

**Benjamin P. Myers**

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- EDUCATION: Ph.D., English, Washington University in St. Louis, 2003  
MA, English and American Literature, Washington University, 1999  
BA, *summa cum laude*, English, University of the Ozarks, 1998
- HONORS: Oklahoma State Poet Laureate, 2015-2016  
Tennessee Williams Scholar, Sewanee Writers' Conference, 2014  
2011 Oklahoma Book Award for Poetry, for *Elegy for Trains*  
Promising Teacher Award, Oklahoma Baptist University, 2009  
Washington University Arts and Sciences Dissertation Fellowship, 2002-2003  
Mellon Dissertation Seminar Fellowship, Washington University, 2002  
Cornelison English Graduate Prize, Washington University, 2001  
First Year Fellowship, Washington University, 1998-1999  
Byline Award for Poetry, 1996
- EMPLOYMENT: 2015-Present: Crouch-Mathis Professor of Literature and Director of the Honors Program, Oklahoma Baptist University  
2009-2015: Associate Professor of English, Oklahoma Baptist University  
2005-2009: Assistant Professor of English, Oklahoma Baptist University  
2003-2005: Assistant Professor of English, University of the Ozarks  
1999-2003: Graduate Assistant, Washington University
- BOOKS: *Tradition and Convention: Essays on Poetry, Culture, and Education*  
forthcoming from Belle Point Press, 2023  
*The Family Book of Martyrs* (poems) forthcoming from Lamar University Press, 2023.  
*A Poetics of Orthodoxy: Christian Truth as Aesthetic Foundation*, Cascade Books, 2020  
*Black Sunday: The Dustbowl Sonnets*, Lamar University Press, 2019  
*Lapse Americana* (poems), New York Quarterly Books, 2013

*Elegy for Trains* (poems), Village Books Press, 2010

RECENT POETRY

"Ignatius to the Romans" forthcoming in *First Things*

"Praying for Dogs" *The Christian Century*, summer 2022

"The Silence of Thomas Aquinas" *Ekstasis*, summer 2022

"Possum" *First Things*, summer 2022

"My Grandfather's Workshop" *Modern Age*, summer 2022

"Smith and Son" and "Sonnet in Which I Apologize by Comparing our Marriage to Truck" in *Trinity House Review*, Michaelmas 2020

"The Rainmaker" *Rattle*, Summer 2018

"The Cat in the Cistern" *The Texas Review*, Summer 2018

"Historical Markers" *First Things*, Summer 2018

"Bonhoeffer at the Abyssinian Baptist Church," "A Brief History of Boredom," "Voyager," and "My Father on the Diving Board" *The Christian Century*, 2017

"Berryman," "One-Horse, Oklahoma, Celebrates the 4<sup>th</sup> of July," and "My Daughter Asks about Some Bombs in Europe," *Cimarron Review*, Summer 2018

"The Dust Bowl Farmer's Wife Thinks of Leaving" and "The Dust Bowl Farmer's Wife Thinks of Hope," *Oklahoma Today*, November, 2018

"The Dust Bowl Farmer Lists his Assets" and "The Dust Bowl Farmer Discovers a Cow Down" *San Pedro River Review* Fall 2017

"The Fall" *Story South*, Fall 2016

"Field" *Image*, Fall 2016

"The Face of Christ" *Dappled Things*, Winter, 2016

"The Orphans" *Tupelo Quarterly*, October, 2015

"Spook House," forthcoming in *The New York Quarterly*

"Dust Pneumonia," *Measure*, Fall 2015

"Mr. Goodbody," "I am not Prince Hamlet," and "Waking New Year's Day" *Arcadia* Summer, 2015

"Grown-Ass Man," *Redivider* Summer, 2015

"What to Do After a Tornado," *The Yale Review*, October 2014

"After the Ice Storm," *The Saint Katherine Review*, Winter 2014

"Sacrament" and "How I Got Saved," forthcoming in *Books and Culture*

“A Funeral Begins at the Church Across the Street,” *The Christian Century*, June 2015

“What Peter Looked Like Stepping on Water,” *Books and Culture*, July/August 2014

“Works and Days,” *San Pedro River Review*, Spring 2014.

