

Alan S. Ambrisco

Professor
English Department
347 Olin Hall
The University of Akron
Akron, OH 44325-1906
330-972-5645

Education

Indiana University	Ph.D. (May 1999)	<i>Field:</i> English Literature <i>Dissertation:</i> <i>Medieval Man-Eaters: Cannibalism and Community in Middle English Literature</i>
Indiana University	M.A. (1995)	<i>Fields:</i> English Literature Medieval Studies Certificate awarded 1993
SUNY Buffalo	B.A. (1991)	<i>Major:</i> English Literature; <i>Minors:</i> Latin, Philosophy (summa cum laude)

Academic Publications in Refereed Journals

- “Battling Monstrosity in *Beowulf and Grendel* (2005): Using a Film Adaptation to Teach *Beowulf*.” *Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Teaching* 23.1 (2016): 29-40.
- “Teaching *The Turke and Sir Gawain* in the Undergraduate British Literature Survey Course” (*This Rough Magic*, December 2015) <<http://www.thisroughmagic.org/>>
- “ ‘Now y lowve God’: The Process of Conversion in *Sir Gowther*.” *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* 37 (2015): 195-225.
- “Suicide, Spectral Politics, and the Ghosts of History in Elizabeth Kostova’s *The Historian*.” *Horror Studies* 6.1 (2015): 19-37.
- “Trolling for Outcasts in Sturla Gunnarsson’s *Beowulf and Grendel*.” *Journal of Popular Culture* 46.2 (2013): 243-56.
- “Grappling with *Sir Gowther* in the Middle English Survey.” *This Rough Magic* (June 2012). <<http://www.thisroughmagic.org/>>
- “ ‘The Coin of Our Realm’: Blood and Images in *Dracula 2000*” (with Lance Svehla). *Journal Of Dracula Studies* 8 (2006): 20-29.

“It lyth nat in my tongue”: Occupatio and Otherness in Chaucer’s *Squire’s Tale*.” *The Chaucer Review* 38.3 (2004): 205-228.

“Teaching the *Squire’s Tale* as an Exercise in Literary History.” *Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Teaching* 10.1 (2003): 5-18.

“Cannibalism and Cultural Encounters in *Richard Coeur De Lion*.” *The Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies* 29.3 (1999): 499-528.

“Succession and Sovereignty in Lydgate’s Prologue to *The Troy Book*” (with Paul Strohm). *The Chaucer Review* 30 (1995): 40-57.

Creative Writing Publications--Poetry

“Crooked Cuyahoga.” *Savor* (Summer/Fall 2016): 47.

“Advice for Composters” and “A Mother’s Lament.” *Stonecoast Review* 5 (Sum 2016): 2, 89.

“Weeds.” *Sheepshead Review* 38.3 (2016): 73.

“Hitchhiking in the Nineteenth Century.” *Great Lakes Review* 3 (Fall 2013): 9-10.

“Through the Woods.” *Kindred* 4 (Fall 2013): no pag.

“Jim Morrison’s Cub Scout Uniform.” *Cactus Heart* 5 (September 2013): 123.

“Floodgates I,” “Floodgates II,” and “Greyhound Terminal, Indianapolis.” *The Red Rock Review* 21 (2007): 37-39.

“First House.” *Whiskey Island Magazine* 52 (2007): 61.

“Signs” and “Snapshot.” *Heartlands* 4 (2006): 23.

“The Beaten Road.” *Plainsongs* 27.1 (2006): 29.

“Teaching *Beowulf*: A Poem of Lament.” *Ohio Teachers Write* 8 (2003): 58-59

---. Reprinted in *Ohio Journal of English Language Arts* 44.1 (2004): 41.

Creative Writing Publications—Non-fiction

“Comic Book Violence and the Art of Terror.” *Insomnia & Obsession* 3 (2015): 19-29.

“The Elusive Ball.” *Elysian Fields Quarterly* 21 (2004): 96.

Invited Talks

“Job Market Musings.” Delivered as part of a workshop (*The Job Market through IU Eyes*) for English Department graduate students. September 2000, Indiana University.

“Cannibalism and Nationalism in *Richard Coeur de Lion*.” Kent Medieval Colloquium. April 2000, Kent State University.

