

CONFERENCES AND SCHOLARLY SOCIETIES

- 2010: "Taking Faith to the Field: Responses to the Sports and Religion Presentations."
American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA
- "Last Rites for the Homer Dome."
Popular Culture Association, St. Louis, MO
- 2009: "Wrestling the Icy Mysteries of the Divine: Responses to the Sports and Religion Presentations."
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
- "None 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
- 2007: "The Protestant-Mormon Dialogue"
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.
- 2005: "The Super Bowl as American Pilgrimage." Keynote address.
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.
- 2004: "Playing and Praying, Sport and Spirit: The Forms and Functions of Prayer in Sports."
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.
- 2003: "Religious Exercise: Baseball and Faith for the House of David."
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.
- 2001: "On Pitch: The National Anthem for the National Pastime."
Popular Culture Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- 1999: "After the Final Out: Rituals of Deconsecration for Baseball Stadia."
Popular Culture Association, San Diego, CA.
- 1998: "Players and Prayers: Devotion and Devotionals for Players and Fans."
Popular Culture Association, Orlando, FL.
- "From Fascination to Faithfulness: Conversion Narratives of Baseball Fans."
American Literature Association, San Diego, CA.
- "Laughing at Last: Apocalyptic Themes in the Works of W. P. Kinsella."
Mideast 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.

- 1997: "From Faithful Devotion to Fanatic Obsession: A Theological Analysis of Sports Fans' Allegiance."
Popular Culture Association, San Antonio, TX.
- "The Padres: Pitchers as Priests."
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, San Diego, CA.
- 1995: "Spiritual Dimensions of Natural Recreations."
Popular Culture Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- 1994: "From Scripture Cake to Fried Chicken: The Succulence of Southern Sacramentals."
Pre-Conference Seminar of the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*.
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.
- 1992: "Purple Perms, Pig Heads, and Body Barrels: The Religious Significance of Masks for Super Bowl Fans."
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.
- 1991: "Postmodern Perfection: The Grotesque Body in the Fiction of Harry Crews."
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.

- 1990: "Liberation Theology and Oppressed People: Peasant Practices, Voices, and Visions."
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.
- 1989: "Stealing Home: Playing Baseball in Fantasy and Fun."
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.
- 1987: "Entertaining Religion: Toward a Pedagogy of Fun for Religious Studies."
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.

1986: "Climbing Fences and Fording Literary Streams: Imaginative Teaching in Religious Studies."
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.

1984: With Kathleen Cordes. "Creation and Re-Creation: The Mythos of the Meso Ball Game."
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."