“After the Grass Fires,” *Poetry Northwest* Fall/Winter 2013-14

“Louis Bruns Recalls the Dust Bowl Cattle Slaughter, Guymon, OK, 1934,” 32 *Poems* Spring/Summer 2013

“The Angels of Juarez,” *Red Earth Review*, July 2013

“A Production of Hamlet” and “None of This,” *Salamander* Winter 2012

“Loss,” *Borderlands: Texas Poetry Review* Winter 2012

“French Press” *Christianity and Literature* Winter 2012

“Meandering River,” *Plainsongs* Winter 2012

“Agincourt,” *Nimrod* Spring 2012

“Odin” and “Trampoline,” *DMQ Review* Spring 2012

“Pastoral” *Iron Horse Literary Review* Spring 2012

“A Friend’s Divorce,” *Concho River Review* Spring 2012

“Wanderlust,” *San Pedro River Review* Spring 2012

“A Family,” *Tar River Poetry* Fall 2012

“Class Outside” and “The Muse,” *Rock and Sling* Fall 2012

“Li Po and Du Fu Jump Out of a Cake” *Devil’s Lake* Fall 2012

“Cedars” *Iron Horse Literary Review* Winter 2011

“Magic Chicken” *Measure* issue 1, 2011

POETRY IN ANTHOLOGIES:

“The Reverend Discusses Natural Theology” and “Field” in *Christian Poetry in American Since 1940*, ed. Micah Mattix and Sally Thomas. Paraclete Press, 2022

“The Muse” in *How to Write a Formal Poem* by Tania Runyan. TS Poetry Press, 2021.

“Class Outside” in *Final Exam: Poems about Teachers and their Students*, ed. By Barry Koops. Brooks Street Books, 2020

“Deep Fork” in *Oklahoma Poets and their Poems*. ed. Nathan Brown. Mezcalita Press 2014.

“On My 35<sup>th</sup> Birthday,” “The Circus Comes to Lincoln County,” and “To the Late Night Stars” in *Ain’t Nobody That Can Sing Like Me: New Oklahoma Writing*. ed. Jeanetta Calhoun Mish. Mongrel Empire Press, 2010.

“Road Work” and “Out of Work Blues” in *Travelin’ Music: A Poetic Tribute to Woody Guthrie*. ed. Dorothy Alexander. Village Books Press, 2010.

“A Small Town Mourns its First Tragedy” in *America at War*. ed. Lee Bennett Hopkins. McElderry Books, 2008.

#### ESSAYS & ARTICLES

“I’m Over the American Homer” *Front Porch Republic*, May 2021

“How the Liberal Arts College can Save Western Civilization” *The American Conservative* (online), November, 2020

“A Disgusting Poem about God’s Goodness” *The Gospel Coalition*, summer 2020

“The Fraud of Higher Education” *First Things* (web exclusive, March, 2019)

“Poetry in the Age of Superficiality” *The Imaginative Conservative*, 2018

“The Christian University: Steward of Western Civilization” *The Imaginative Conservative*, 2018.

“Hunting the Ghost of Berryman in Oklahoma” *Oklahoma Today*, January 2018

“Five Poets for People who Don’t Like Poetry” *Oklahoma Humanities*, 2017

“The Sentimentality Trap” *First Things*, November 2016

“The Green and Golden World: Spenser’s Rewriting of the Munster Plantation” *English Literary History* (ELH) 76 (2009): 473-490.

“Wordsworth’s Financial Sublime: Money and Meaning in Book VII of *The Prelude*” *South Central Review* 25.2 (2008): 80-90.

“Pro-War and Prothalamion: Queen, Colony, and Somatic Metaphor Among Spenser’s ‘Knights of the Maidenhead,’” *English Literary Renaissance* 37 (2007): 215-249.

“‘Such is the Face of Falsehood’: Spenserian Theodicy in Ireland,” *Studies in Philology* 103 (2006): 383-416.

