**Joseph D. McDowell**

# EDUCATION

Ph.D. English, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1990  
Major field: Medieval literature  
Minor field: Interdisciplinary Medieval Studies

M.A., English, Ohio State University, 1984  
Qualifying examinations passed with Distinction

B.A., English, Ohio State University, 1982

# LANGUAGES

Read Well: Old English, Middle English, Latin, German, French, Medieval Welsh

Also Read: Old Norse, Hebrew, Spanish, Russian, Old and Modern Irish, Italian

**DISSERTATION**  “Figurative Language in Cynewulf: Defining Aspects of a Poetic Style.”

An assessment of the poet’s style through examination of verbal and aural patterns in the poet’s language.  
Directed by: Joseph S. Wittig

# EXPERIENCE

## Professor, Augustana College, 1991--\*

1. Department Chair, English, 2011—
2. Associate Department Chair, English, 2008-2011
3. Honors Director, 2009-2011
4. Division Chair, Languages and Literature, 2013—
5. *Literature for English students*: Surveys of British Literature--Medieval through 19th Century; Jonathan Swift; Medieval Genre and Society; Empire and Outsiders (Post-colonial Literature); Seminar: Modern Irish Drama; Seminar: James Joyce; Seminar: Arthur Through the Ages; Language and Society; Foundations (Visions and Visionaries); Honors 220; British Modernism; Linguistics
6. *Literature for General Education students*: Dimensions of Literature; Sacred and Profane; Writers, Thinkers, Believers; Modern Fiction; Shakespeare; Landscape and Literature in Ireland
7. *Writing*: College Writing; Professional Writing; Foundations (a team-taught First-year Honors program); Writing for Literature Majors
8. *Directed and Private Study in*:  
    Old English Language  
    Old and Modern Irish Language  
    Romantic and Victorian Survey  
    Chaucer  
    Joyce's *Ulysses* and *Finnegans Wake*

## Lecturer in English, UNC-CH, 1989-90

## Teaching Assistant, UNC-CH, 1984-1989

Taught Freshman Composition, Business Writing, Advanced Composition, Introduction to American Literature, and Introduction to Fiction

Substituted for professors in Honors Chaucer, Introduction to Old English (a Graduate course)

Was designated tutor to students of Old English

## Teaching Assistant, Ohio State University, 1983-1984

Taught Freshman Composition

## Communiversity Courses Taught since 1991

The Bible as Literature  
Gerard Manley Hopkins  
C.S. Lewis’s Space Trilogy  
Celtic Spirituality  
Irish Major Writers in Minor Keys (Joyce’s poetry and Yeat’s prose)  
Irish Playwrights  
Celtic Mythology in Arthurian Literature

**RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

*Figurative Language in Cynewulf: Defining Aspects of a Poetic Style*. Studies in Old Germanic Languages and Literatures, Ernst Ebbinghaus, ed. Bern and New York: Peter Lang, Inc., 1993.

"*Juliana* and the Figures of Rhetoric," *Papers on Language and Literature,* 28 no.1 (Winter 92), 1-18.

Edited Eddie Mabry’s *Balthasar Hubmaier’s Doctrine of the Church*. New York: University Press of America, 1994.

----- Eddie Mabry’s *Balthasar Hubmaier’s Understanding of Faith.* New York: University Press of America, 1998.

Assisted Professor Kim Vivian of Augustana College, et al*. McGraw-Hill Anthology of German Literature. Vol. I: Early Middle Ages to Storm and Stress*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1994.

Editorial assistant to Professor William Peck of University of North Carolina for his book *A Bonhoeffer Legacy*, 1987.

Research Assistant for Professor Beverly Taylor of University of North Carolina, *A Bibliography of 19th Century Arthurian Literature*, 1987.

*Quid Ingeldus Cum Ordinatorem?* An article for the *Augustana Magazine* on the usefulness of Internet for teachers at small liberal arts colleges

Contributor to the articles on St. Jerome in SASLC (Sources of Anglo-Saxon Literary Culture), written by an international group of scholars on a multi-year project to catalogue the availability and use of classical and patristic sources in pre-Conquest England. My share of the work entailed discovering source material in the poetry of “the Cynewulf school.” Eds. Frederick Biggs, Thomas Hill, Paul Szarmach. Binghamton: SUNY Center for Medieval and Early Renaissance Studies, 1990.

“Patchwork Celts,” a talk at the annual Naeseth dinner for Humanities faculty. The talk looked briefly at the Celtic foundations of some elements in Arthurian literature.

