

Ryan K. Smith

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Home:
Richmond, VA

Education

University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware

Ph.D., August 2002, Department of History, History of American Civilization program
Major field: American history; minor field: material culture
Dissertation: "Protestant Popery: Catholic Art in America's Protestant Churches, 1830-1890." Director: Christine Leigh Heyrman.

College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia

M.A., May 1998, Department of History
Major field: American history; minor field: historical archaeology
Thesis: "A Church Fire and Reconstruction: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Petersburg, Virginia."

Stetson University, DeLand, Florida

B.A., *Magna Cum Laude*, May 1994, American Studies major, History minor

Professional Positions

Department of History, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia

Professor with tenure, July 2017 to present
Associate Professor with tenure, July 2009 to 2017
Assistant Professor, January 2007 to June 2009
Collateral Assistant Professor and Assistant to the Chair, August 2004 to January 2007

Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, local records archivist, August 2000 to August 2004

Winterthur Museum, Garden, and Library, Winterthur, Delaware, tour leader and camp counselor, summer 1997 and summer 1998

St. Augustine Lighthouse and Museum, St. Augustine, Florida, tour leader and researcher, February 1996 to May 1996

St. Augustine Historical Society, St. Augustine, Florida, archival assistant at the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, August 1995 to February 1996

Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, Virginia, archaeological apprentice at the Department of Archaeological Research, 1994 to 1995

Honors and Awards

Conference travel grant, VCU Humanities Research Center, 2025
 Catherine Bishir Prize for best article, Vernacular Architecture Forum, 2022
 Distinguished Teaching Award, College of Humanities and Sciences, VCU, 2021
 Library of Virginia Literary Award finalist, 2021
 Elske V.P. Smith Distinguished Lecturer Award, College of Humanities and Sciences, VCU, 2020
 Collaboration for Change Award, Bonner Center for Civic Engagement, University of Richmond, 2020, as a founding member of the East End Cemetery Collaboratory
 Residential Fellowship, from the Humanities Research Center, VCU, 2019
 Research Grant, from the Humanities Research Center, VCU, 2015
 Research Need Grant, from Faculty Council, College of Humanities and Sciences, VCU, 2013
 Winterthur Research Fellowship, Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library, 2010
 Organization of American Historians' Distinguished Lecturer, 2008-2011
 Finalist for the Allan Nevins Dissertation Prize, Society of American Historians, 2002
 Finalist for the Charlotte Newcombe Doctoral Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson Foundation, 2000
 University Competitive Fellowship, University of Delaware, 1999-2000
 E. Lyman Stewart Graduate Fellowship, University of Delaware, 1997-98
 Archaeological Apprenticeship, College of William and Mary, 1994-95
 Phi Beta Kappa, 1994
 Phi Alpha Theta history honors society, 1993
 Faculty Merit Scholarship, Stetson University, 1990-94
 Florida Undergraduate Scholars' Fund Scholarship, state of Florida, 1990-94

Research

Publications:

Death and Rebirth in a Southern City: Richmond's Historic Cemeteries (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2020).
 Finalist for the 2021 Library of Virginia Literary Award, nonfiction category
 A study of the history, preservation, and recovery of the changing burial landscape of Richmond, Virginia, from the colonial era to the present as seen through the lens of race.

Robert Morris's Folly: The Architectural and Financial Failures of an American Founder (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2014). A narrative of the late-career failure of American founder Robert Morris, which was intertwined with his construction of an ambitious private palace in Philadelphia, designed by P. Charles L'Enfant.

Gothic Arches, Latin Crosses: Anti-Catholicism and American Church Designs in the Nineteenth Century (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006).
 A Nota Bene selection of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.
 A study of the mid-nineteenth-century rise of Gothic Revival church designs in light of the era's anti-Catholicism, showing how denominational exchange initiated a new religious landscape.