#### REVIEWS & NOTES:

*Spoon River America* by Jason Stacy, *Front Porch Republic*, July 2021

*If I Were a Suicide Bomber* by Per Age Brandt, *World Literature Today*, November 2017

*40 Sonnets* by Don Paterson, *World Literature Today*, September 2017

*Someone Always in the Corner of My Eye* by Boseon Shim, *World Literature Today*, May-August 2017

*Don’t Try* by Nathan Brown and John Dee Graham, *World Literature Today*, March 2017

*Selected Later Poems* by C.K. Williams, *World Literature Today*, May 2016

*Broken Hierarchies* by Geoffrey Hill, *Christianity and Literature*, August 2015

*Epitaphs for the Journey* by Paul Mariani, *Books and Culture*, March/April 2014

*A Variorum Commentary on the Poems of John Milton* ed. by Jameela Lares and P.J. Kelmp, *The Sixteenth Century Journal*, Winter 2014

*Skyward* by Kazim Ali, *World Literature Today*, July 2013

*The Virtues of Poetry* by James Longenbach, *World Literature Today*, May 2013

*Writers Writing Dying* by C.K. Williams, *World Literature Today*, March 2013

*A Thousand Mornings* by Mary Oliver, *World Literature Today*, January 2013

*Stealing History* by Gerald Stern, *World Literature Today*, January 2013

*Karma Crisis* by Nathan Brown, *World Literature Today*, September 2012

*Poetic Amusement* by Raymond Hammond, *Word Riot*, July 2012

*Red Fields* by Jason Poudrier, *Rattle E-Reviews*, July 2012

*Clavics* by Geoffrey Hill, *World Literature Today*, January 2012

*Bruisers* by Brad McLelland, *Chiron Review*, Autumn 2011

“Malory’s Balin and Spenser’s Bourbon” *Discoveries: The Newsletter of the South Central Renaissance Conference* 27.1 (2010).

*The Sacred and Profane in English Renaissance Literature*. ed. Mary Papazian, *Sixteenth Century Journal* 41.3 (2010).

“Edmund Spenser’s *Faerie Queene* 6.10.1-4” *The Explicator* 66 (2008): 237-240.

“John Ashbery’s ‘Definition of Blue’ and ‘They Dream Only of America’” *The Explicator* 65.1 (2006): 47-50.

#### SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

“Poetry and the Permanent Things” Philadelphia Society, Dallas, TX, March 2022

“What has Beauty to Do with Truth” Generation Why Apologetics Conference, OBU, February 2022

Two Plenary Addresses, Teacher In-Service, the Academy of Classical Christian Studies, Oklahoma City, OK, August 2021

Keynote Address, Vermont Conference on Christianity and the Arts, November 2019.

“The Poetic Line: A Masterclass” Baylor University, April 2019

South-Central Modern Language Association, keynote address, Tulsa, OK, October 2017

Forefront Christian Arts Festival, keynote address, Rochester, NY, April 2017

Oklahoma Arts Conference, workshop and reading, October, 2016

Rose State Writers Conference, workshop and reading, September, 2016

Annual Oklahoma Heritage Lecture and Poetry Reading, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, September 2015

Workshop for Smokewood Young Writers Institute, Oklahoma City University, July 2015

Reading with Red Dirt MFA Program, Oklahoma City University, July, 2015

Possibilities of Poetry, program for the Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry, July, 2015

Poetry Reading and lecture, Dallas Baptist University, April, 2015

Reading for Big Pasture Reading Series, Cameron University, April, 2015

Panel Reading: "Three Christian Poets," Southwest Conference on Christianity and Literature, John Brown University, November, 2014.

Opening Night Reading, Neustadt Festival of International Literature, Norman, Oklahoma, October, 2014.

Workshop: "Paradox, Juxtaposition, and Total Right Turns," July residency of the Red Earth MFA in Creative Writing, Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma City, OK, July 2014.

"More Terrible Sonnets: Four Christian Poets on Faith and Doubt" a panel reading presented at the AWP annual conference, Seattle Washington, February 2014.

Plenary Reading, Windhover Writers Festival, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, February 2014.

Workshop: "Paradox, Juxtaposition, and Total Right Turns," Windhover Writers Festival, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, February 2014.

