

## VITA

**William Russell Epperson**

(918) 495-6753 (office)

### EDUCATION

Ph. D., University of Kansas, 1965

M. A., University of Kansas, 1963

B. A., summa cum laude, Eastern New Mexico University, 1961

Post-graduate studies:

NEH Summer Seminars:

"Shakespeare and Human Experience," directed by Arthur Kirsch, University of Virginia, 1988.

"Milton and the Fall Into Reading," directed by Stanley Fish, Johns Hopkins University, 1980.

"The Puritan Imagination in English and American Literature," directed by Barbara Lewalski and Mason Lowance, Brown University, 1976.

Rice/Mellon Foundation Workshop, "New Approaches to Shakespeare," directed by Meredith Skura and Edward Snow, Rice University, 1984.

Theological Year Fellowship (funded by Danforth Foundation), Trinity College, University of Toronto, 1967-68.

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### Teaching Positions held:

Professor of English, Oral Roberts University, 1972-present.

Associate Professor, Oral Roberts University, 1968-71.

Lecturer, York University, Toronto, Canada, 1967-68.

Assistant Professor, York College, York, Nebraska, 1965-67.

Fulbright Professor, Pusan National University, Pusan, Korea, 1989-90. With guest lectures in Korea at Hoseo University,

Chonan National University, Kyungsang National University, Changwon National University, and the American Cultural Center in Pusan; and with guest lectureship programs in the Peoples' Republic of China at Yunnan University in Kunming and the Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing.

Visiting Lecturer on American Literature, Southwest China Teachers' College, Chongqing, Peoples' Republic of China, Summer, 1985.

Visiting Professor, Western Montana College, Dillon, MT, 1981-82.

#### Administrative Positions:

Chair, Department of English, Oral Roberts University, 1972-2010; Jan. 2015-Aug. 2016.

### PUBLICATIONS AND PAPERS

#### Books:

Encounters: Readings for Advanced Composition, Ed. Wm. Epperson, Mark Hall. Kendall-Hunt, 2001.

Strategies for Reading and Writing. Ed. Wm. Epperson, Linda Gray, Mark Hall. Kendall-Hunt, 1999.

Encounters: Connecting, Creating, Composing. Ed. Wm. Epperson, Ruth Givens, Linda Gray, Mark Hall. Kendall-Hunt, 1994.

The World Within, The World Without: Reading for the Christian Student. Ed. Wm. Epperson, Ruth Givens, Betty Howard. Kendall-Hunt, 1987.

**Papers Read at Professional Meetings:**

“Baptizing *Chocolat*: Viewing Film with Eyes of Faith,” Conference on Christianity and Literature, Western Regional., Seattle University, WA, May 22, 2015.

“Tales from Eternity: Fairy Tales as Equipment for Living,” C. S. Lewis and the Inklings Conference, Le Tourneau University, March 23, 2013.

“Life, Love, and Death in *Brave New World*. South Central Modern Language Association, San Antonio, Texas. November 8-10, 2012.

“The Divine Vision: Grace and Freedom as Imaged by Shakespeare’s Prospero,” Southwest Conference on Christianity and Literature, Oklahoma Christian University, Edmund, OK. October 5-6, 2012.

“The World, the Flesh, and the Lord: The Secular and Sacred Visions of Nathanael West and James Agee.” Southwest Conference on Christianity and Literature, Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, TX. September 29-October 1, 2011.

“Christian Poets: Theory and Practice.” Chair and reader. Southwest Conference on Christianity and Literature, Oklahoma Christian University, Edmund, OK. September 30-October 2, 2010.

“Satan Redux: C. S. Lewis’ (Christian) Reader Response in *Preface to Paradise Lost*.” C. S. Lewis and the Inklings Society. Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, OK. April 1-2, 2011.

“American Pilgrimage and the Journey of Love in James Baldwin’s ‘Sonny’s Blues.’” Mideast Conference on Christianity and Literature, Grove City College, Grove City, PA. March 11-13, 2010.

“‘Love Calls Us to the Things of This World’: Practicing Incarnational Aesthetics,” Southwest Conference on Christianity and Literature, Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, OK, October 3, 2008.

“Made Vocal By My Song”: The Vocation of the Adamic Priesthood, Southwest Conference on Christianity and Literature, Abilene Christian University, Abilene, Texas, September 28-30, 2006.

“Broadening Horizons through World Literature,” Conference on Christianity, Culture, and Diversity in America, Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, OK, November 11, 2005.