- “Setting the Place for Shaker Furniture,” in Douglas L. Winiarski, ed., *Shakers at the Center: Manifesting Spirits & Spectacles in Nineteenth-Century America* (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2026).
- “Beacons for a Troubled Age: The American Lighthouse Preservation Movement in St. Augustine, Florida,” *Buildings & Landscapes* 32 (Fall 2025):15-45.
- “Signs of Community: African American Plate-Style Gravestones in Central Virginia,” *Markers* 39 (2024): 4-43.
- (With L. Daniel Mouer, Lenora McQueen, and Steve Thompson) “[Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District](#),” National Register of Historic Places nomination form, approved and listed June 16, 2022.
- (With Stephanie Spera, Elizabeth Zizzamia, and Matthew Franklin) “Recovering a Black Cemetery: Automated Mapping of Hidden Gravesites using an sUAV and GIS in East End Cemetery, Richmond, VA,” [International Journal of Historical Archaeology](#) (2022).
- “Rumors of War Arrives in the South,” *Perspectives on History* (May 2020).
- “Disappearing the Enslaved: The Destruction and Recovery of Richmond’s Second African Burial Ground,” *Buildings & Landscapes* 27 (Spring 2020): 17-45. Winner of the Catherine Bishir Prize from the Vernacular Architecture Forum, 2022, awarded annually to the scholarly article from a juried North American publication that has made the most significant contribution to the study of vernacular architecture and cultural landscapes.
- “Philip N. J. Wythe’s Headstone,” *Southern Cultures* 23 (Fall 2017): 39-46.
- “The ‘Mad’ Engineer: L’Enfant in Early National Philadelphia,” *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* 138 (July 2014): 269-303.
- “Building Stories: Narrative Prospects for Vernacular Architecture Studies,” *Buildings & Landscapes* 18:2 (Fall 2011): 1-14.
- “The Fountain of Youth: History of an Errant Shrine,” in Margaret Cormack, ed., *Saints and Their Cults in the Atlantic World* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2007), 248-267.
- “The Cross: Church Symbol and Contest in Nineteenth-Century America,” *Church History* 70 (December 2001): 705-34.
- “Carpenter Gothic: The Voices of Episcopal Churches on the St. Johns River,” *El Escribano, the St. Augustine Journal of History* 32 (1995): 65-90.

“Architecture: Roman Catholic,” invited 6,000-word entry in *Encyclopedia of Religion in America*, edited by Charles Lippy and Peter Williams, 4 vols. (Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2010), 1: 194-202.

“Pendleton Scott Clark,” architect, entry for *Dictionary of Virginia Biography* 3 (Richmond: Library of Virginia, 2006).

Book review of Kami Fletcher and Ashley Towle, eds., *Grave History: Death, Race, and Gender in Southern Cemeteries* (University of Georgia Press, 2023) in *Markers*, forthcoming.

Book review of Brian Matthew Jordan and Jonathan W. White, eds., *Final Resting Places: Reflections on the Meaning of Civil War Graves* (University of Georgia Press, 2023) in *Journal of the Civil War Era*, forthcoming.

Book review of Margaret M. Grubiak, *Monumental Jesus: Landscapes of Faith and Doubt in Modern America* (University of Virginia Press, 2020) in *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 80 (December 2021): 494-95.

Book review of Jean H. Baker, *Building America: The Life of Benjamin Henry Latrobe* (Oxford University Press, 2020) in *Journal of the Early Republic* 41 (Spring 2021): 154-56.

Book review of Peter W. Williams, *Religion, Art, and Money: Episcopalians and American Culture from the Civil War to the Great Depression* (University of North Carolina Press, 2016) in *Material Religion* 14 (2018): 136-38.

Book review of Thomas Carter, *Building Zion: The Material World of Mormon Settlement* (University of Minnesota Press, 2015) in the *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 76 (June 2017): 251-52.

Book review of Robert Emmett Curran, *Shaping American Catholicism: Maryland and New York, 1805-1915* (Catholic University of America Press, 2012) in the *Journal of American History* 100 (June 2013): 209-10.

Book review of Louis P. Nelson, *The Beauty of Holiness: Anglicanism and Architecture in Colonial South Carolina* (University of North Carolina Press, 2008) in *Anglican and Episcopal History* 78 (December 2009): 452-3.

Book review of Thomas E. Buckley, *The Great Catastrophe of My Life: Divorce in the Old Dominion* (University of North Carolina Press, 2002) in *Maryland Historical Magazine* 98 (Summer 2003): 237-8.

Book review of Sylvia R. Frey and Betty Wood, *Come Shouting to Zion: African American Protestantism in the American South and British Caribbean to 1830* (University of North Carolina Press, 1998) in *Maryland Historical Magazine* 93 (Fall 1998): 371-3.