Keynote Address, Chandler High School, Thirtieth Annual Academic Letter Banquet, Chandler, OK, April 2013.

"Poetry at Rose" reading series at Rose State College, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, March 2013

Visiting Poet Reading, Cameron University, Lawton, Oklahoma, March 2013

Opening Night Reading, Neustadt Festival of International Literature, Norman, Oklahoma, September, 2012

Keynote Speaker, Oklahoma Museums Association Annual Fall Conference, Shawnee, OK, September, 2012.

Plenary Poetry Reading presented at the Southwest Regional Meeting of the Conference on Christianity and Literature, Abilene, TX, September 2011.

“Elegy for Trains and Other Poems” presented at the National Meeting of the Popular Culture Association, San Antonio, TX, April 2011.

“Poetry and Redemption” presented at the Southwest Regional Meeting Conference on Christianity and Literature, Oklahoma City, OK, October, 2010.

“The Creative Career” presented to the Tulsa Night Writers writing group, Tulsa, OK, July 2011.

“Spenser’s Fairy Land and the Fallen World” presented at the Southwest Regional Meeting of the Conference on Christianity and Literature, Houston, TX, October 2009

“‘After Astroffell’: *Colin Clouts Come Home Again as a Paradise Lost*” presented at Exploring the Renaissance 2009: An International Conference, Hot Springs, AR, March 2009

“Spenserian Pastoral and the Pathos of the Fall” presented at The Conference of the Sixteenth-Century Studies Society, St. Louis, MO, October 2008

“‘The Devil’s Banquet’: Milton and Puritan Anti-Luxury Polemic” presented at the Southwest Regional Meeting of the Conference on Christianity and Literature, Shawnee, OK, October 2008.

“‘Curious Taste’: Luxury and Chastity in *Paradise Lost*” presented at the Ninth Annual John Milton Symposium, London, England, July 2008.

“Courtesy, Colony, and the Pattern on Holiness in Book Six of the *Faerie Queene*” presented at Exploring the Renaissance: An International Conference, Kansas City, MO, March 2008.

“Two Approaches in Recent American Poetry: Wilbur and Collins” presented at the American College of Physicians George Ackerman Reading Retreat, Heber Springs, AR, April 2008.

“Spenser’s ‘Swan Song’: The Unity of the Prothalamion” presented at Exploring the Renaissance: An International Conference, San Antonio, TX, March 2007

“The Knight on the Frontier: Spenser and Pastoral in Ireland” presented to Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association Annual Conference, Jackson Hole, WY, June 2005

“Life of Pi” presented at the American College of Physicians George Ackerman Reading Retreat, Heber Springs, AR, April 2005

“‘Such is the Face of Falsehood’: Spenserian Theodicy in Ireland” presented to the University of the Ozarks faculty research forum, Clarksville, AR, February 2004

“Woolly Bully For Britain: Spenser and the Wildman in Ireland” presented to the American Conference of Irish Studies, Minneapolis, MN, June 2003

COURSES TAUGHT: The Medieval and Early-Modern World (Honors) Oklahoma Baptist University  
 The Classical World (Honors), Oklahoma Baptist University  
 Advanced Poetry Workshop, Oklahoma Baptist University  
 Intermediate Poetry Workshop, Oklahoma Baptist University  
 Introductory Poetry Workshop, Oklahoma Baptist University  
 Early British Literature, Oklahoma Baptist University  
 Postwar American Poetics, Oklahoma Baptist University  
 Techniques in Free Verse, Oklahoma Baptist University  
 Drama, Oklahoma Baptist University  
 Critical Approaches to the English Renaissance, Oklahoma Baptist University  
 Shakespeare, Oklahoma Baptist University  
 Milton, Oklahoma Baptist University  
 Readings in *Le Morte Darthur*, Oklahoma Baptist University  
 Readings in W.B. Yeats, Oklahoma Baptist University  
 Contemporary American Poetry, Oklahoma Baptist University  
 Survey of English Literature I, Oklahoma Baptist University  
 Survey of English Literature II, Oklahoma Baptist University  
 Colloquium: Beebop and the Beat Generation, Oklahoma Baptist University  
 Colloquium: King Arthur and the Idea of Britain, Oklahoma Baptist University  
 Advanced Creative Writing, Oklahoma Baptist University  
 Expository Writing, Oklahoma Baptist University  
 Composition and Classical Literature, Oklahoma Baptist University  
 World Civilization (Literature), Oklahoma Baptist University  
 Western Civilization (Literature) I & II, Oklahoma Baptist University  
 Western Civilization (History) I, Oklahoma Baptist University  
 Writer's Workshop: Meter and Form, Oklahoma Baptist University  
 Creative Writing: Lyric, University of the Ozarks  
 Form and Theory of Poetry, University of the Ozarks  
 World Literature II (Modern European), University of the Ozarks  
 World Literature I (Classics), University of the Ozarks  
 Introduction to Literature, University of the Ozarks  
 Composition II, University of the Ozarks  
 Composition I, University of the Ozarks  
 Chief English Writers, Washington University  
 Writing: Text and Tradition, Washington University  
 Advanced Composition, Washington University  
 Composition, Washington University

