David Blake

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Academic Employment

Professor of English, The College of New Jersey, July 2009 - present Interim Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Planning, July 2018-June 2019 Associate Professor of English, The College of New Jersey, July 2004 – June 2009 Assistant Professor of English, The College of New Jersey, August 1999-July 2004 Assistant Professor of English, U.S. Air Force Academy, August 1995-July 1999 English Teacher, Deerfield Academy, Deerfield, MA, 1985-1988

Education

1994 Ph.D. English and American Literature, Washington University in St. Louis 1989 M.A. English and American Literature, Washington University in St. Louis 1986 Bread Loaf School of English, Middlebury College 1985 B.A. in English and History (Honors), Colgate University

Recent Teaching History

Seminars and Upper-Level Courses

Graduate Seminar on "Kindred Time" in U.S. Literature, 1800-1860; Graduate Seminar on Poetry; Seminar on Melville and Disability; Seminar on Literature and Publicity; Seminar on Literary Theory and the Long Poem; Seminar on Whitman and the 19th Century; Workshop in Creative Non-Fiction; U.S. Literature Since 1900; 19th-Century American Writing; American Literature and the Culture of Celebrity; Modern American Poetry; Literature, Film, and the Art of American Politics; The Literature of Fame: From Antiquity to the Enlightenment.

Surveys and Introductory Courses

First Year Seminar: Global Political Novels; First Year Seminar: Three American Poets: Whitman, Dickinson, and Hughes; First Year Seminar: Revenge, Justice, and *Moby-Dick*; First Year Seminar: The Worlds of *Moby-Dick*; Survey of American Literature, 1620-1865; Survey of American Literature, 1865-1990; Approaches to Literature

Scholarly Publications

Books

Liking Ike: Eisenhower, Advertising, and the Rise of Celebrity Politics (Oxford University Press, 2016)

>Winner, 2017 PROSE award for Media & Cultural Studies, Association of American Publishers

Walt Whitman and the Culture of American Celebrity (Yale University Press, 2006)

Walt Whitman, Where the Future Becomes Present, Co-editor with Michael Robertson, (University of Iowa Press, 2008). Contributors: Benjamin Barber, Wai Chee Dimock, Ed Folsom, Kirsten Silva Gruesz, David Lehman, James Longenbach, Meredith L. McGill, Angela Miller, Kenneth M. Price, and Michael Warner

Articles and Book Chapters

- "Keep thy finger on it": The Prosthetics of Measurement in *Moby-Dick*," *Textual Practice* (UK), August 2021: DOI: 10.1080/0950236X.2021.1968179
- "Walt Whitman, In and Out of the American Renaissance," *Cambridge Companion to the Literature of the American Renaissance*, ed. Christopher Phillips (New York: Cambridge UP, 2018): 175-188.
- "Walt Whitman, Performance and Celebrity," *Walt Whitman in Context*, ed. Edward Whitley and Joanna Levin, (New York: Cambridge UP, 2018): 117-126.
- "Among the English Worthies: Longfellow and the Campaign for Poets' Corner," *Critical Survey* (UK), Winter 2015: 82-104.
- "When Readers Become Fans: Nineteenth-Century American Poetry as a Fan Activity," *American Studies*, Spring 2012: 99-122.
- "Whitman's Ecclesiastes: The 1860 'Leaves of Grass' Cluster," *Huntington Library Quarterly*, December 2010: 613-627.
- "Los Angeles, 1960: John F. Kennedy and Whitman's Ship of Democracy," *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review*, 28 (2010), 60-64.
- "Reading Whitman, Growing Up Rock 'n' Roll," *Virginia Quarterly Review*, Spring 2005: 260-273. Reprinted in *Democracy in the Poetry of Walt Whitman*, ed. Thomas Riggs, (Greenhaven Press, 2012)
- "Hollywood, Impersonation, and Presidential Celebrity in the 1990s" in *Hollywood's White House: The American Presidency in Film and History*. Eds. Peter C. Rollins and John E. O'Connor. (Lexington: UP of Kentucky, 2003): 320-332.
- "'The Man That Was Used Up': Edgar Allan Poe and the Ends of Captivity" *Nineteenth-Century Literature*, December 2002: 323-349.
- "Campbell McGrath and the Spectacle Society," *Michigan Quarterly Review*, Spring 2002: 249-272.
- "Public Dreams: Berryman, Confession, and the Culture of Celebrity," *American Literary History*, Winter 2001: 716-736.

