

COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO  
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[HTTP://CURRAGH-LABS.ORG/](http://CURRAGH-LABS.ORG/)

## **EDUCATION**

PhD in English, University of Florida, May 2004 Focus: Film and New Media Studies, Composition and Rhetoric Dissertation: Cinema, Computers, and War. Director: Dr. Gregory Ulmer. Committee: Dr. Nora Alter, Dr. Roger Beebe, Dr. Robert Ray, Dr. John Sabin

MA in English, University of Florida, May 2001  
Focus: Film and Media Studies

BA in English, St. John's University, Collegeville, MN, May 1999  
Focus: Film Studies

## **ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT**

Associate Professor, English Department, Columbia College Chicago  
Construct and teach courses in composition, new media, and popular culture.  
Granted tenure and promoted from Assistant Professor, Spring 2010.  
September 2004—present.

Teaching assistant, English Department, University of Florida. Constructed and taught courses in composition, film studies, and media studies. August 2000—April 2001; May 2003—May 2004.

Technology and Pedagogy Specialist, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Uof Florida 2-year appointment as a liaison between English Department and the Networked Writing Environment (NWE).

## **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

“The Undead Gourmet: On thinking zombies and eating people.” *Philosophy Now: a magazine of ideas*. Issue 96: May/June 2013.

“Necromancy” and “Zombie.” *World Book Encyclopedia*, 2012. Ed. Nick Kilzer, et al. Brief reference essays aimed at general readership. 2012.

“Zombie People: The Complicated Nature of Personhood in The Walking Dead.” *Triumph of the Walking Dead: Robert Kirkman’s Zombie Epic on Page and Screen*. Ed. James Lowder. Dallas, TX: SmartPop, 2011.

“The E-Dead: Zombies in the Digital Age.” *Generation Zombie: Essays on the Living Dead in Modern Culture*. Eds. Stephanie Boluk and Wylie Lenz. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2011.

“A Style Guide to the Secrets of <style>.” *From A to <A>: Keywords in HTML and Writing*. Eds Jeffrey Rice and Bradley Dilger. (Winner: Computers and Composition 2010 Distinguished Book Award.) Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 2010.

“From Sherlock to Angel: The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Detective.” *The Journal of Popular Culture*. Vol 42:5, Oct 2009.

“Warren Ellis is the Future of Superhero Comics: Or How to Write Superhero Stories without Superheroes.”  
*The Amazing Transforming Superhero! Essays on the Revision of Characters in Comic Books, Film and Television*. Ed. Terrence Wandtke. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2007.

“Open Source and Academia” Collaboratively written with Laurie Taylor. *Computers and Composition Online*. (Accepted Fall 2004, retro-actively published Spring 2004).  
<http://www.bgsu.edu/cconline/tayloriley/intro.html>

## **SELECTED INVITED ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS**

“You Need a System to Make It Work: Detectives and Memory in the Age of Electracy.”  
Keynote speech. Ray Browne Conference on Popular Culture in Bowling Green, OH.  
9 February 2013.

“Why You Should Care About the Living Dead: *Night of the Living Dead*, the Zombie Apocalypse, and You.”  
Two Invited Public Lectures at Northeastern Tennessee State College in Blountville, TN.  
Also interviewed by campus television and invited to opening night of their play, *Night of the Living Dead*.  
25 October 2012.

“What’s the Big Idea? People, Zombies, and the Blurry Line Between Them”  
Fall 2012 Honors Talk, Columbia College Chicago  
8 October 2012

## **RECENT ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“Writing the Zombie Apocalypse.”  
Conference on College Composition and Communication. Indianapolis, IN. 19-22 March 2014.

“I’m going to need your help on this one: Insiders, Outsiders, and Lieutenant Columbo.”  
Southwest Popular and American Culture Association. Albuquerque, NM. 19-22 February 2014.

“Isn’t that something? - Columbo Loves Gadgets.”  
Midwest Popular and American Culture Association. Indianapolis, IN. 11-13 October 2013.

“Pirates at the Gates: a discussion of the media coverage of SOPA and PIPA.”  
National Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association. Boston, MA. 11-14 April 2012.

“So JAWS Is About Communism? How Pop Culture theorists will lead the humanities back to the Real World.”  
Invited participant in Roundtable, “New Directions in Popular Culture Theory”  
National Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association. Boston, MA. 11-14 April 2012.

“Lying to Ourselves: Lessons from *Memento*.”  
Midwest Popular and American Culture Association. Milwaukee, WI. 14-16 October 2011.

## **SELECTED OTHER PROJECTS, LECTURES, PERFORMANCES, AND PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

### *The Digital Sextant*

Blog: one-third popular culture reviews, one-third academic thinking, one-third personal observations and silliness.  
(Nov 2004 – present) <http://curragh-labs.org/blog>

“Zombie Myths and Misconceptions.” With Zombie Research Society Advisory Board and author Max Brooks.  
San Diego Comic-Con International, 25 July 2014.

### “Meeting of the Minds XVIII: Hammett, Chandler, Rice.”

Theatrical performance in which I played Dashiell Hammett in a moderated conversation with Raymond Chandler and Craig Rice. Two performances at Centuries and Sleuths bookstore, Forest Park, IL.  
2, 3 November 2012.

“On Source Code and the Ethics of the Modern Technological Era.” Guest essay on *Pharyngula*, a science and culture blog with 90,000 visitors/day.

<http://scienceblogs.com/pharyngula/2011/04/12/on-source-code-and-the-ethics/>  
12 April 2011.

