Eric Wilson
Thomas H. Pritchard Professor
Director, Master of Arts in Liberal Studies
English Department, Wake Forest University
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27109
336 758 5746
wilsoneg@wfu.edu
http://www.wfu.edu/~wilsoneg/

# **EDUCATION:**

1996, Ph.D. in English, with distinction, The Graduate School and University Center, City University of New York

1990, M.A. in English, Wake Forest University

1989, B.A. in English, summa cum laude, Appalachian State University

# AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND OTHER DISTINCTIONS:

Archie Summer Grant for Research Excellence, Wake Forest University, 2010 Poteat Lecture, Wake Forest University, 2010

L.A. Times Nonfiction Bestseller List for my book, Against Happiness, 2008

Calgary Herald Nonfiction Bestseller List for my book, Against Happiness, 2008

Reynolds Leave, Wake Forest University, 2007

Thomas H. Pritchard Professorship, Wake Forest University, 2006-present

Fellowship, National Humanities Center, 2003-4

Wake Forest University Award for Research Excellence, Wake Forest University, 2002

Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation Fellowship, Wake Forest University, 2001-2005

Christian Hoepfner Award for Best Essay in Southern Humanities Review, 2000

Saguiv Hadari Junior Faculty Leave, Wake Forest University, 2000

Archie Summer Grant for Research Excellence, Wake Forest University, 2001, 2000

Sigma Tau Delta (St. John's Chapter) Professor of the Year, 1998

Robert Day Interdisciplinary Dissertation Award, Graduate Center, CUNY, 1997

# **PUBLICATIONS:**

# **Creative Nonfiction Books:**

Everyone Loves a Good Train Wreck; or Why We Can't Stop Looking at Terrible Things (New York: Sarah Crichton/ Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, forthcoming, 2012).

The Mercy of Eternity: A Memoir of Depression and Grace (Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, forthcoming, 2010). [Reviewed in The Minneapolis Star Tribune; The Raleigh News and Observer; The Charlotte Observer; beliefnet.com; bp: Bipolar Magazine]

Against Happiness (New York: Sarah Crichton/ Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2008). [Reviewed in The Wall Street Journal; Publishers Weekly; Booklist; Bookforum; Minneapolis Star Tribune; Globe and Mail; Playboy.com; New York Review of Books; Raleigh News and Observer; America: The National Catholic Weekly; The Financial Times; Wilson

Quarterly; New York Times Book Review; Washington Post; Philadelphia Inquirer; The Economist; The American Conservative; New York Post; New York Observer; New York Sun; Winston-Salem Journal; The Christian Century]

[Translated into French, German, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, Croatian, Korean, Portuguese, Romanian, Chinese]

# **Scholarly Books:**

- My Business Is To Create: Blake's Infinite Writing (Iowa City: Iowa University Press, forthcoming, 2011). [Advance reviews in Necessary Fiction; New Pages Book Review; The Book Garden]
- The Strange World of David Lynch: Transcendental Irony from Eraserhead to Mulholland Dr (New York and London: Continuum International Publishing, 2007).

  [Reviewed in PopMatters]
- The Melancholy Android: On the Psychology of Sacred Machines (Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2006). [Reviewed in The Wordsworth Circle; Choice; Science Fiction Studies]
- Secret Cinema: Gnostic Vision in Film (New York and London: Continuum International Publishing, 2006). [Reviewed in Choice]
- Coleridge's Melancholia: An Anatomy of Limbo (Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, 2004). [Reviewed in European Romantic Review; The Wordsworth Circle; Choice; Southern Humanities Review; Prism(s:): Essays in Romanticism]
- The Spiritual History of Ice: Romanticism, Science, and the Imagination (New York and London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003). [Reviewed in Issues in Theosophical History; Romanticism on the Net; Ambix: The Journal for the Society of the History of Alchemy and Chemistry The Interdisciplinary Science Reviews; European Romantic Review; Canadian Literature; Studies in Romanticism; The Wordsworth Circle; Choice; Gothic Studies]

[Reprinted in *The Visual Sense: A Cultural Reader*, eds. Elizabeth Edwards and Kaushik Bhaumik (Oxford, UK: Berg Publishers, 2008)] [Scheduled for paperback release in November of 2009]

- Romantic Turbulence: Chaos, Ecology, and American Space. New York and London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2000. [Reviewed in Nineteenth-Century Prose; Comparative Literature; Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment; Prism(s): Essays in Romanticism; Wordsworth Circle; Isis: Journal of the History of Science Society.]
- Emerson's Sublime Science. New York and London: Palgrave Macmillan, 1999. [Reviewed in Ambix: The Journal for the Society of the History of Alchemy and Chemistry; American Literary Scholarship; European Romantic Review; Prism(s): Essays in Romanticism; Isis: Journal of the History of Science Society; Wordsworth Circle.]