- "Exile and the Republic: Thomas McGrath and the Legacy of Jefferson's America," *Prospects: An Annual Journal of American Cultural Studies*, 1998: 23-38.
- "Richard Wilbur and the Poetry of World War II." War, Literature, and the Arts: An International Journal of the Humanities, Spring/Summer 1998: 1-5.
- "Redeeming Captivity: The Negative Revolution of Blake's Visions of the Daughters of Albion," co-written with Elliott Gruner. Symbiosis: A Journal of Anglo-American Literary Relations, Spring 1997: 21-34.
- "'Posterity Must Judge': Private and Public Discourse in the *Adams-Jefferson Letters*," *Arizona Quarterly*, Winter 1995: 1-30. Reprinted in *Nineteenth-Century Literature Criticism*, ed. Larry Trudeau (Gale Press, 2003).
- "The Politics of Commercial Language in Dryden's *Annus Mirabilis*," *Criticism: A Quarterly Journal of Literature and the Arts*, Summer 1992: 327-348.

Works in Progress

The Prosthetic Arts of *Moby-Dick* – book manuscript about wounding, retribution, and Islam in Melville's iconic novel. Under Review

Commentary and Creative Writing

- "Speech is the twin of my vision," Every Atom commentary on 200th Anniversary of Walt Whitman's Birth, *North American Review*, October 4, 2019.
- "Addicted to Fame: From the Greeks to Lady Gaga," *Humanities: The Magazine of the National Endowment for the Humanities*, Fall 2017: 28-31.
- "Herman Melville's April Fool, *The Confidence-Man*," *The Huffington Post*, April 1, 2017.
- "The Carnival Campaign: How a 1968 Short Story Foresaw 2016," *The Chronicle Review*, November 4, 2016.
- "This Presidential Birthday Party Was Worth 'Dozens of Speeches," *Time* magazine, online, October 12, 2016.
- "Phyllis Schlafly and the Kingmakers," The Huffington Post, September 11, 2016.
- "The Not-So Glamorous Origins of American Celebrity Politics," Oxford UP Blog, August 25, 2016.
- Historians on Donald Trump (Facebook video), July 2016.
- "The Broadway Song That Nominated a President," Oxford UP Blog, June 2016.
- "On Writing and Rearing," *Papa, PhD: Essays on Fatherhood by Men in the Academy*, ed. Mary Ruth Marrotte, Paige M. Reynolds, and Ralph Savarese, (New Brunswick: Rutgers UP, 2010).
- "In the Father's House: Honor and Identity in the Candidates' Memoirs," *The Chronicle Review*, September 19, 2008.
- "McCain and My Captive Cadets," *The Huffington Post*, September 10, 2008.
- "Bronze, Granite, Grief," *Secondary Communities*, ed. John Reardon (New York: Project Project, 2010).

- "A Prophetic Face in the Crowd," *TomPaine.com*, November 1, 2007 reproduced by over 100 websites, including History News Network (George Mason University), and Libertas (University of Birmingham, UK) as featured Weekly Analysis for November 19-26, 2007.
- "A Tell-Tale Heart," *Epoch* (50:1), July 2001: 111-125.
- "11 Games for the End of the 20th Century," *Fiction International* (31), Spring 1999: 71-73.

