CONFERENCES AND SCHOLARLY SOCIETIES

American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA

“Last Rites for the Homer Dome.”
Popular Culture Association, St. Louis, MO

American Academy of Religion, Toronto, Canada.

“Mystique and Mystery: Confronting and Confounding Death at Wrigley Field.”
Popular Culture Association, New Orleans, LA

2008: “Religion in the Academy: Engaging the American University in a Postsecular Age.”
American Academy of Religion, Chicago, IL

“Chicago Cubs—The Faith and the Faithful.”
American Academy of Religion, Chicago, IL

4 Workshop Presentations on Effective Chairing of Departments.
Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences, San Diego

“No Bigger than Higger: A Re/Tribute to Jack Higgs.”
Sports Literature Association, Johnson City, TN

“Sermons from the Mound: Stadiums as Sanctuaries for Faith Night Fans.”
Popular Culture Association, San Francisco, CA

American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA

“Faith and Football”
American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA
Noted and reviewed at: http://www.poptheology.com/?p=230

“Theological Engagement between Mormons and Other Christians”
Sunstone Symposium, Salt Lake City, UT

“Touching the Bases in Baseball and Faith.”
Popular Culture Association, Boston, MA.

“Baseball and Religion.”
Society of American Baseball Research, Ted Williams Chapter, San Diego, CA.

2006: “Sermons from the Mound: Baseball and Spirituality.”
American Academy of Religion, Washington, DC.
“The Allure of the Game and the Alchemy of Fandom.”
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, San Diego, CA.

“Hallowed Ivy and Profane Lights: The Sacred Character of Wrigley Field.”
Popular Culture Association, Atlanta, GA.

Second International Conference on Sport and Religion, St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN.

“Safe at Home: Baseball and Religion in America.”
Popular Culture Association, San Diego, CA.

First International Conference on Sport and Religion, St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN.

“What So Proudly We Hailed: National Crises, the National Anthem, & the National Pastime.”
Hall of Fame Baseball Conference, Cooperstown, NY.

“Conjuring Curses and Supplicating Spirits: Baseball’s Culture of Superstitions.”
Popular Culture Association, San Antonio, TX.

Popular Culture Association, New Orleans, LA.

2002: “A Priest in the Congregation of Fifty Million: Baseball as Religion in America.”
American Academy of Religion, Toronto, Canada

“Dying to Win: America’s Grieving for Athletes.”
Popular Culture Association, Toronto, Canada.

Popular Culture Association, Philadelphia, PA.

1999: “After the Final Out: Rituals of Deconsecration for Baseball Stadia.”
Popular Culture Association, San Diego, CA.

Popular Culture Association, Orlando, FL.

“From Fascination to Faithfulness: Conversion Narratives of Baseball Fans.”
American Literature Association, San Diego, CA.

Midwest Conference on Christianity and Literature, keynote address, Wright State University, Dayton, OH.

“When the Roll Is Called Over Yonder.”
Narratives of American Religion Conference, in Honor of Martin E. Marty
The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.

Popular Culture Association, San Antonio, TX.

“The Padres: Pitchers as Priests.”

1995: “Spiritual Dimensions of Natural Recreations.”
Popular Culture Association, Philadelphia, PA.

1994: “From Scripture Cake to Fried Chicken: The Succulence of Southern Sacramentals.”
American Academy of Religion, Chicago, IL.
(Paper invited and prepared, but not delivered.)

“To Fly Away: The Mystical and Metaphysical Lure of Fly-Fishing.”
Popular Culture Association, Chicago, IL.

1993: “From the Nativity Star to the Shining Path: The Retablo Art of Nicario Jimenez.”
American Academy of Religion, Washington, DC.

“Fusing the Spirits: Baseball and Religion in The Brothers K.”
Popular Culture Association, New Orleans, LA.

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Washington, DC.

“From Season to Season: The Rhythm and Significance of America’s Sporting Calendar.”
Popular Culture Association, Louisville, KY.

American Academy of Religion, Kansas City, MO.

“Designing and Discovering Doubt: A Course Unifying Purpose and Pedagogy.”
American Academy of Religion, Kansas City, MO.

“When American Civil Religion Goes to Church.”
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Pittsburgh, PA.

“Simulating International Relations and Stimulating International Understanding.”
Second International Conference on Technology and Education, Troitsk, USSR.

“The Evasive Pennant as Eschatological Dream: True Belief in/and the Chicago Cubs.”
Popular Culture Association, San Antonio, TX.
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Virginia Beach, VA.

“Metaphoric Icons: Masking for Identity among Super Bowl Fans.”
International Visual Sociology Association, Whittier, CA.

“Exit Laughing: The Eschatological Vision of Field of Dreams.”
Popular Culture Association, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

With Donald W. Musser. “Marvin Molar and Duffy Deeter: Exemplars of Harry Crews’s Grotesque
Quest for Perfection.”
International Society for the Study of the Fantastic in the Arts, Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

Popular Culture Association, St. Louis, MO.

“Pedagogical Pairing: Connecting Courses across Disciplinary Divisions.” Association for Integrative
Studies, Sonoma, CA.