# **Creative Nonfiction Essays:**

- "Forgiving the Darkness." r.kv.r.y.: A Quarterly Literary Journal, Winter, 2011.
- "Mania, Academe, Redemption." The Chronicle of Higher Education, September 26, 2010.
- "The World's Most Dangerous Hobby: Film Collecting in the Digital Age." *Virginia Quarterly Review* (Spring 2009), 150-59.
- "The Dark Art." The Georgia Review (Spring 2007), 81-103.

# **Scholarly Essays:**

- "Transcendentalist Aesthetics." Oxford Handbook of Transcendentalism (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), 59-571.
- "Sickness Unto Death: The Religious Imagery of David Lynch." *The Images of David Lynch* Litteraria Pragensia, Prague: Charles University Press, 2010), 157-165.
- "Cary Grant, Prince of Denmark," Bright Lights Film Journal 68 (May 2010).
- "Coleridge and Science." *Oxford Handbook of Samuel Taylor Coleridge*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009), 640-660
- "The Sacred Technology of Daniel Joseph Martinez." InterReview Journal 8 (2007), 34-46.
- "Esoteric Cinema." *Esotericism, Art, and the Imagination* (East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Press, 2008), 25-41.
- "Matter and Spirit in the Age of Animal Magnetism." *Philosophy and Literature* 30:2 (2006), 329-345.
- "Gnostic Paranoia in Proyas' Dark City." Literature/Film Quarterly 34:3 (2006), 232-39.
- "Hermetic Melancholia and the Suffering of Androids." *Esoterica: A Journal for Studies in Esotericism* 8 (2006), 83-111.
- "Shelley and the Poetics of Glaciers." Wordsworth Circle 36:2 (Spring 2005), 53-7.
- "Movie-Going and Golem-Making: The Case of *Blade Runner*." *Journal of Film and Video* 57:3 (Fall 2005), 31-43.
- "Emerson's Gnostic Democracy." Esoterica: A Journal for Studies in Esotericism 6 (2004), 1-33.
- "Polar Apocalypse in Coleridge and Poe." The Wordsworth Circle 35:1 (Winter 2004), 37-44.

- "Thoreau, Crystallography, and the Science of the Transparent." *Studies in Romanticism* 43:1 (Spring 2004), 99-118.
- "Emersonian Transparency and the Anatomy of Crystal." *Nineteenth-Century Prose* (Special Issue: Ralph Waldo Emerson Bicentenary) 30:1/2 (Spring/Fall 2003), 72-101.
- "Coleridge, Emerson, and Electromagnetic Hermeticism." *Wordsworth Circle* 32:3 (Summer 2001), 34-39.
- "Melville, Darwin, and the Great Chain of Being." *Studies in American Fiction* 28:2 (Autumn 2000), 131-150.
- "Emerson's Fiery Tent." Southern Humanities Review 34:4 (Fall 2000), 305-332.
- "Whitman's Rhizomes." Arizona Quarterly 55:3 (Autumn 1999): 1-22.
- "Emerson's *Nature*, Paralogy, and the Physics of the Sublime." *Mosaic* 33:1 (March 2000): 39-58.
- "Thoreau, Thales, and the Distribution of Water." The Concord Saunterer 6 (1998): 27-46.
- "The Nomad, the Pilgrim, and the White Whale." *Colby Quarterly* 34:3 (September 1998): 226-42.
- "Dickinson's Chemistry of Death." *American Transcendentalist Quarterly* 12:1 (March 1998): 27-44.
- "Coleridge's Conversing." Southern Humanities Review 32:1 (Winter 1998): 1-24.
- "Terrible Simplicity: Emerson's Metaleptic Style." Style 31:1 (Spring 1997): 58-80.
- "Emerson and Electromagnetism." Emerson Society Quarterly 42:2 (December 1996): 93-124.
- "The Blood-Wrought Peace: A Girardian Reading of *Beowulf*." *English Language Notes* 34:1 (September 1996): 7-29.
- "Weaving: Breathing: Thinking: The Poetics of Emerson's *Nature*." *American Transcendentalist Quarterly* 10:1 (March 1996): 5-24.
- "On the Way to the Still Point: Eliot's *Four Quartets* and Martin Heidegger." *The Yeats Eliot Review* 13:3 4 (Fall 1995): 56-62.