Selected Talks, Lectures, Book Events (*invited)

- "Hives of Subtlety: Babo, Fedallah, and Melville's Islamicized Gaze," International Herman Melville Conference, Université Paris Cité, June 28, 2022
- "Keep thy finger on it": The Prosthetics of Measurement in *Moby-Dick*," Melville's Measurements Conference, Universities of Lille and Denis Diderot, Paris, October 17, 2019.
- "'Pirates of the Sphere': Geo-Politics and Environmental Violence in *Moby-Dick*," International Herman Melville Conference, New York University, June 18, 2019.
- "Melville, Trump, and the Politics of Aggrievement," American Literature Association Conference, San Francisco, CA, May 26, 2018.
- "The Classical Genealogy of Pop Culture Celebrity," PCA-ACA Conference, San Diego, CA, April 15, 2017.
- "Homing the Eisenhowers: How Mad Men Sold Presidential Domesticity in the 1950s," American Studies Association Conference, Denver, CO, November 17, 2016.
- *"Liking Ike: Eisenhower, Advertising, and the Rise of Celebrity Politics," National Museum of American History, The Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, October 25, 2016; Rutgers University, October 24, 2017; Colgate University, November 13, 2017.
- "Robert Coover and the Transformative Power of Spectacle," American Political Science Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA, September 2, 2016.
- *"Eisenhower, The Glamour Candidate." Seminar Presentation, Department of American and Canadian Studies, University of Nottingham, England, July 7, 2014.
- *"Among the English Worthies: Longfellow and the Campaign for Poets' Corner,"

 Keynote Address, Celebrity Encounters: Transatlantic Fame in Nineteenth-Century
 Britain and America, University of Portsmouth, England, July 4-5, 2014.
- "Teaching *Moby-Dick* after 9/11," International Herman Melville Society, George Washington University, Washington, DC, June 5, 2013.
- *"Walt Whitman: An American Icon," Panel Discussion, Samuel L. Paley Library, Temple University, Philadelphia, April 18, 2013.
- *"Demagogues in Denim: Elia Kazan, Celebrity Politics, and *A Face in the Crowd* (1957)", Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, English Department, Washington University in St. Louis, March 29, 2013.
- *"Politics, Celebrity, and Mad Men in the Age of Eisenhower," Sterling Library, Yale University, March 26, 2013.
- *"Walt Whitman's New York," Panel Discussion, The Tenement Museum, New York, April 26, 2012.

- "Understanding Ike Day: From the Archives of Politics and Celebrity," On Archives! Wisconsin Center for Film and Theater Research, July 7, 2010.
- *"Obama, King, and Separation as our Political Sin," Obama's First One Hundred Days Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, New Jersey State Capitol, Trenton, January 17, 2009.
- *"Autobiography and the 2008 Presidential Campaign," The Lawrenceville School, October 23, 2008.
- "Dan Rice and the Rise of Political Celebrity," Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference, Miami, April 1-4, 2008.
- "Fan Culture and 19th-Century American Poetry," American Studies Association, Philadelphia, October 11-14, 2007.
- "Total Recall: Narrative and Legibility in Schwarzenegger's Gubernatorial Campaigns," Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, December 29, 2006.
- *"Whitman, New York and the Rise of American Celebrity," Book Talk and Signing, South Street Seaport Museum (November 16, 2006); The Raconteur Bookstore (Metuchen, NJ), (May 12, 2007).
- *"Whitman, Publicity, and the Culture of American Celebrity," Hunter College-CUNY (October 16, 2007); Colgate University (February 6, 2007); SUNY-Albany (November 2, 3006).
- "Chromatic Tempests of Applause: What Walt Whitman Learned from Edwin Forrest," Edwin Forrest's New York: A Bicentennial Conference, College of Mount Saint Vincent, November 4, 2006.
- *"Longfellow, Whitman, and the Character of Fame," The Longfellow Lecture, Maine Historical Society, Portland, October 26, 2006.
- "Whitman and Celebrity," Celebrating Walt Whitman, Université de Paris VII, July 4, 2005.