[Publications for general audiences:](#)

“Reopening the Vestry Records of St. John’s Church,” [The Uncommonwealth: Voices from the Library of Virginia](#), September 27, 2023

“The Afterlives of Confederate Monuments,” *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, January 2, 2021

“A New Generation of Volunteers Are Rescuing Historic Black Cemeteries – And Black History,” *Time.com*, November 17, 2020

“Religious Symbolism in Hollywood Cemetery,” *News from Friends of Hollywood Cemetery* vol. 4 (Spring 2014): 4-5

“CSI: Old Virginia: Scenes of Murder and Mayhem in the Local Government Records Collection.” [Virginia Memory](#) (Fall 2009)

“Where Virginia Authors Gather,” *Virginia Living* (February 2004): 23

Publications under development:

Psychic Horse: The Sage of Lady Wonder, book manuscript

Lighthouses Rising: Renewed Beacons for a Troubled Age, book manuscript

Digital projects:

[Richmond Cemeteries](#). Web author and coordinator since launching the project in 2011, featuring student research and original content.

(with Beth Zizzamia, Clark Kelley, and Elizabeth Baughan) Evergreen Cemetery Walking Tour, forthcoming.

(with Beth Zizzamia and Will Teeples) [Barton Heights Cemeteries Web Explorer](#). Produced in 2023 with the University of Richmond’s Spatial Analysis Lab for the first comprehensive survey of all surviving markers in Richmond’s Barton Heights Cemeteries. Featured at: Karen Sullivan, “The Quest to Find and Preserve Lost Black Cemeteries,” Esri Blog, November 1, 2023.

Author of the [Richmond Cemetery Collaboratory](#)’s website, launched in 2023, and contributor to the Collaboratory’s online digital [archive](#).

The Judah Will. Web co-author and co-coordinator with Tom Woodward since launching the project in 2017, featuring student research and original content. Project in migration to new url.

Academic presentations:

“Monument Making in the New South: A View from Richmond.” Organization of American Historians annual conference, April 2026, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

“J. Henry Brown: Stone Carver for the New South.” Paper presented at the Conrad M. Hall Symposium for Virginia History, Virginia Museum of History and Culture, September 2024, Richmond, Virginia.

“The Many Marker Types from the J. Henry Brown Shop.” Paper presented at the symposium “Grave Artistry: New Findings from the J. Henry Brown Order Books,” Library of Virginia, April 2024, Richmond, Virginia.

“Decommissioned Lighthouses: Renewed Beacons for a Troubled Age.” Paper presented at the Vernacular Architecture Forum annual conference, May 2023, Plymouth, Mass.

“Tables and Portals: The Place of Shaker Furniture in Spiritual Communion,” invited paper presented at “The Shaker Era of Manifestations,” conference sponsored by Berea College and the University of Richmond, Pleasant Hill, Kentucky, April 2022, and revised version delivered at “Shakers at the Center: Reimagining the Era of Manifestations,” conference sponsored by Berea College and the University of Richmond, Virginia, November 2022.

“Dead Reckoning: The Historical Recovery and Unsettled Place of Richmond’s Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground.” Elske v.P. Smith Distinguished Lecture, College of Humanities and Sciences, VCU, November 2021, online.

“Cemetery Initiatives and the Challenges of Many Digital Platforms.” Remarks and panelist in the “Death and the Digital Age: African-American Cemeteries in the American South” roundtable, Association for Computers and the Humanities annual conference, July 2021, online.

“Signs of Community: African American Plate Grave Markers in Central Virginia.” Paper presented at the Association for Gravestone Studies annual conference, June 2021, online.

“Accessing the Archives Virtually During the Pandemic.” Panel chaired for Virginia Consortium of Early Americanists annual conference, January 2021, Richmond, Va.

“Recovering Richmond’s Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground.” Presentation with L. Daniel Mouer and Lenora McQueen to the Col. Howard MacCord chapter of the Archaeological Society of Virginia monthly meeting, January 2021, online.

“Shaker Furniture and Spiritual Communion.” Paper presented at the Communal Studies Association annual conference, October 2019, Winterthur, Del.

“Designing Courses that Focus on Historic Sites.” Panel chaired for Virginia Consortium of Early Americanists annual conference, January 2019, Richmond, Va.