Pre-press peer reviews for publishers. I’ve reviewed one book on Old English poetry, one proposal for Sidney’s *Arcadia*, several literature anthologies for undergraduate non-majors, one on composition, and am now completing a report for a book on the qualities of prose style.

*Everything Irish*. Eight articles in a new encyclopedia of Ireland, mostly literary but including cultural and political articles as well. Moore, Goldsmith, Pirates, Finn McCool, Fenians, et alia.

*Panel Leader: Irish History*. ACIS 2000, held at St. Ambrose University.

“Landscape and Mythology in the Irish *Book of Invasions*.” A paper to be delivered at the Medieval Congress in May 2006.

*CURRENT PROJECTS*

A book, started but not finished during my sabbatical, called The Liminal Imagination.

A new anthology of Medieval literature with special attention to the literary exchanges among cultures that meet in Great Britain—Celtic, French, and English.

**TEACHING HONORS**

*Lecturer, Department of English, UNC-CH, 1989-90*

Position competitively awarded to advanced graduate students on the basis of teaching excellence and academic progress

*James R. Gaskin Award, 1987*

A Departmental award given by the faculty in recognition of excellence in teaching Freshman Composition

**ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Panelmember on Teaching and Computers at Augustana's Network Conference

Formerly coordinator for networked printer in Old Main (no longer necessary in new configuration)

Advisor: Working with 30 General Studies students and 20 Major advisees—the numbers change from year to year

Interviewer for 20 years for Presidential and Honor’s candidates

Committees:

1. Faculty Welfare  
    Subcommittee for Teaching Portfolios  
    Representative to Gender Equity and Awareness
2. Radio Board
3. Academic Computing
4. Greek-Faculty Liaison
5. Faculty Research (one term as chair)
6. Faculty Senate: all but two years
7. English Department committees for curricular reform, assessment, and departmental  
    review
8. Honors Committee, Director
9. General Education
10. C2—Committee Revision for the new Handbook, Chair
11. 6-35 Load reduction implementation committee

“The Perversion of C. S. Lewis” for a local Christian reading group led by Judy Ganyo and her husband of South Park Presbyterian Church in Rock Island. Fall, 1998.

“Outrageous Grace,” a talk given Jan. 7th, 1999 at Augustana Chapel.

“St. Patrick and Irish Culture” for the Augustana Secretaries Group.

Organizer for Augustana's First and Second Poetry Slams, Spring 92-93. Approximately 70 participants, about half of whom came from the community beyond Augustana. Covered by KUNI Public Radio and the local newspapers

Active member Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Rock Island. Founder of *LifeTeen*, a Catholic youth group for teens at St. Pius X.

Knights of Columbus

LittleLeague Coach, Valley League, Rock Island. Three years Vice President of League Board. Primarily responsible for raising $25,000 to build a Little League diamond on the West side of Rock Island at Edison Junior High, an area in need of community involvement. Also one of the team of men actually to build the diamond.

Basketball Coach, Jordan Catholic School 8th grade team in 1996-97. Second place in State.

Teaching (for the sixth year) at CommUniversity in February. My first year I taught “A Literary Approach to the Bible,” the second a novel by C. S. Lewis, the third Gerard Manley Hopkins, the fourth Modern appropriations of Celtic themes, last year a team-taught course on Celtic spirituality with Professor of Religion, Gary Mann and this year a co-taught course on 20th Century Irish writers with my wife, Sarah McDowell.

School Visitor and Advisor at Villa Montessori School in 1991 as the 3rd grade prepared for its Medieval Festival. Frequently a helper at Jordan and Alleman events, including classroom helper and basketball coach.

Plans now in progress to begin a Quad Cities chapter of Comhaltas, an Irish-American cultural institution, focusing on music, language, dance, and education. I’m working with Dolores Hill from Black Hawk College and some local people. Our first major event was a commemoration of the Irish Famine (1845-50) in November 1995 with traditional musician Mick Moloney.

Resource for many on this campus and in the Quad Cities who find their work leading to questions about Irish history, language, culture, literature, and current politics (Jim Winship, David Crowe, Barbara Herrarte, and many students; Fathers Gallagher, Driscoll, and Boyle at St. Pius X).

MEMBERSHIPS

International Society of Anglo-Saxonists

International Society for Irish Studies

American Conference of Irish Studies

American Conference of Celtic Studies

Modern Language Association

Medieval Academy of America

Early English Text Society

National Council of Teachers of English

Medieval Association of the Midwest