Book Reviews and Media Appearances

- Liking Ike: National Memo (July 30, 2016), Time (October 13, 2016), The American Conservative (November 8, 2016), Choice, Reviews in History (May 18, 2017), C-SPAN Book TV/ Cities Tour (May 20, 2017), VogelinView (June 14, 2017), American Historical Review (October 3, 2017), History: The Journal of the Historical Association (October 27, 2017), Journal of American History (December 1, 2017), Reviews in American History (December 2017), English Historical Review (December 20, 2017), Presidential Studies Quarterly (January 24, 2018), Bloomberg Opinion (May 8, 2018), Advertising & Society, "Author Meets Critics" roundtable discussion (June 2018), "Story of Cool," two episodes, MSNBC documentary (July 1, 2018 and July 8, 2018), "Race for the White House, 1952" CNN documentary (December 20, 2020), "The Seventy Year Itch," The Economist (October 1, 2022)
- Walt Whitman and the Culture of American Celebrity: Chronicle of Higher Education (October 26, 2006), Library Journal (November 1, 2006), Publishers Weekly (November 6, 2006), Newsday (November 12, 2006), The Oscholars.com (May 2007), Choice (June 2007), Walt Whitman Quarterly Review (Summer 2007), American Studies (Summer 2007), American Literature (September 2008),

- "Exposure" (25-minute radio discussion produced by U.S. Embassy, Mexico, November 13, 2008), *Journal of American History* (May 2009).
- Walt Whitman: "Walt Whitman: Song of Myself," (public radio documentary produced by Curtis Fox). Premiered on WNYC in November 2006 and distributed to NPR stations nationwide. "Forget the Book. Have You Read this Irresistible Story on Blurbs?" NPR.org (September 27, 2015); 200th Anniversary of Walt Whitman's Birth: "Radio Times," WHYY, Philadelphia, May 31, 2019.
- Politics and Celebrity: *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* (Sept 28, 2004), Scripps Howard news service (May-June 2004), WNET/ Channel 13 television program "New York Voices" (October 29, 2004), *Congressional Quarterly Researcher* (March 18, 2005), *Baltimore Sun* (April 2, 2007), Forbes.com (June 26, 2007), *Philadelphia Inquirer* (February 24, 2009), *Congressional Quarterly Researcher* (May 11, 2012), *CQ Roll Call* (June 23, 2012).
- "Reading Whitman, Growing Up Rock 'n' Roll": Washington Post (April 12, 2005) article reprinted in Chicago Tribune and Los Angeles Times (April 20, 2005). Chronicle of Higher Education (April 26, 2005).
- Student Discovery of Whitman Interview: *USA Today*, *Newsday*, *Boston Globe*, *ABC News*, AP wire story picked up by 100+ national and international press outlets (all May 6-9, 2005), *Chronicle of Higher Education* (May 20, 2005).
- The College of New Jersey: *New York Times* (June 5, 2005), *USA Today* (March 1, 2010). Walt Whitman Symposium: *Chronicle of Higher Education* (May 20, 2005), *The Trenton Times* (June 5, 2005).

Academic Leadership and Service, The College of New Jersey

Chair, Strategy Working Group, August 2021-May 2022

Leader of special 15-member committee charged with establishing a new strategy
framework for the college. Committee included four trustees, four faculty
members, two staff members, one student, and the vice presidents for Academic
Affairs, Buildings and Grounds, Budget and Finance, and Student Life.
Responsible for weekly meetings with consulting group, Tyton Partners, regular
communication with the campus (focus groups, listening sessions, presentations,
emails), and advising president on path forward.

Co-Chair, Committee on Strategic Planning and Priorities, September 2020-May 2022

• Along with provost, led 14-member governance committee charged with the oversight of strategic planning at the college. Responsible for consulting with stakeholders, monitoring accomplishments, and evaluating strategic needs and priorities of the college's mission.

Chair, Provost Search Committee, September 2019-March 2020

• Led 18-person committee charged with reviewing and interviewing candidates for Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Responsible for

communicating with campus stakeholders, hiring and collaborating with Isaacson, Miller search consultants, soliciting and synthesizing campus feedback, and communicating with semi-finalist and finalist candidates.