- “The American Revolutions of P. C. L’Enfant.” Invited presentation for event sponsored by the University of Delaware at the Museum of the American Revolution, September 2018, Philadelphia, Pa.
- “Philadelphia’s Jewelers Row: Layers of History and Controversies.” Paper presented at the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic annual conference, July 2017, Philadelphia, Pa.
- “The Gravestones on Barton Heights and the Burial Landscapes of Black Richmonders.” Paper presented at the Virginia Forum annual conference, March 2017, Norfolk, Va.
- “A Web Project for Richmond’s Historic Burial Grounds,” lightning round presentation, Virginia Consortium of Early Americanists annual conference, January 2017, Richmond, Va.
- “Cemetery Activism,” presentation made as organizer and participant of five-person roundtable session at the National Council on Public History annual conference, March 2016, Baltimore, Md.
- “Robert Morris’s Folly, or the Place of the Palace in the Early American Republic.” Invited paper presented at “The Architecture of Democracy” symposium, Gunston Hall, November 2015, Lorton, Va.
- “Robert Morris: A Key American Founder and His Folly.” Invited lecture at the “American Founders Luncheon” series hosted by Grove City College, June 2015, Pittsburgh, Pa.
- “The Lighthouse: A New Christian Symbol.” Paper presented at the Marcia Powell Festival of Religion and the Arts, April 2015, Richmond, Va.
- “The Jardella Reliefs: Circulating Relics of Philadelphia’s Early National Folly.” Paper presented at the Pennsylvania Historical Association annual conference, November 2014, Philadelphia, Pa.
- “The Founders Speak: Spiritualist Visitations from the Revolutionary Generation in the Mid-Nineteenth Century.” Paper presented at the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic annual conference, July 2014, Philadelphia, Pa.
- “Patrick Keely and the Protestants.” Invited paper for “Defining the Legacy of Patrick Charles Keely,” the Twenty-Third Annual Symposium on Public Monuments, in Tribute to Rudolf Wittkower, sponsored by the Monuments Conservancy (affiliated with Columbia University), March 2012, New York City, N.Y.
- “Building Stories: Narrative Prospects for Vernacular Architecture Studies.” Paper presented at the Vernacular Architecture Forum annual conference, May 2010, Washington, D.C.

“Robert Morris’s Folly: A Loss of Fortune in the Early American Republic.” Paper presented at the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic annual conference, July 2008, Philadelphia, Pa.

“400 Years of Episcopal Church Architecture.” A five-person panel I assembled and chaired at the "Legacies and Promise: 400 Years of Episcopal History" conference, co-sponsored by the Episcopal Women’s History Project, the Historical Society of the Episcopal Church, and the National Episcopal Historians and Archivists, held June 2007 in Williamsburg, Va.

“The Fountain of Youth: History of an Errant Shrine.” Paper presented at “Saints and Pilgrims Around the Atlantic” interdisciplinary conference, College of Charleston, February 2004, Charleston, S.C.

“New Catholic Churches in America and Their Protestant Audiences: 1830-1870.” Paper presented at the Organization of American Historians annual conference, April 2002, Washington, D.C.

“The Cross: Anti-Catholicism and Protestant Symbolism in Nineteenth-Century America.” Invited paper discussed at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies Works-in-Progress Series, October 2000, Philadelphia, Pa.

“The Cross: Anti-Catholicism and Protestant Symbolism in Nineteenth-Century America.” Paper presented at the Nineteenth-Century Studies Association annual conference, March 2000, Arlington, Va.

“Morris’s Folly and Other Monster Urban Mansions.” Paper presented at the Society of Early Americanists’ biennial conference, March 1999, Charleston, S.C.

“Religion and Relocation: Rural Gothic Churches on Florida’s Frontier.” Paper presented at the Southern American Studies Association’s biennial conference, March 1995, Clearwater, Fl.

[Selected presentations for general audiences:](#)

“Meet the Expert: Historic Preservation at the St. Augustine Light Station,” panel moderator, St. Augustine History Festival, sponsored by the University of Florida, St. Augustine, Florida, May 2025.

“Death and Rebirth in a Southern City: Richmond’s Historic Cemeteries,” invited lecture presented at “At Rest: Cemetery History, Law, and Preservation” symposium, Fluvanna Historical Society, Columbia, VA, November 2023.

Presentation of “Liberty and Death in St. John’s Churchyard,” Walter W. Craigie Speaker Series lecture for the Historic St. John’s Church Foundation, May 2023.

“Death and Rebirth in Richmond’s Historic Cemeteries,” invited presentation to the 5400 Club, Weinstein Jewish Community Center, May 2023.

Invited moderator/discussant for Phillip Levy’s *The Permanent Resident: Excavations and Explorations of George Washington’s Life*, March 1, 2023, National Archives and Records Administration online program.