"The Witnessing Voices of The Testimony of Taliesin Jones and Peace Like a River," Southwest Conference on Christianity and Literature, John Brown University, Siloam Springs, Arkansas, September 27, 2003.

"Creating the Interpretive Community in the Classroom: Shakespeare and the New Critical Approaches," South Central Modern Language Association, Austin, Texas, Nov. 1-3, 2002.

"A Shade of Bliss": The Incarnational Vision of Richard Wilbur," Southwest Conference on Christianity and Literature, Tulsa, Oklahoma, Oct. 4-5, 2002.

"Through a Lens Darkly: The Experience of Reading and of Film," South Central College English Association, SCMLA, Tulsa, Oklahoma, Nov. 1-2, 2001.

"The 'Tangled Web': Narrative Voice, Character, and Reader in Flannery O'Connor's Fiction," Midwest Conference on Christianity and Literature, Co-hosted by University of Illinois-Chicago and Wheaton College, March, 2001.

"C.S. Lewis and the Common Reader," Keynote Address, C.S. Lewis Conference, University of Central Oklahoma, April 22, 2000.

"We in America Need Ceremonies: John Updike and the Analogy of Experience," Southwest Conference on Christianity and Literature, Abilene Christian University, Abilene, Texas Oct. 1999.

"Images of Marriage in the Writings of C.S. Lewis and Dorothy L. Sayers," C.S. Lewis Conference, Oral Roberts University, Tulsa Oklahoma, Feb. 1998.

"Bringing Assessment into Departmental Focus," Third International Conference for Global Conversations on Language and Literacy, National Council Teachers of English, Bordeaux, France, August 1998.

"In the Presence of This Continent': The American Literature Canon and the Experience of the American Land," College English Association session, South Central Modern Language Association, Dallas, October 1997.

"Beyond Student Assumptions: Teaching C.S. Lewis' Till We Have Faces," C.S. Lewis Symposium, Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma City, Feb. 1998.

"Eve At Pool Side: 'Vain Desiring' and the Choice of the 'Other,'" Conference on Christianity and Literature, Lafayette, LA., Jan. 1997.

"'Bad Books' and the Borders of Discourse in the Christian College Classroom," South Central Modern Language Association, San Antonio, TX. Nov. 1996.

"Traveling 'In the Realms of Gold': Thoughts on Reading and Teaching in the Trenches of the Culture Wars," SCCEA Breakfast Talk, South Central Modern Language Association, San Antonio, TX. Nov. 1996.

"Exporting 'A&P,' Importing 'Patriotism': Teaching World Literature as Foreign Exchange," College English Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, April, 1996. (Winner of the annual "Joe D. Thomas Memorial Prize" for the paper that "best exemplifies the spirit of professionalism and scholarship.")

"Handling Serpents: Lee Smith's Treatment of Religion in Saving Grace, South Central Conference on Christianity and Literature, Longview, Texas, Feb. 1996.

"Wounded Pilgrim: The Quest for Masculine Wholeness in the Dave Robicheaux Novels of James Lee Burke," South Central Conference on Christianity and Literature, New Orleans, LA, Feb. 1995.

"Revolutionary, Counter-Revolutionary, Apolitical: Three Generations of Modern Chinese Women Writers," South Central Modern Language Association, New Orleans, LA, November 1994.

"Teaching Contemporary Chinese Short Fiction," South Central Conference on Christianity and Literature, Shreveport, LA, Feb. 1994.

"Narrative Authority in Contemporary Chinese and American Short Fiction," South Central Modern Language Association, Austin, Texas, October 1993.

"Recent Critical Approaches and the Rehabilitation of the American Popular Novel," English Language and Literature Society of Korea, Pusan, Korea, October 1989.

"'Oh Father, Dear Father': Emotional Decorum in King Lear," Conference on Christianity and Literature, Southeast Region, April 1987.

"The Past, Wilderness, and Faith: The Individual Frontiers of The River Why," CCL, Southwest Region, October 1986.

"The Generative Finite: Liturgical Time in James Agee's The Morning Watch," CCL Section, SCMLA, New Orleans, October 1986.

"The Displacement of the Reader in the Short Fiction of Flannery O'Connor," CCL, Southwest Region, Oklahoma Christian University, Edmund, Oklahoma, October 1984.

"Regional Poets' Session," (reader) SCMLA, October 1982.

"'That Dares Tutor Christ': The Shaping of Milton's Tetrachordon," CCL, Western Region, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle, Washington, January 1982.