Interim Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Planning, July 2018-June 2019

Key Responsibilities

- Support of Deans As representative of provost, aided and advised deans on variety of academic operations. Participated in Deans Council discussions about academic issues of inter-school importance (eg, admissions, scholarly support, general education, academic policy).
- Faculty Development Oversaw research grants, endowed awards, and career development funding for ~360 faculty members; served as provost's representative on Committee on Faculty Affairs.
- Faculty Personnel Processes Served as resource for deans, department chairs,
 AFT union president, and faculty on reappointment, tenure, promotion, and five
 year review applications; worked with IT to improve workflow and troubleshoot
 electronic submission of faculty materials; trained faculty to use electronic
 submission system; participated in personnel decisions as needed.
- Chair Development Created professional development workshops, including new chair orientation.
- Faculty Hiring Interviewed 54 candidates for tenure-track faculty positions in fields ranging from Art and Political Science to Mathematics and Chemistry.
- Supervision of Key Units in Academic Affairs -- Oversaw the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Office of Grants and Sponsored Research, Office of Instructional Design, Office of Graduate and Advancing Education, and Sustainable New Jersey (a non-profit research and community outreach program housed at TCNJ). Oversight included approving budgets (totaling over \$1.8 million), reviewing staff evaluations, setting unit goals and priorities, and writing annual evaluations of directors and executive directors.
- Program Review Tracked and participated in external review of departments and programs.
- Administrative Support Advised and advanced the goals of Provost/ Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Key Accomplishments

- Supervised external review and re-organization of Office of Grants and Sponsored Research to create new focus on serving faculty and staff applicants and improve the post-awards process.
- Represented TCNJ at the creation of the Presidential Scholars Program (PSP), a partnership between Princeton University, Rutgers University, and TCNJ to encourage students from underrepresented groups to seek a PhD, join the professoriate, and create a more diverse faculty.

- Spotlighted issues of equity in academic departments, helping chairs develop ways to create more equitable service loads among their faculty.
- In coordination with campus governance system, oversaw the creation and approval of a new rubric for evaluating applications for faculty research funds (122 course releases) with the goal of creating a more equitable competition. Supervised and wrote the analysis of how the awards had been determined and distributed historically.
- Partnered with Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs on distributing Engagement Mini-Grants for projects involving collaboration between Academic and Student Affairs.

Member, Committee on Strategic Plans and Priorities, September 2015-May 2017, July 2020-present

- Participated in the writing of TCNJ's 2021: Bolder, Better, Brighter strategic plan.
- Helped devise RFP and rubric for strategic initiative and signature experience grants; participated in review of proposals.
- Advised Cabinet members on meeting goals and objectives in Strategic Plan.

Member, Faculty Senate Executive Board, September 2013-May 2017

- Participated in monthly, agenda-setting meetings.
- Participated in search for numerous administrative positions, including Executive Vice President for Student Affairs, Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Planning, and Associate Provost for Curriculum and Liberal Learning.
- Chaired Faculty Senate Committee for Mildred Dahne Award for highest achieving academic department, 2016, 2017.

Faculty Representative, Board of Trustees, July 2013-July 2015

 As one of two elected faculty representatives, provided critical advice and perspective to the Academic Affairs, College Advancement, and Buildings and Grounds committees.

Chair, English Department, July 2010-June 2013

- Led department of 27 full-time faculty members and over 600 students in three different majors (English Liberal Arts, English Secondary Education, Journalism and Professional Writing), one minor (Creative Writing), and one graduate degree (MA, English).
- Guided department through the writing of three sets of Disciplinary Guidelines (Literature, Journalism, and Creative Writing Faculty).
- Oversaw three successful promotions cases and the hiring of two faculty members
- Supervised the literature and creative writing faculty in the writing of a self-study, organized the visit of an external reviewer, and spearheaded the writing of a strategic plan.

- In response to student concerns identified in the external review, led the department through the creation of common expectations, common learning goals, and common assessments in each of the three foundation courses.
- Established English Student Advisory Council to increase student feedback in departmental governance.
- At invitation of Vice Provost, participated in New Chairs Orientation 2014, 2015.

Member, Provost Search Committee, September 2011-December 2012

• Participated in three rounds of search process, working with consultants and committee members (trustees, administrators, faculty, staff, and students) to identify potential candidates.