“Hebrew Cemetery and Beyond: The Landscape of Richmond’s Jewish Cemeteries,” invited presentation to the Richmond Jewish Women’s Club, February 2023.

“The Evergreen and Woodland Cemetery Records and Their Place in the Landscape,” invited lecture delivered at the Library of Virginia’s annual “Transcribe-a-thon” event. September 2022.

“Edgar Allan Poe and Richmond’s Cemeteries” invited lecture for the Poe Museum’s 100th anniversary speaker’s series, September 2022.

“Controversy/History: Richmond’s African American Cemeteries,” co-presenter at the Valentine Museum, March 2022, online.

“Meet VCU’s Authors: Death and Rebirth in a Southern City.” Invited lecture for the Humanities Research Center, VCU, September 2021, Richmond, Va.

“Genealogy Workshop: Cemetery Records at the Library of Virginia,” co-presenter at the Library of Virginia, September 2021, online.

“Richmond’s Historic Cemeteries,” Banner Lecture, Virginia Museum of History and Culture, April 2021, online.

“Exploring 300 Years of Burial Grounds in Richmond,” The Shepherd’s Center of Richmond, February 2021, online.

“From Shockoe to Evergreen: Richmond’s African American Cemeteries.” Invited lecture at the VCU Health System, February 2021, online.

“Death and Rebirth in a Southern City: Richmond’s Historic Cemeteries.” Invited lecture at the Richmond Public Library, February 2021, online.

“Sacred Spaces: Preservation of African American Churches, Cemeteries, Historic Structures, Associated Land and Landmarks in Virginia.” Panelist in discussion hosted by the Baptist General Convention of Virginia, December 20, 2020, online

“Death and Rebirth in a Southern City: Richmond’s Historic Cemeteries.” Invited lecture at the American Civil War Museum, December 2020, online.

- “Visions of Race in Early Republic Richmond.” Panelist in discussion hosted by Preservation Virginia, September 2020, online.
- “Disappearing the Enslaved: Richmond’s Second African Burial Ground.” Invited lecture at the VCU Health System, February 2020, Richmond, Va.
- “Death and Rebirth in a Southern City: Richmond’s Historic Cemeteries.” Invited lecture at the Fellowship of St. James, Union Presbyterian Seminary, January 2020, Richmond, Va.
- “Public History of Richmond Cemeteries.” Invited lecture at “Truth and Conciliation in the 400th Year: A Shockoe Bottom Public History Symposium,” sponsored by the Defenders for Freedom, Justice & Equality, December 2019, Richmond, Va.
- “The Rise and Fall and Rise of Richmond’s Evergreen and East End Cemeteries.” Invited lecture at Westminster Canterbury Retirement Community, August 2019, Richmond, Va.
- “Huguenot Burials in Central Virginia.” Invited lecture at the Huguenot Society of Virginia fall meeting, October 2016, Richmond, Va.
- “World Religions in America,” presentation given at St. John’s Episcopal Church Adult Forum, February 2016, Richmond, Va.
- “The Early Rivals of Hollywood Cemetery.” Invited lecture at the Friends of Hollywood Cemetery lecture series, September 2015, Richmond, Va.
- “Richmond’s African American Cemeteries.” Invited lecture at the East Marshall Street Well Community Consultations, sponsored by VCU, May 2015, Richmond, Va.
- “Burying and Building: Richmond’s First African American Funeral Directors.” Invited lecture at John Tyler Community College, for Black History Month lecture series, February 2015, Richmond, Va.
- “Meet VCU’s Authors: Robert Morris’s Folly.” Invited, inaugural lecture for the new series at the Humanities Research Center, VCU, September 24, 2014, Richmond, Va.

Teaching

Department of History, Virginia Commonwealth University

Lower-division undergraduate courses taught:

Survey of American History: to 1865

Survey of American History: 1865 to the Present

The Art of Historical Detection: Richmond’s Historic Cemeteries

Upper-division undergraduate courses taught:

Introduction to Historical Study

American Religious History I: to 1865

American Religious History II: 1865 to the Present

History of North American Christianity
American Material Culture
Introduction to Public History
Honors Topics: Richmond Cemeteries and the Civil War
Historic Preservation (Studies in Public History)
Seminar in History: Richmond Cemeteries
Independent Study: The Religious History of the U.S. South

Graduate courses taught:

Research in American History: American Religions
Research in American History: Nineteenth-Century America
Research in American History: American Material Culture
American Material Culture
Digital History
Summer Teachers' Institute: "Integrating Primary Sources into the History Classroom,"
co-taught with Dr. John Kneebone at the Valentine Richmond History Center,
Richmond, VA
Independent Study: Museum Methods: Exhibiting Robert E. Lee
Independent Study: Southern Journeys

Dissertation committees:

Kristen Stewart, VCU Media, Art, and Text Ph.D. Program, expected defense 2025.

