox Christianity (2011);
Hebrew Bible (2005).
Chair, Religious Studies Department Tenure and Promotion Committees: African American
Religious History (2010); American Religious History (2008).
Member, Jewish Studies Program Faculty Search Committee in Ancient Judaism (2010–11).
Member, Classical Studies Department Faculty Promotion Committee (2010).
Member, History Department Faculty Search Committee in Ancient History (2006).
Member, Religious Studies Faculty Search Committee in Islam (2006).
Member, Religious Studies Department Tenure and Promotion Committee in Modern Judaism
(2004).
Junior Faculty Mentoring, Department of Religious Studies (2006–12).

Boston University

Member, Advanced Studies Committee, School of Theology (2001–02).
Member, Committee on Academic Programs, Graduate Division of Religious and Theological
Studies (2001–02).

DePaul University

Member, University Library Review Board (1999–2001).
Member, Women's Studies Program Advisory Committee (1996–2001).
Member, Research Committee, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (1998–99).
Library Liaison, Department of Religious Studies (1996–2001).
Chair, Religious Studies Department Student Outreach and Directions Committee (1998–1999).

Courses Taught

Ohio State University

Introduction to the Discipline of History
Introduction to the New Testament: History and Literature; with honors section
The Historical Jesus, with graduate section
Paul and His Influence in Early Christianity, with graduate section
Slavery in the Ancient World, with honors section
Ancient Roman Religion
The Greek New Testament
Dreams and Dream Interpretation in Antiquity: Social Mores and Daily Life
Seminar in Late Antiquity: Literary Forgery in the Christian Tradition
Graduate Seminar on Greek Literature and Culture: New Testament for Historians
Individual Undergraduate Studies in Ancient History
Supervised numerous undergraduate Honors, Research Distinction Theses

Dissertation and qualifying exam committees

Williams College

Paul and His Influence in Early Christianity

Indiana University

Introduction to the New Testament, with honors section

Paul and His Influence in Early Christianity, with honors and graduate sections

Jesus and the Gospels, with graduate section

Judaism in the Making

Ancient Mediterranean Religions, with graduate section

Religions of Ancient Rome, with graduate section

The Bible and Slavery

Graduate Colloquium in Ancient Religions: Ancient Eschatologies

Graduate Colloquium in Ancient Religions: Magic

Individual Undergraduate Research, Service Learning, and Teaching Internships

Supervised numerous Senior Honor Essays

Dissertation and qualifying exam committees

Boston University

Introduction to the New Testament

The Social Setting of Early Christianity

Pauline Studies: The Macedonian Correspondence

New Testament Doctoral Seminar: Gender and Family

Dissertation and qualifying exam committees

DePaul University

Religious Worlds in Comparative Perspective

The Christian Experience

The Bible: An Introduction

The First Christians and the New Testament

Paul and His Interpreters in Early Christianity

Varieties of Judaism in the Greek and Roman World

Gods and Goddesses in the Greek and Roman World

Varieties of Early Christianity

The Historical Jesus

Gender and Family in Early Christianity

First-Year Seminar: The Bible and Slavery

Ancient Greek Introduction, two-quarter sequence

Senior Thesis, two-quarter sequence

Various Independent Studies

Creighton University

Religious Inquiry: Christianity in Context

Reading the New Testament
Paul and His Legacy

Catholic Theological Union

New Testament Introduction
Pauline Theology and Writings
Paul: The Corinthian Correspondence
The Gospel of Mark

University of Chicago

The Epistle to the Ephesians
Introductory Koine Greek 1–3, three-quarter sequence
Slavery in the Ancient World