

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Conferences and Scholarly Societies**

- 2004: "Playing and Praying, Sport and Spirit: The Forms and Functions of Prayer in Sports." Sport and Religion Conference, St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN.  
(forthcoming)
- "Conjuring Curses and Supplicating Spirits: Baseball's Culture of Superstitions."  
Popular Culture Association, San Antonio, TX. (forthcoming)
- 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."  
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.
- 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.
- 1976: "The Quest for the Historical Bibfeldt."  
The University of Chicago, The Divinity School, and broadcast nationally on syndicated series, "Conversations at Chicago."