Conference Presentations

“Sir Gowther and The Landscape of Conversion.” Plymouth State Medieval Forum. Plymouth State University. Plymouth, New Hampshire. April 21, 2012.

“Conversionary ‘Loose Ends’ in *The King of Tars*.” Illinois Medieval Association and Medieval Association of the Midwest Annual Conference. Dominican University. Feb 20, 2010.

“Race and Religious Conversion in *The King of Tars*.” 30th Annual Medieval and Renaissance Forum. Plymouth State University. Plymouth, New Hampshire. May 2009.

“Crusade Ideology and Conversionary Fears in *The Siege of Milan*.” 43rd International Congress on Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, Michigan. May 2008.

“Identity, Crusade Ideology, and Community in *The Siege of Milan*.” 28th Annual Medieval and Renaissance Forum. Plymouth State University. April 2007.

Presider, *Gender Vice and Religion*. Session sponsored by *Chaucer Review*. 40th Annual Congress on Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, Michigan. May 2005.

“‘The Coin of Our Realm’: Blood and Images in *Dracula 2000*,” with Lance Svehla. Midwest Modern Language Association Conference. November, 2001. Cleveland, Ohio.

“Cannibalism and the Legacy of Cain in Early Modern Editions of *Mandeville’s Travels*.” 33rd Annual Conference of The Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association. May, 2001. Fort Collins, Colorado.

Participant in “Cultural Geography” roundtable and e-seminar. The Twelfth Biennial Congress of the New Chaucer Society. July, 2000. London, England.

“Exclusionary Tactics: Gender, Incest, and Ethnography in Chaucer’s Squire’s Tale.” International Medieval Congress. July, 2000. University of Leeds, England.

“Writing Taboo: Cannibalism and Proto-Nationalism in *Richard Coeur de Lion*.” International Medieval Congress. July 1998, University of Leeds, England.

“Spenser and the Economy of Cannibalism.” Annual Conference of the Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies. December 1997, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

“Kingship and Uncommon Prophets in Gower’s *Confessio Amantis*,” with Stephen Yandell. Thirteenth Annual Conference of the Medieval Association of the Midwest. September 1997, University of Iowa, Iowa City.

“Lionizing de Lion: Barbarity and Cannibalism in *Richard Coeur de Lion*.” The Annual Medieval Studies Symposium. March 1997, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

“The Plagiarist, the King, and the Cannibals.” Annual Conference of the Center for Medieval and Early Renaissance Studies. October 1996, SUNY Binghamton, Binghamton, NY.

“Moral Gower and the Cannibalism Trope.” Twelfth Annual Conference of the Medieval Association of the Midwest. October, 1996, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana.

“Unraveling the Marvelous: Rhetoric and Rhetorical Reduction in *The Squire’s Tale*.” The Annual Conference of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association. May 1996, Park City, Utah.

“If You Can’t Eat Them, Join Them: Eastern and Western Cannibalism in *Mandeville’s Travels*.” English Department Conference. March 1996, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

Grants Received

Summer 2004 Faculty Summer Research Fellowship, The University of Akron. Project entitled “The Limits of Crusade Rhetoric in the *Siege of Melayne*.”

Summer 2002 Faculty Summer Research Fellowship, The University of Akron. Project entitled “Poetry, Politics, and the English Language in Chaucer’s *Squire’s Tale*.”

Summer 2000 Faculty Summer Research Fellowship, The University of Akron. Project entitled “Pagan Cannibalism, the Eucharist, and the Question of Religious Tolerance in *Mandeville’s Travels*.”

Administrative Positions

Jan 2006-May 2008 *Assistant Chair, Department of English, The University of Akron*

Duties: all undergraduate advising; process student forms, including degree clearance forms; meet with incoming students and advise on transfer credits; serve as liaison for academic advising; assist chair whenever necessary.

May 2003-Jan 2006 Graduate Studies Coordinator, Department of English, The University of Akron

Duties: recruit new graduate students and process applications to graduate program; process advancement to candidacy forms; advise graduate students on course selection and career goals; chair graduate assistants committee; chair graduate program committee; coordinate hiring of departmental teaching assistants; coordinate Graduate Certificate in Literature Program.

