

## 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."