

JOSEPH M. THOMAS

Business Address:

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Education:

Ph.D., English, Rutgers University (New Brunswick), 1993
Dissertation: "Harnessing Proteus: Editing the Canon of Emerson's Poetry"
(directors – Richard Poirier, Myra Jehlen, G. Thomas Tanselle)
M.A., English, University of Texas (Austin), 1984
Thesis: "Woolf, Beckett, and the Compensations of Language"
B.A., *summa cum laude*, Philosophy, University of Texas (Austin), 1977

Academic Positions:

Dean of Undergraduate Studies
Albright College, Reading, PA 2007-
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs; Associate Dean for Graduate Studies
Caldwell College, Caldwell, NJ, 2003 – 2007
Assistant Dean for Research and Graduate Programs; Adjunct Associate Professor of English
Pace University, New York, NY, 2000-2003
Director, Graduate Program in English; Assistant Professor of English (tenured)
Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX, 1996-2000
Director, Technical Writing Program; Visiting Assistant Professor of English
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, 1993-1996
Pre-doctoral: Teaching Associate and Teaching Assistant (Rutgers, 1986-1991); Teaching Assistant (Texas, 1981-1983)

Selected College Service:

Albright College

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| Educational Policy Council | Enrollment Development Committee |
| Curriculum Committee | Strategic Planning Council |
| General Education Committee | Campus Life Council |
| Retention Policy Group | Assessment Committee |
| Search chair: Writing Program Director; Asst. Dean of Academic Affairs; Writing Center Coordinator; Asst. Director, Academic Learning Center | |

Caldwell College

President's Planning Council
Chair, Undergraduate Academic Committee
Chair, Graduate Academic Committee
Enrollment Management Task Force
Search chair: Assoc. Dean of Education
Curriculum Committee
Chairs' Committee
Adult Education Task Force
Student Services Task Force
General Education Assessment Committee
Program advisory boards: Business, Writing across the Curriculum, Business,
Educational Administration, Pastoral Ministry

Pace University

Sponsored Research Advisory Council
International Task Force
Teacher Education Council
Fulbright representative
Advisory Board, Pace Institute for Environmental and Regional Studies
Model United Nations/Pi Gamma Mu
Dean's Advisory Committee
Core Curriculum Committee
Chair, Graduate Committee

Sam Houston State University

University Graduate Committee
Arts & Sciences Graduate Committee
English Department Program Committee

Professional Service:

Review editor, *ESQ: Journal of the American Renaissance*, 1997-2007
Board member and Program Chair, Ralph Waldo Emerson Society, 2001-2007
Evaluator, Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 2006
Inspector, Committee on Scholarly Editions of the Modern Language Association, 2000-2001
Area Coordinator, National Association of African-American Studies, 1998-2001

Professional Associations:

American Conference of Academic Deans • Association for General and Liberal Studies •
Association on Higher Education and Disability • American Literature Association •
Association for Documentary Editing • Modern Language Association • Emerson Society

Grants, Fellowships and Awards:

Co-author of funded grants from NEH, Ford Foundation, NHPRC (National Archives), the
Delmas Foundation, and Pace University for The Harriet Jacobs Papers Project (P.I.
and General Editor, Jean Fagan Yellin), 2001-2003
Faculty Research Council grants, Sam Houston State University, 1997, 1998, 1999
Kahrl Fellowship in Houghton Library Manuscripts, Harvard University, 1996
David L. Kalstone Memorial Award, 1994 (distinguished Rutgers dissertation)
Runnerup, Richard Beale Davis Prize, 1993 (best essay published in *Early American Literature*)
Fellow, Center for the Critical Analysis of Contemporary Culture, Rutgers University, 1988-89
Pre-Doctoral Excellence Fellow, Rutgers University, 1985-1989
Teaching Excellence Nominee, University of Texas, 1982

Publications:

- Executive Editor, *The Harriet Jacobs Papers*, ed. Jean Fagan Yellin, 2 vols. (Chapel Hill: U. North Carolina Press, 2008).
- “Poverty and Power: Revisiting Emerson’s Poetics,” *Emerson Bicentennial Essays*, ed. Conrad Wright and Joel Myerson (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia / Massachusetts Historical Society, 2006), 213-246.
- “Emerson’s ‘The Poet,’” *American History Through Literature, 1820-1870*, ed. Janet Gabler-Hover and Robert D. Sattelmeyer (Detroit: Scribners, 2006), 891-898.
- “Ralph Waldo Emerson,” *The Literary Encyclopedia*, ed. Robert Clark (<<http://www.literaryencyclopedia.com>>, 2002).
- “The Library of America,” *The Literary Encyclopedia*, ed. Robert Clark (<<http://www.literaryencyclopedia.com>>, 2002). Translated in *Ecdotica* [U. of Bologna] 2 (2005), 106-109.
- “Ralph Waldo Emerson,” *The Encyclopedia of American Studies*, ed. George T. Kurian (NY: The American Studies Association / Grolier Press, 2001), 82-84.
- “The Post-Abolitionist’s Narrative: William Greenleaf Eliot’s *The Story of Archer Alexander*,” *New England Quarterly* 73:3 (September 2000), 463-481.
- “Late Emerson: Selected Poems and the ‘Emerson Factory,’” *ELH* 65:4 (1998), 971-994.
- “‘The Property of My Own Book’: Emerson and the Literary Marketplace,” *New England Quarterly*, 69:3 (1996), 406-425.
- “*Roughing It* In Style: The 1993 Iowa-California Twain Edition,” *Review*, vol. 17, ed. James O. Hogue (Charlottesville: U. Press of Virginia, 1995), 253-265.
- “Figures of Habit in William James,” *New England Quarterly*, 66:1 (1993), 3-26.
- “‘Peculiar Soil’: Mining the Early American Imagination,” *Early American Literature*, 27:3 (1992), 151-169.

Other Scholarship

- “*The Works of George Santayana*, volume 5 (MIT Press),” report commissioned by the Committee on Scholarly Editions of the Modern Language Association, 2001.
- “The Library of America: A Documentary Chronology of Its Background and Inception,” unpublished study commissioned by The Library of America, 1996.

Selected Presentations:

- “Closing the Loop on Standards 7 and 14” (co-presenter), Middle States Commission on Higher Education, Philadelphia, 2010.
- “Binding Proteus: Publishing Emerson’s Poetry,” Association for Documentary Editing annual panel at Modern Language Association, Chicago, 2007.
- “Edward Waldo Emerson and the Familial Canon of Emerson’s Poetry,” American Literature Association, Boston, 2007.
- “Harriet Jacobs: Activist, Author, American Slave,” Lifelong Learning Institute, Caldwell NJ, 2007.
- Conference co-chair and panel moderator, “The Legacies of Slavery and Sisterhood: The Life and Work of Harriet Jacobs,” New York, 2006.
- “Institutionalizing Harriet Jacobs,” American Literature Association, Cambridge, MA 2003.

- “Emerson, Pragmatism, and the Making of Poetry,” Emerson Bicentennial Conference, Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, 2003.
- “Mixed Messages: The Slave Narrative as Eclectic Performance,” National Association of African-American Studies, Houston, 2000.
- “Emerson’s Pragmatist Poetics,” Modern Language Association, Chicago, 1999.
- “The Post-Abolitionist’s Narrative,” Modern Language Association, Chicago, 1999.
- “Emerson, Jose Marti, and the Legacy of Reform,” Thoreau Society Annual Gathering, Concord, MA, 1999.
- “Reassessing Emerson and Jose Martí,” National Association of African-American Studies, Houston, 1999.
- “Editing History: The WPA’s Federal Writers Project and Texas Slave Narratives,” National Association of African-American Studies, Houston, 1998.
- “The Library of America as Fruit of the MLA,” South Central MLA, Dallas, 1997.
- “The ‘Emerson Factory’ and Emerson’s Poetry,” American Literature Association, Baltimore, 1997; abstracted in *Emerson Society Papers* 8:2 (Fall 1997), 3-4.
- “A Brahmin Slave Narrative: William Greenleaf Eliot’s *The Story of Archer Alexander*,” National Association of African-American Studies, Houston, TX, 1997.
- “William James and the Physiology of Modernism,” 20th-Century Literature and Science Conference, University of Louisville, 1988.

Courses Taught:

Graduate

American Literature, 1800-1860

American Literature, 1860-1900

Methods in Research and Bibliography

Graduate Thesis

Undergraduate

American Literature 1820-1860

American Literature Survey to 1865

American Literature, 1865 to Present

American Poetry and Poetics

American Novel

English Romantics

Harlem Renaissance

Literature of American Slavery

Honors Readings in American Literature

Perspectives on the Environment

Literary Masterpieces

Literature of the Western World

Poems, Plays, and Fictions

Short Story

Composition

Technical Writing

“Discovery” program

“Equal Opportunity Fund” program

Independent studies on slave narratives, Romanticism, Realism, Naturalism, “Beat” writers

Research Interests:

American Literature and American Studies, primarily of the 19th century

Emerson, Transcendentalism, and American literary pragmatism

African American literature and the slave narrative

Textual and editorial theory and practice; book history