Teaching Positions

Fall 99- present Department of English, The University of Akron
Professor, Fall 2017-present
Associate Professor, Fall 2005-Spring 2017
Assistant Professor, Fall 1999-Spring 2005

Graduate Courses: Anglo-Saxon, Chaucer, Chaucer's Courtly Poems, Medieval Romance, Middle English Literature, Women in the Middle Ages, Modern Irish Drama, The Development of Arthurian Legend

Undergraduate Courses: Anglo-Saxon; Chaucer; Classic & Contemporary Literature; English Composition I; English Composition II; English Literature I; Fiction Appreciation; Re-writing the Middle Ages; Middle English Literature; Critical Reading and Writing; 20th Century Irish Drama; World Literatures; Senior Seminar: Nature and Literature; Senior Seminar: Monsters, Humankind, and Culture; Backgrounds of European Literature; Introduction to Poetry Writing; Advanced Poetry Writing, The Development of Arthurian Legend; Shakespeare and His World

Spring 99 Visiting Professor of Business Communications
Kelley School of Business, Indiana University
Courses Taught: Business Communications

Fall 97-98 Part-time Faculty Instructor, Department of English, Indiana University
Courses Taught: Advanced Expository Writing, Writing and Culture, Literary Interpretation, Introduction to Fiction

Fall 95-Fall 97 Tutor, Part-Time Instructor, International Programs, Indiana University
Designed and taught review courses for GRE, TOEFL, SAT, and GED tests; provided general tutoring sessions for ESL students.

Fall 92-Spring 97 Associate Instructor, Department of English, Indiana University
Courses Taught: Introduction to Composition, Projects in Reading and Writing ("Changing Conceptions of the Hero"), Writing Across the

Curriculum, Introduction to Writing and the Study of Literature,
Professional Writing.

Honors and Awards

Pushcart Prize Nominee for “Comic Book Violence and the Art of Terror” (*Insomnia and Obsession* #3, 2015)

Honorable Mention, *New Words 2009 Poetry Contest* (entry: “Shakespeare’s Rummage Sale”)

Honorable Mention, *New Words 2008 Poetry Contest* (entry: “Jim Morrison’s Cub Scout Uniform”)

2nd Place Winner, *New Words 2005 Poetry Contest* (entry: “Nebraska Sky”)

2nd Place Winner, *University of Akron 2005 Women’s History Month Poetry Contest* (entry: “A Mother’s Lament”)

Recipient, 2003 Chairs’ Award for Outstanding Achievement, Professional and Community Service. The Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences.

Nominee, 2003 Outstanding Teacher Award, The University of Akron Alumni Association.

Service

Service to UA’s English Department on Standing Committees

- Chair, NTT Reappointment Committee (2014-15)
- Chair, Committee for Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor (Spr 2019-Fall 2020)
- Chair, Committee on Reappointment for Assistant Professors (Fall 2008)
- Chair, Graduate Program Committee (Fall 2004-2006)
- Member, Graduate Program Committee (1999-2000; 2011-12; 2018-19)
- Chair, Graduate Assistants Committee (Spring 2004-2006)
- Member, Graduate Assistants Committee (2000-01, 2007-8; 2012-14)
- Member, Undergraduate Program Committee (2001-02, 2007-9; 2015-16; 2019-2020)
- Chair, Undergraduate Program Committee (2016-17; 2017-18)
- Member, Advisory Committee (2000-02, 2008-10; 2013-15)
- Member, Library Committee (2000-02)
- Member, Grievance Committee (2000-01, 2005-6)

Service to Department on Awards Committees

- Member, *The Sam Ella Dukes Memorial Poetry Prize* Committee (Spring 2001; 2015-2020)
- Member, *Cathryn C. Taliaferro Shakespeare Essay Prize* Committee (2017-2020)
- Member, *Zora M. Ledinko Endowed Memorial Scholarship* Committee (2015-2020)
- Member, *Pixley Memorial Scholarship* Committee (2018-19; 2019-2020)
- Member, *Bauer Scholarship* Committee (Spring 2000, Spring 2004, Spring 2006-11; Spring 2013-16)

- Member, *Donald A. and Laura Jane Keister Memorial Essay Prize Committee* (Spring 2002, 2003, 2005-14)
- Member, *Othella and Hilah Dukes Memorial Prize Committee* (2008-11)
- Member, *Mary Kirtz International Essay Prize Committee* (2011-12)

