

## JOSEPH M. THOMAS

### Business Address:

Office of Academic Affairs, Albright College  
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### Education:

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

### 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 Special 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

### Selected Committee Work:

#### Albright College

Campus Life Council  
Retention Task Force  
Assistant Dean search  
Assessment Director search  
*Ex officio:*  
Educational Policy Council  
Curriculum Development Committee  
Enrollment Development Committee  
Information Development Committee  
Undergraduate Research Committee  
General Education Assessment Committee  
Writing Coordinator Search

#### Caldwell College

President's Planning Council  
Enrollment Management Task Force  
Adult Education Task Force  
Student Services Task Force

Search chair, Associate Dean of Education Division

Calendar Committee

Program advisory boards: Writing Across the Curriculum, Business, Educational Administration, Pastoral Ministry

*Ex officio:*

Chair, Undergraduate Academic Foundations Committee

Chair, Graduate Academic Foundations Committee

Curriculum Committee

Chairs' Committee

### **Pace University**

Sponsored Research Advisory Council

International Task Force

Advisory Board, Pace Institute for Environmental and Regional Studies

Teacher Education Council

Fulbright representative and College contact for other external awards

Model United Nations/Pi Gamma Mu

*Ex officio:*

Dean's Advisory Committee (Chair's 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 • American Literature Association • Association for Documentary Editing • Association on Higher Education and Disability • Modern Language Association • Ralph Waldo Emerson Society

### **Grants, Fellowships and Awards:**

Executive Editor of *The Harriet Jacobs Papers* (General Editor, Jean Fagan Yellin), funded by grants from NEH, Ford Foundation, NHPRC (National Archives), Pace University, and the Delmas Foundation

Faculty Research Council grants, Sam Houston State University, 1997, 1998, 1999

Kahrl Fellowship in Houghton Library Literary 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, forthcoming 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.

## **In Progress**

- "Edward Emerson and the Emergence of Emerson's Poetry Canon "
- "Edmund Wilson's War: An Inside Narrative"
- "Becoming The Library of America"

## **Selected Presentations:**

- "Binding Proteus: Publishing Emerson's Poetry," Association for Documentary Editing annual panel at Modern Language Association, Chicago, 2007
- "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," Spires of Form: The 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 Methods in Research and Bibliography  
Graduate American Literature, 1860-1900  
Graduate American Literature, 1800-1860  
Graduate Thesis  
Literature of American Slavery (honors Learning Community)  
American Literature Survey to 1865  
American Poetry and Poetics  
American Literature 1820-1860  
American Literature, 1865 to Present  
Honors Readings in American Literature  
Studies in the American Novel  
The Harlem Renaissance  
English Romantics  
Literature of the Western World  
Literary Masterpieces  
Poems, Plays, and Fictions  
The Short Story  
Perspectives on the Environment  
Independent studies on slave narratives, Romanticism, Realism, Naturalism, "Beat" writers  
Technical Writing  
Composition, Honors Composition, Developmental Composition  
"Discovery" program for college-bound students  
"Equal Opportunity Fund" program courses for college-bound students  
Writing Center staff

### **Research Interests:**

American Literature and American Studies, primarily of the 19<sup>th</sup> century  
Emerson, Transcendentalism, and American literary pragmatism  
African American literature and the slave narrative  
Textual and editorial theory and practice; book history