“The Great Root Bear.” *Silver Tongue and the Encyclopedia Show*. Spoken word humor piece.  
Conaway Center, Columbia College Chicago. 29 Sept 2010.

## **CURRENT ACADEMIC COURSES DEVISED AND TAUGHT**

### “Literary Genres: Detective Fiction” Literature course exploring mystery and detective genres

Built around exploring, analyzing, and engaging creatively with the genre of detective fiction, students read, write, discuss, and produce projects to think through the social and cultural issues surrounding mysteries and detectives. (CCC: fo8, fo9, f10, f11, f12, f13, f14)

### “The Rhetoric of Digital Media,” Advanced writing course focusing on electracy

This course pursues a two-prong inquiry into the rhetoric of new media. Students explore and create new media texts, culminating in a large-scale, collaborative project. (New texts and projects introduced regularly, prev: “Writing for New Media”)  
(CCC: so5, fo5, so6, fo6, so7, fo7, so8, fo8, fo9, f10, f11, s11, f12, s13, f13, s14, f14)

### “Zombies in Popular Media,” Media studies J-session course

This course explores the history, significance, and representation of the zombie as a figure in horror and fantasy texts. Students pursue an intense schedule, using critical theory to think about zombies as they appear in literature, comics, and films.  
(CCC: jo7, jo8, jo9, j10, j11, j12, j13, j14)

### “Honors Writing and Rhetoric 2” Honors writing course

Building on the core learning objectives for WR2, this course uses source texts to model experimental creative nonfiction writing blending place, history, and personal experience. Students create long-form essays springing from geographic spaces and historical research. (CCC: s10, s12, s13, s14)

## SELECTED HONORS

2013 PCA/ACA President's Award. "Given in recognition of Extraordinary Service to the Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association." 28 April 2013.

Invited to Deliver the Inaugural Honors Talk (see "Other Projects...").  
Columbia College Chicago. 8 October 2012.

2010 PCA/ACA President's Award. "Given in recognition of service and scholarly contribution to the fields of Popular Culture Studies and American Culture Studies." 4 October 2010.

University of Florida Presidential Fellowship, 1999

## RECENT PRESS

"Tuition pays for zombies?" by Walter E. Williams. *The Jackson Sun* article about liberal arts courses. 23 August 2014.  
<http://www.jacksonsun.com/story/opinion/columnists/2014/08/24/tuition-pays-zombies/14466787/>

JEOPARDY! Zombies in Popular Media used as a clue on quiz show *Jeopardy!*  
Week of July 7-11, 2014.

"Unusual College Courses: Zombies in Popular Media." By 'Word of Mouth.' Interview exploring unusual pedagogy on New Hampshire Public Radio. 7 May 2014.  
<http://nhpr.org/post/unusual-college-courses-zombies-popular-media>

"When Times are Tough, We Crave Scares." By Vince Garasole. CBS 2 Chicago. Television News Article about zombies and zombie culture in which I am included as an expert on the subject. 15 October 2013.  
<http://chicago.cbslocal.com/2013/10/31/when-times-are-tough-we-crave-scares/>

"'Walking Dead' stars, producer coming to Riverside Theater." By Piet Levy, *The Journal Sentinel*. Article about the popularity of zombies in which I am included as an expert on the subject. 13 February 2013.  
<http://www.jsonline.com/entertainment/tvradio/Walking-Dead-stars-producer-coming-to-Riverside-Theater-190918131.html>

"Meeting of Mystery Minds." By Craig Rice, *The Forest Park Review*. Review of theatrical performance "Meeting of the Minds XVIII." 6 November 2012.  
<http://www.forestparkreview.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=38&ArticleID=6927>

"Overnight America: Happy Halloween!" Jon Grayson's National radio show. Interviewed about zombies. 31 October 2012.  
<http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2012/10/31/overnight-america-october-31-2012-happy-halloween/>

"A Day in the Life of a Zombie Writer." By Christopher Borrelli. *Chicago Tribune* article about writer Scott Kenemore in which I comment on Kenemore's writing. 26 October 2012.  
[http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-10-26/entertainment/ct-ae-1028-borrelli-20121026\\_1\\_max-brooks-zombie-books-scott-kenemore](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-10-26/entertainment/ct-ae-1028-borrelli-20121026_1_max-brooks-zombie-books-scott-kenemore)

"Lecture highlights reality, legend of zombies." By Aly Gibson. *Leader Publications* article about my presentation at Southwestern Michigan College . 18 October 2012.  
<http://leaderpub.com/2012/10/18/lecture-highlights-reality-legend-of-zombies/>

## **SELECTED UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Columbia College Chicago	
Coordinator of Adv. & Prof. Writing	Summer 2014 - present.
Programs in Writing & Rhet Committee	Fall 2013 – present.
Faculty Development Grant Committee	Fall 2012 – Spring 2014.
National Popular Culture Association	
Executive Director/Operations	September 2013 – present.
Governing Board Member	March 2005 – April 2007; April 2008 – April 2012.
Copyright and Intellectual Prop Area chair	November 2010 – present.
Chair, Ray and Pat Browne Best Edited collection Award Committee	April 2009 – April 2011.
Midwest Popular Culture Association	
Past Executive Secretary	November 2012 – Present.
Executive Secretary	October 2008 – October 2012.
Mystery & Detective Fiction Area Chair	November 2009 – October 2012.
Board Member	October 2006 – October 2008.
<i>Journal of Popular Culture</i>	
Editorial Board Member	March 2006 – present.