Chair, President's Task Force on the Teacher-Scholar, Fall 2005-Spring 2006

- Led campus-wide discussion about the Teacher-Scholar model at TCNJ, receiving input from Faculty, Staff, and Student Senates and other stakeholder groups as college moved from "scholarship in service of teaching" to "Teacher-Scholar."
- Oversaw the writing of report that established underlying principles for teacherscholars and offered recommendations for implementing this model at TCNJ.

Co-Director, Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*: The Sesquicentennial Symposium, Fall 2003 – Fall 2005

• Organized major national conference to celebrate 150th anniversary of The College of New Jersey and the 1855 edition of Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* that included academic symposium, musical performance, theatrical performance, poetry readings, and professional development programs for tri-state secondary school teachers. Partially funded by grant from NJ Council for the Humanities.

Selected Additional Service

Interim Coordinator, US Studies Minor, 2015-2016

Member, Teacher Education Program Council, (replacement position), Spring 2015 Member, Committee on Academic Programs, (replacement position), Spring 2014 Faculty Mentor, Men's and Women's Tennis Team, 2013-2019

Chair, Postcolonial Literature Search Committee, September 2012-February 2013 Member, Digital Journalism Search Committee, Fall 2011

Coordinator, Programming Events for TCNJ's Interdisciplinary Exploration of "The Family," Fall 2009-Spring 2010

Founder and Coordinator, Close Readings Lecture Series, Fall 2007-May 2013 Organizer, A Program of Jewish Fiction with Elisa Albert and Edward Schwarzschild October 18, 2007, a CCIC event

Member, Ad Hoc Faculty Committee on External Reviews, Summer-Fall 2007 Member, Committee on Cultural and Intellectual Community (CCIC), January 2006-Spring 2010 Vice Chair, Committee on Faculty Affairs, Fall 2002-Spring 2003

Member, English Department Personnel Committee, Fall 2004-Spring 2013, Fall 2015 Spring 2017, Fall 2019-Spring 2021

Member, President's Task Force on Strategic Positioning, Fall 2002-Spring 2003

Member, Mass Communications Search Committee, Fall-Spring 2002-03

Member, Committee on Faculty Affairs, Fall 2001-Spring 2004

Member, Steering Committee, Project on the United States, Fall 2001-Spring 2002

Member, Search Committee, Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States position, February-March 2000

Selected Grants and Academic Honors

TCNJ Faculty Senate Teacher-Scholar Colloquium Honoree, November 3, 2016 National Endowment of the Humanities "Enduring Questions" -- \$21,900 grant to develop course on the meaning of fame from Antiquity to the Enlightenment, July 2015-December 2016

New Jersey Council for the Humanities

Primary Investigator for \$10,000 grant in support of *Walt Whitman's* Leaves of Grass: *The Sesquicentennial Symposium*, September 22-24, 2005

The College of New Jersey

SOSA release time, 2000-2022 academic years (sabbatical years excepted)

U.S. Air Force Academy

Winner, Outstanding Academy Educator Award, 1997-1998

Selected Professional Service

Member, Scholarly Advisory Board, Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Referee, Princeton University Press, University of North Carolina Press, Oxford University Press, University of Pennsylvania Press, Yale University Press, University of Iowa Press, Broadview Press, PMLA, English, Nineteenth-Century Literature, Celebrity Studies, The Review of Politics

Book Reviews, Nineteenth-Century Literature, Philadelphia Inquirer, Journal of American Studies, War, Literature, and the Arts

Seminar Leader, Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History: The Cold War, Dover School District, NJ, February 2017; The Vietnam War, Randolph School District, NJ, March 2017

Seminar Leader, Teachers as Scholars Seminar, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, The College of New Jersey, "*Moby-Dick*: Before and After 9/11," Spring 2006, Spring 2015; "American Political Films," Spring 2011; "The Whitman Tradition," Spring 2007

Seminar Leader, "Literature and Leadership," Executive MBA program, George Washington University, August 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2008