H. Alex Jones, "Photographic Nostalgia in the Modernist Art Novel," VCU Media, Art,
and Text Ph.D. program, defended May 2022.

Master's theses directed:

Billy Beardon, "The Blooming of the Cemeteries: An Analysis of the Cemetery
Preservation Movement in Virginia," expected completion December 2026.

Davis Simmons, "The Proprietor of Battersea: The Life and Legacy of American Founder
John Banister (1734-1788)," defended December 2025

Quinn Terry, "Death in the Lowcountry: The Material Culture of Burial in Hampton
County, South Carolina," defended December 2023

Claire Barnewolt, "The Castillo de San Marcos: Its History and Significance to the
Changing Community of St. Augustine, Florida," defended May 2018

Jeffrey Dunnington, "A Study of the Journal of Elisha P. Hurlbut, American Social
Reformer, 1858-1887," defended May 2014

Sam Ulmschneider, "Jeffersonian Jeremiad: Rhetoric and Religiosity in the Electoral
Press of 1800," defended December 2008

Master's thesis committees:

Sara Elizabeth Moore Wilson, "The Anatomical Theatre at the University of Virginia," University of Virginia School of Architecture, 2026.

Kate Given, "'With the Commodity in the Hand': A Practical Investigation of the Intersection of Material Culture with Performance Theory," VCU Department of Theatre, 2021.

Ana Edwards, "Robert Cowley: Living Free During Slavery in Eighteenth-Century Richmond, Virginia," 2020.

Marlea Donaho, "Belle Isle, Point Lookout, and the Media: Reality and Media Portrayal of Prison Camps in the Union and Confederacy," 2017.

Matthew Lempke, "Confederate Soldiers during and after the Siege of Petersburg: The Evolution, Responses, and Coping Mechanisms in a Changing South, 1864-1890," 2017.

Nikki Fernandes, "The 'New Semantic Plane' of Douglass's Periodical Fiction: Transatlantic Reform Conversations through 'The Heroic Slave,' *Typee* and *Bleak House*," VCU Department of English, 2017.

Kerry A. Dahm, "'To Preserve, Protect, and Pass On': Shirley Plantation as a Historic House Museum, 1894-2013," 2013.

Brandon P. Butterworth, "Interpreting the War Anew: An Appraisal of Richmond's Civil War Centennial Commemoration," 2012.

Kay C. Peninger, "Mary Wingfield Scott, A Rebel with a Rubble Cause," 2011.

Claire Hope, "Cold War Educational Propaganda and Instructional Film, 1945-1965," 2011.

Jacques Vest, "Making Authenticity: Polk Miller and the Evolution Of American Popular Culture," 2010.

Alyce Graham, "The Creativity Loophole: Needlework, Social Conventions, and the Permissibility of Creative Expression for Early American Women," 2010.

Meghan T. Naile, "Like Nixon to China: The Exhibition of Slavery in the Valentine Museum and the Museum of the Confederacy," 2009.

Mary Richie McGuire, "Tobacco Culture and Environmental Consciousness: Ecological Change, Race, and Gender, Prince Edward County, VA, 1850-1870," 2007.

Amy Gundrum, “Woman to Woman—Legacy of Stained Glass: Memorial Windows in Two of Cooperstown’s Churches,” Cooperstown Graduate Program, SUNY Oneonta, 2007.

Teaching Publications:

“Historic Richmond Cemeteries: Going Beyond the Classroom,” *VCU Teaching* 11 (Fall 2010): 7.