"Depersonalizing the Narrative Voice: Teaching Milton's 'Sonnet XIX,'" CCL, South Central Region, September 1980.

"Teaching the Short Fiction of Flannery O'Connor," Mid-South Association of Independent Schools, Atlanta, GA, March 1978.

"The Incarnate Imagination in Modern American Fiction: The Univocal, the Equivocal, the Analogical," CCL, Western Region, January 1977.

"The Repose of a Very Delicate Balance: Postulants and Celebrants of Marriage in the Fiction of C. S. Lewis and Dorothy L. Sayers," CCL Session, Modern Language Association, New York, December 1976.

"Love in the Ruins: The Holding Presence of Christ at a Time Near the End of the World," CCL, Southwest Region, Brownwood, Texas, September 1974.

### Articles:

"Traveling 'In the Realms of Gold': Thoughts on Reading and Teaching in the Trenches of the Culture Wars," South Central College English Association Bulletin, The Round Table, Fall, 1996.

"Recent Critical Approaches and the Rehabilitation of the Popular American Novel," The Foreign Literature Review (Beijing, PRC) 3 (1990).

"The Repose of a Very Delicate Balance: Postulants and Celebrants of Marriage in the Fiction of C. S. Lewis and Dorothy L. Sayers," Mythlore 6.4 (1979).

### Poetry:

Poems published in *Imago Dei*, Abilene Christian University Press, 2012.

Poems published in various journals, including The Smith, Nimrod, Hiram Poetry Review, Chowder Review, and Christianity and Literature.

"Poetry" and "Take Fern for Pattern," *Imago Dei*. Ed. Jill Pelaez Baumgaertner, Abilene Christian University Press, Abilene, TX 2012.

### M.A. Thesis:

"The Style and Structure of Walden," University of Kansas, 1963.

### Ph. D. Dissertation:

"The Meditative Structure of Edward Taylor's Preparatory Meditations," University of Kansas, 1965.

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

Harold and Edna Paul Outstanding Faculty Member, Oral Roberts University, 2009  
Outstanding Faculty Member, 2009, School of Arts and Cultural Studies, Oral Roberts University.

Faculty Service Award, ORU, 1997-98.

College English Association annual Joe D. Thomas Prize for conference "paper that best exemplifies the spirit of professionalism and scholarship." CEA 27th Annual Conference, April 4-6, 1996. New Orleans, LA.

Fulbright Lecturing Award to People's Republic of China, 1989-90. (This was transferred to Korea due to cancellation of China Fulbright Program in 1989.)

NEH Summer Seminar, University of Virginia, summer, 1988.

Rice/Mellon Foundation Grant, summer, 1984.

NEH Summer Seminar, University of California, summer, 1980 (declined).

NEH Summer Seminar, The Johns Hopkins University, summer, 1980.

NEH Summer Seminar, Brown University, summer, 1976.

"Outstanding Faculty Member, 1968-69," Oral Roberts University.

Danforth Theological Year Fellowship, 1967-68.

The Danforth Fellowship for Graduate Study, 1961-65.

University of Kansas Graduate Fellowship, 1962-64.

University of Kansas Graduate Scholarship, 1961-62

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Modern Language Association, 1972-1980.  
South Central Modern Language Association, 1972-present.  
National Council of Teachers of English, 1972-2000.  
Conference on Christianity and Literature, 1973-present.  
College English Association, 1995-present.  
South Central College English Association, 1995-present. President, 1999-2000.

## **COMMITTEE AND ADVISORY WORK (selected)**

ORU Faculty Senate President, 2009-2010  
Associate Poetry Editor, Nimrod , Arts and Humanities Council of Tulsa, 1980-present.  
Writing Advisory Panel, Writing, Oklahoma Arts Institute, 1990-2000.  
Tenured Faculty Committee, ORU, 1974-present. Chair, 1978-present.  
Faculty Senate Cabinet, representative, School of Letters and Social Sciences, 1987-88.  
University Self Study Committee, NCA Reports:  
    Co-Chair and editor, 1996-98.  
    Chairman and editor, 1992, 1996-7.  
    Chair, Student Life Committee, 1970, 1974, 1977.

## **Community and Church**

Board of Directors, Regent Preparatory School, Tulsa, OK, 2007-present.  
Vestry, Trinity Episcopal Church, Tulsa, OK, 2007-2009.  
Adult Church School facilitator, Trinity Episcopal Church, Tulsa, OK, 2007-present.  
Christian Formation Committee, Trinity Episcopal Church, Tulsa, OK, 2011-present.