Service to Department on Ad-hoc and Search Committees

- Member, Victorian Literature Search Committee (1012-13)
- Member, Search Committee for College Lecturers (Spring 2008)
- Member, Search Committee for Executive Assistant (Summer 2007)
- Graduate Program Assessment Committee (Spring 2007)
- Member, Search Committee for Visiting Assistant Professor in Creative Writing (2006-7)
- Member, Committee to Spend Shared Leadership Funds (2005-6)
- Member, Committee for the Evaluation of the Chair (Spring 2004)
- Member, Shakespeare Job Search Committee (2001-02)
- Member, Committee for Evaluation of the Graduate Coordinator (Spring 2001)
- Member, M.A. in Literature Review Committee (1999-2001)

Advising Service in Department

- Interim Honors Advisor (Spring 2009)
- Assistant Chair and Undergraduate Advisor (May 2006-May 2008)
- Interim Assistant Chair and Undergraduate Advisor (Jan 2006-May 2006)
- Coordinator of Graduate Studies (May 2003-Jan 2006)
- NEOMFA liaison (Fall 2005-summer 2005)
- English Department Honors Advisor, University Honors Program (Fall 2002-Jan 2006)
- Coordinator, Graduate Literature Certificate (Fall 2004-Jan 2006)

Guest Lectures and Readings

- Guest Lecturer, Brownbag Luncheon Series for SAGES Campus Organization, Univ. of Akron (“Suicide, Spectral Politics, and the Ghosts of History in Elizabeth Kostova’s *The Historian*; delivered Nov. 17, 2016)
- Guest Lecturer, Laura Gelfand’s *Art History* course, University of Akron (fall 2008)
- Guest Lecturer, Megan Shaeffer’s *Age of Arthur* course, University of Akron (Fall 2005)
- Guest Lecturer, Sheryl Stevenson’s *Literary Criticism* course (fall 2004)
- Guest Lecturer, Antonia Forster’s *Bibliography and Literary Research* course, Univ. of Akron (Fall 2000, 2001 and 2002)

Special Events for Department and University

- Organizer, English Department Graduate Student Spring Symposium (2003-5)
- Co-organizer, English Department Graduate Student Spring Symposium (2006-9)

- Presider, English Department Graduate Student Spring Symposium (2003-2009)
- Organizer, Tim O'Brien Reading for University Honors Program (Oct. 19, 2004)
- Co-organizer (with Laura Gelfand): *Pre-Modern Movie Madness Film Series* (2000-2001)

Additional Service to College and University

- Member, Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences College RTP Review to Associate Professor Committee (2016-2017; 2017-2018)
- Participant, Ohio Board of Regents, Prior Learning Assessment Focus Group (March 9, 2013)
- Volunteer, *Majors Mosaic* (Fall 2000, 2002)
- Buchtel College Council Representative (2005-6; Spring 2007)
- Volunteer, Olin Hall Round-up (Fall 2000)
- Advisor to *Literary Guild* student group (2002-3)
- Volunteer, College of Arts & Sciences Round-up (Fall 2002, Fall 2005, Spring 2006)
- Organizer, Tim O'Brien Reading for University Honors Program (Oct. 19, 2004)
- Participant, Academic Publication Workshop, Univ. of Akron, Nov. 12, 2002
- Volunteer, Scholarship Saturday (Spring 2001, Spring 2003, Spring 2004, Spring 2006; Spring 2013)

Service to Community

- Guest poet and speaker at *Our Lady of the Elms High School* (April 23, 2013)
- Judge, *Silver Lake Poet Laureate Competition* (summer 2005)
- Guest reviewer for Seamus Heaney's *Beowulf*, The University of Akron's Faculty Women's Club Reading Circle (2004)
- Featured Poet, ArtCetera and Young Professionals of Akron Poetry Party (2006)

Service to Profession

- Manuscript reviewer, *Mediterranean Studies*
- Manuscript reviewer, *College Literature*
- Manuscript reviewer, *The Chaucer Review*

Scholarly Organizations

Phi Eta Sigma (inducted 10/27/88)

Phi Beta Kappa (inducted 5/19/89)

Member, *New Chaucer Society*

References

Professor Julie Drew, The University of Akron (330) 972-7614

Professor Thomas Dukes, The University of Akron (330) 972-6311