Teaching Grants awarded:

Division of Community Engagement, and Office of Institutional Equity, Effectiveness and Success, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond Cemetery Collaboratory faculty learning community/initiative grants, 2022-2023, 2023-2024 (PI)

Center for Teaching Excellence, Virginia Commonwealth University, Small Grant Program recipient for “Historic Richmond Cemeteries: Going Beyond the Classroom,” 2009-2010

Media coverage of my teaching:

Delaney Murray, “Digital Map Project Reveals the History of Richmond’s Barton Heights Cemeteries,” *WRIC News*, March 27, 2023

Brian McNeill, “Digital map of Richmond’s Barton Heights Cemeteries to be unveiled,” *VCU News*, March 21, 2023

“The Professor and the Practitioner,” *PreserveCast* podcast, Preservation Maryland, July 25, 2022

“Outdoor Archives,” *With Good Reason* radio, Virginia Humanities, November 27, 2020

Brian McNeill, “At Community Gathering, UR and VCU to Unveil Digital Map of East End Cemetery,” *VCU News*, April 20, 2018

Sandy Hausman, “Stories from the Cemeteries,” *WVTF* public radio, August 18, 2014

Sandy Hausman, “College Students Uncover History in Richmond Cemeteries,” *WAMU* public radio, August 8, 2014

Brian McNeill, “Via Podcasts, Students Tell Forgotten Stories Found in Richmond Cemeteries,” *VCU News*, April 23, 2014

John Ogle, Richmond Community Idea Stations *WCVE* public radio, interview regarding VCU cemeteries courses, aired during “All Things Considered” on May 13, 2014

Other teaching experience:

Member, Richmond Cemetery Collaboratory (formerly East End Cemetery Collaboratory) - a multi-disciplinary group of faculty working to engage students with a historic African American cemetery and its families and volunteers, coordinated by the Bonner Center for Civic Engagement, University of Richmond, 2017-present. Co-leader, 2021-2024.

Instructor for the University of Richmond’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, for the course “Exploring 300 Years of Cemeteries in Richmond,” June 2021.

Lecturer for VCU American Studies program for visiting Fudan University (Shanghai) and Beijing Foreign Studies University students:

“Public History: How We Represent the Past,” delivered July 2018 and July 2019

“Religion in Contemporary American Society,” delivered annually from July 2008 to July 2019

“Colonial America through the American Revolution,” delivered July 2007

Lecturer for students from Shanghai Institute of Visual Arts (SIVA), at VCU, August 2016

Lecturer for the Virginia Historical Society, Weinstein Properties Story of Virginia Teachers’ Institute: “Material Culture,” June 2016

Co-facilitator and presenter for workshop series on “Teaching in the Humanities,” Humanities Research Center, VCU:

“Workshop on Preparing for Annual Evaluations and Promotion Reviews,” February 2017

“Beyond the Essay: Alternative Assignments to the Paper,” February 2016

“Integrating Analysis of Material Culture into the Classroom,” November 2015

Lecturer for “Footprints on the James,” VCU outdoor excursion class: “Religion in Virginia,” May 2014

Lecturer for the Virginia Historical Society, Robins Teachers’ Institute: “Virginia After the Founders: Travel and Transportation in Antebellum Virginia,” October 2012

Instructor for the National Humanities Center, Professional Development Seminar for History and Literature Teachers: “[Deism and the Founding of the United States](#),” January 2010 and again October 2012.

Lecturer for Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program (IYLEP) for visiting Iraqi students at VCU: “Religion in Contemporary American Society,” delivered July 2009

Lecturer for Rouen School of Management’s American Language and Civilization Program, hosted by the VCU School of World Studies, for visiting French students: “Colonial America through the American Revolution,” delivered July 2008

Lecturer for *Lycee Henri IV*’s (Paris, France) “British and U.S. Holidays” summer program, held at the University of Richmond: “American History, 1860-1939,” delivered July 2000

Service

Department of History:

Administrative:

Director of Graduate Studies, 2015-2018

Assistant to the Chair, 2004-2007

Academic advisor for all 400 history majors, 2004-2006

Search committees:

Public History assistant professor search committee, chair, 2019-2020

History of Science associate professor search committee, chair, 2013

Civil War assistant professor search committee, 2012-2013
British history and undergrad advisor collateral search committee, chair, 2009
Latin American History assistant professor search committee, 2007-2008
Blake Chair in the History of Christianity search committee, 2007-2008, planning committee, 2006-2007
“Latin America, Africa, Middle East” collateral instructors search committee, 2007

Promotion committees:

Third-year review committee (chair) for Daniel Morales, Assistant Professor of History, VCU, 2023
Promotion review committee (chair) for Carolyn Eastman, Associate Professor of History, VCU, 2021
Promotion review committee for Andrew Crislip, Associate Professor of History and Blake Chair in the History of Christianity, VCU, 2017
Promotion review committee for Karen Rader, Associate Professor of History, VCU, 2014
Tenure review committee for Richard Godbeer, Professor of History and Director, Humanities Research Center, VCU, 2013
Tenure review committee for Carolyn Eastman, Associate Professor of History, VCU, 2013
Promotion and tenure review committee for Leigh Ann Craig, Assistant Professor of History, VCU, 2009