HONORS THESES DIRECTED Jonathan Wood, *From the Heart of Hell: The Miltonic Satan and Melville's Moby Dick*. Senior Honors Thesis, 2020.

Ashley Walker, *Being in Uncertainties: Questioning John Keats' Elimination of the Other through Negative Capability*. Senior Honors Thesis, 2008.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE: Criterion One Team Leader for HCL 4-year review, 2022-Present  
 Faculty Development Committee, 2021-Present  
 PS&S Committee, 2018-2021  
 Honors Committee, 2006-2007, 2010-2012, 2017-2020  
 Search Committee for Division Chair and Associate Dean, 2013  
 Search Committee for Dean of Libraries, 2013  
 Search Committee for Assistant Professor of History, 2013  
 Library Committee, Chair, 2012-Present  
 Panel Discussion, New Faculty Orientation, August 2012  
 Senior Faculty Status Task Force, 2011-2012  
 Faculty Development Committee, 2007-2011  
 Faculty Council Secretary, 2009-2010



Chair of Faculty Development Committee, 2008-2009  
Chair of Faculty Development subcommittee on activities, 2007-2008  
Campus Coordinator, Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellows Program  
Faculty Advisor, Phi Eta Sigma, 2007-2011  
Faculty Advisor, Sigma Tau Delta

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE : Coordinator, Western Civ. Program, 2011-2013, 218-Present  
Co-Curator, Visiting Writers Series, 2015-Present  
Organizer, Half Past Three, 2017  
Curator, English Department Reading Series, 2010-Present  
Chair, Hiring Committee for Assistant Professor of English, 2012

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE : Teacher, Oklahoma Arts Institute at Home Academy, 2020  
  
Poet Laureate Selection Committee, Oklahoma Arts Council, 2020  
  
External Reviewer for English Department, Arkansas Tech University, 2018  
  
Judge, Western Heritage Awards, Poetry Category, National Cowboy and  
Western Heritage Museum, 2014  
  
Judge, Oklahoma Youth Poet Laureate Competition, Oklahoma Literary Arts  
Association, 2014  
  
Program Chair, 2012 Southwest Regional Conference on Christianity and  
Literature  
  
Poetry Contest Judge, Oklahoma Writers' Federation, 2012  
  
Poetry Contest Judge, Norman Galaxy of Writers, 2011  
  
Judge, Conference on Christianity and literature Book of the Year award,  
  
Judge, Conference on Christianity and literature Book of the Year award,

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS Association of Writers and Writing Programs  
Conference on Christianity and Literature  
National Association of Scholars  
Association of Literary Scholars, Critics, and Writers  
Intercollegiate Studies Institute

REFERENCES Dr. Brent Newsom, Division Chair  
Division of Language and Literature  
Oklahoma Baptist University  
Shawnee, OK  
(405) 585-4241  
  
Dr. David Strain, Professor of English and Humanities and Chair,  
Division of Humanities and Fine Art  
University of the Ozarks  
Clarksville, AR  
(479) 979- 1340  
  
Anne Risch, Chair

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The Academy of Classical Christian Studies  
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