“Salvation as Success: The Charisma of the Crystal Cathedral.”
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Salt Lake City, UT.

“Curricular Coupling: Connecting Religion Courses with Other Disciplines.”
American Academy of Religion, Anaheim, CA.

1988: “The Super Bowl as the Center of American Pilgrimage.”
American Academy of Religion, Chicago, IL.

“Masking and Transformation: The Religious Significance of Masks for Super Bowl Fans.”
North American Society for the Sociology of Sport, Cincinnati, OH.

“The Final Four as Final Judgment: The Significance of the Collegiate Basketball Championship.”
American Culture Association, New Orleans, LA.

American Academy of Religion, Boston, MA.

“The Super Bowl as Pilgrimage Center.”
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Louisville, KY.

“The Liturgical Roots of Liberation Theology.”
Pacific Coast Council on Latin American Studies, Tempe, AZ.

“The Super Bowl as Center for Pilgrimage.”
Popular Culture Association, Montreal, Canada.

“The Super Bowl as Cultural Religion.”
California Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, Monterey, CA.
NEH Institute Evaluative Seminar, Atlanta, GA.

“The Sacramental Object as Aesthetic Object.”
American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA.

“Expressionism and Ultimate Reality: Paul Tillich’s Theology of Art.”
Centennial Celebration of Paul Tillich’s Birth, Hope College, Holland, MI.

“The Pitcher’s Mound as Cosmic Mountain: Baseball and Mythology.”
Popular Culture Association, Atlanta, GA.

“A Religious Orientation for Interpreting Literature.”
American Academy of Religion, Western Region, Santa Clara, CA.

American Academy of Religion, Chicago, IL.

1983: “Gar as the Sign for Coda: An Aesthetic and Theological Interpretation of Mark 16:8.”
American Academy of Religion, Dallas, TX.

UNIVERSITY LECTURES

2011: Stetson University
“Sports and Religion”

2009: Stetson University
Eric and Cynthia Garrison Lecture
“Consecrated Diamonds: Ballparks as Cathedrals”

2007: University of Washington
Founders Lecture
“Goal to Go: The Super Bowl as a Religious Festival”

Stetson University
“Theological Perspectives on Borders and Beyond”

2006: Stetson University
“Then Sings My Soul: Theological, Social, and Political Meaning in Protestant Hymns”

Georgetown College
“Taking Jabberwocky to the Ballpark: Spiritual Dimensions of Secular Expressions”
http://www.georgetowncollege.edu/ministry/reunion/speakers.htm
2005:  Mayo Clinic
   Spiritual Grand Rounds
   “The Spirituality of Sports: The Super Bowl as a Spiritual Experience”

2004:  The University of Chicago
   “The Wonder of Curses in Baseball’s Culture”
   “Bibfeldt’s Return Is Virtually Certain, or Scat about Franz and the Eschaton”

2003:  California State University, Fullerton
   “Sports as Popular Religion”

   The University of Chicago
   “Here I Cheer: Conversion Narratives of Baseball Fans”

2002:  Furman University
   “The Super Bowl as the Center of Pilgrimage”

   Harvard University
   “Here I Cheer: Baseball Affiliation Stories as Conversion Narratives”

   Georgia Southern University
   “The Super Bowl as the Center of Pilgrimage”

   Stetson University
   “The Super Bowl as the Center of Pilgrimage”

   Texas Christian University
   “The Super Bowl as the Center of Pilgrimage”

   Schreiner University
   The Cooper Lectures
   “Farce and Faith: Humor in Recent Southern Fiction”
   “The Super Bowl as the Center of Pilgrimage”

1997:  Brigham Young University
   “From Angels in the Outfield to Blue Devils in the Final Four: Sports and Religion in America.”

1996:  Brigham Young University
   “Being and the New Being: Tillich’s Christology.”
   “Paul Tillich: Boundary Breaking Theologian.”
   “In Doubt, toward Truth, through Faith: Paul Tillich’s Theology.”

1993:  The University of Chicago
   “Drinking Coffee as Sharing Sacrament.”

1991:  California Polytechnic University, Pomona
       The Ross-Tanaka Lecture in Philosophy and Religion
“Toward Horizons: Mapping Out the New Frontier between Science and Religion.”

1990: Emory University  
“Mythic Dimensions of Biblical Literature.”

1989: Wright State University  
“The Pitcher’s Mound as Cosmic Mountain: Baseball and Religion.”

Stetson University  
“Toward Miami: Pilgrims’ Progress in America’s Sporting Faith.”

Loma Linda University  
“The Super Bowl and Religious Pilgrimage.”

1986: Mercer University  
“The Metaphorical Metaphysics of Baseball.”

Stetson University  
“The Constructive Possibility of Doubt.”

Georgia State University  
“Symbols as the Substance of Culture.”

1984: University of California, Riverside  
“Rituals and Their Religious Significance.”

1976: The University of Chicago,  
“The Quest for the Historical Bibfeldt.”
Broadcast on NPR syndicated series, "Conversations at Chicago."