Other:

Personnel committee, 2007-10, 2011-12, 2014-15, 2023-24
Graduate affairs committee, 2012-14, chair 2015-18, 2020-2023, 2024-2025
Technology committee, chair, 2013-14, 2018-20
Nominating committee, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2019, 2023
Department website overhaul committee, co-chair, 2010-11
Speakers committee, 2010-11
Honors and Awards committee, 2021-23
Undergraduate curriculum committee, chair, 2010-11
Blake Lecture committee, 2007-10
Recording secretary, 2011-12, 2018-19

College of Humanities and Sciences:

Research Task Force, 2024-2025
Research Advisory Council, 2025-
Faculty Council, 2009-2012, 2018-2021
College of Humanities and Sciences Small Grants Subcommittee, 2014
Graduate Academic Committee, 2015-2018
Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2010-2013
Undergraduate Academic Committee member, 2010-2011
Humanities “Pod/Cluster” search committee member, 2010-2011, which involved hiring four tenure-track positions across several disciplines and fields
Humanities Research Center, advisory board member, 2021-24

planning committee, 2010-2011
 Southern Film Festival planning committee, 2009-2011
 Cultural Studies Task Force, 2008
 Third-year review committee for Bernard Means, term assistant professor in the School of World Studies, VCU, 2022
 Promotion and tenure review committee for Tressie M. Cottom, assistant professor in Sociology, VCU, 2018
 Third-year review committee for Tressie M. Cottom, assistant professor in Sociology, VCU, 2018
 Promotion review committee for Isabelle Richman, instructor in the School of World Studies, VCU, 2017
 Promotion review committee for Faye Prichard, instructor in the Department of English, VCU, 2006

University

VCU East Marshall Street Well Memorialization and Interment Implementation Committee member, 2019-2023
 Search committee member for Postdoctoral Research Fellow for this project, 2022
 Third-year review committee for faculty member Sara Reed, Assistant Professor, Department of Interior Design, School of the Arts, 2025
 Promotion review committee for Peter Henry, Associate Professor, Department of Focused Inquiry, University College, 2020
 Promotion review committee for Gabriel Reich, Associate Professor of Teaching and Learning, VCU School of Education, 2019
 Civil War and Emancipation Sesquicentennial committee member, 2011-2013
 Faculty Marshal, VCU commencement, December 2004 and December 2005

Profession:

Vernacular Architecture Forum, Abbott Lowell Cummings Prize committee (for best new book), chair, 2016-2017

Outside peer reviewer for:

- *The Public Historian*, 2025
- University of Michigan Press, 2023
- University of Virginia Press, 2022
- Johns Hopkins University Press, 2022
- *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, 2021
- University of South Carolina Press, 2021
- *Journal of Southern History*, 2020-2021, 2024
- *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, 2018-2019
- *Buildings & Landscapes*, 2011-2015, 2018
- *Winterthur Portfolio*, 2016
- *Ex Historia*, 2016
- *Journal of Southern Religion*, 2011
- *Journal of American History*, 2010
- *Material Religion*, 2006

- *Maryland Historical Magazine*, 1999

Planning committee for the Virginia Consortium of Early Americanists annual conference: chair, 2017; member, 2021

External promotion reviews for faculty at Pennsylvania State University, Duke University, and Villanova University

Community:

Historic St. John's Church Foundation, board member, 2021-, chair of Historic Preservation committee

Preservation of African American Churches, Cemeteries, Historic Structures, Associated Land and Landmarks in Virginia, project member, Baptist General Convention of Virginia, 2020-2022

Friends of Shockoe Hill Cemetery Advisory Council member, 2016-2019

Judge for the First Freedom student essay competition, Council for America's First Freedom, Richmond, VA, 2007-2015

Training consultant for "We the People" student competition, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School, Richmond, VA, 2014-2019

Guest classroom speaker for history students at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School, 2024

Guest classroom speaker/workshop leader for history and writing students at Tuckahoe Elementary, Richmond, VA, 2013 and 2015

Training

Modern Archives Institute, National Archives and Records Administration, June 2004

Winterthur Summer Institute, Winterthur Museum, July 1997

Professional Memberships

Association for Gravestone Studies

National Council on Public History

Organization of American Historians

Vernacular Architecture Forum