# **Articles in the Popular Press:**

"Saved by Depression." Beliefnet.com, December 1, 2011.

- "Lionel Trilling, Liberal Humanism, and the Power of Melancholy." *CSER Review* 3.1 (November 2009), 5-8.
- "Light in Winter." The New York Times. September 13, 2009.
- "The Gift of Financial Insecurity." The Chronicle of Higher Education, April 17, 2009.
- "In Praise of Melancholy." *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, January 18,2008. (Reprinted in *The Australian*, Feb. 10, 2008, and *The Longman Reader*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition, 2011).
- "The Miracle of Melancholy." *The L.A. Times* Feb. 17, 2008. (Reprinted in *The Age*, March 1, 2008).

### **Review Essays:**

"From Metaphysical Poverty to Practical Power: Emerson's Embrace of the Physical World." *Emerson Society Quarterly* 43:1-4 (1998): 295-322.

#### **Reviews:**

- Laurie Hertzel, News to Me: A Writer's Journey from News-chaser to Fiction-maker, in The Raleigh News and Observer, August 22, 2010.
- Ted Underwood, *The Work of the Sun: Literature, Science, and Economy, 1760-1860, in The Wordsworth Circle* (Autumn 2006), 222-23.
- Julie Cruikshank. Do Glaciers Listen? Local Knowledge, Colonial Encounters, and Social Imagination, in The American Historical Review (June 2006), 62-3.
- David M. Robinson, Ed, *The Political Emerson*, in *The Emerson Society Papers* (Spring 2004), 3.
- Robert G. David, *The Artic in British Imagination*, 1818-1914, in *The Wordsworth Circle* 32:4 (Autumn 2001), 210-12.
- Martin Halliwell, Romantic Science and the Experience of Self: Transatlantic Crosscurrents from William James to Oliver Sacks, in Isis: Journal of the History of Science Society 92:1 (March 2001), 189-90.

#### **INVITED LECTURES:**

- "The Mercy of Eternity: Depression, Forgiveness, Healing." University of North Texas, March, 2011.
- "Forgiveness and Depression." Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Winston-Salem, January, 2011.

- "A New Walk Is A New Walk: Teaching Poetry in the Twenty-First Century," Ammons Symposium, Wake Forest University, October, 2010.
- "Teaching Poetry Today." North Carolina English Teachers Association, September, 2010.
- "Gnostic Cinema." Esalen Institute, May, 2010.
- "Forgiveness, the Gates of Paradise, and William Blake's Nervous Fear." Annual Poteat Lecture. Wake Forest University. April, 2010.
- "Vestiges of Creation: Ideas of Evolution in American Transcendentalism." Symposium: Curious Spectacle: Charles Darwin and the Art of Observation. Reynolda Museum of American Art. October, 2009.
- "Melancholy and the Life of the Mind." The Convocation Address, Virginia Intermont College, September, 2009.
- "The Power of Melancholy." The Lecture Series, Bates College, May 2009.
- "Melancholy and Spirit." The Mahan Lecture, Gettysburg College, April, 2009.
- "What Is Happiness?" Quail Ridge Books, Raleigh, November, 2008.
- "Melancholy and Leadership." Jepson Center for Leadership Studies, Richmond University, November 2008.
- "Against Happiness." The DePaul Humanities Center, October, 2008.
- "The Other Side of Happiness." The Center for Lifelong Learning, Wake Forest University, September, 2008.
- "Against Happiness." Center for Inquiry, Buffalo, NY, May 2008.
- "Against Happiness." Lecture Series for Portals of Discovery, Reynolda Museum of American Art, September, 2008.
- "Melancholy and Depression: An Essential Difference." Creighton University Medical School, May, 2008.
- "Melancholy and Creativity." The Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, Omaha, May 2008.
- "Against Happiness." The Regulator Bookstore, Durham, March 2008.
- "Against Happiness." Winston-Salem Psychiatric Society, January, 2008.

- "The Electromagnetic Moment: On the Romantic Apocalypse of Matter." Keynote Address, Nineteenth-Century Literature and the Cultural Moment, University of South Carolina, March, 2006.
- "Poetry, Ecology, and Some New Ways of Looking at Ice." Annual Back to the Classroom Alumni Lecture, Wake Forest University, November, 2006.
- "Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Science." Lecture Series for Portals of Discovery, Reynolda Museum of American Art, November, 2006.
- "The Melancholy Android: A Primer on Some Literary and Cinematic Machines." Colloquium Series. Wake Forest University, September, 2005.
- "Romantic Sleepwalkers." Appalachian State University, March, 2005.
- "Emersonian Transparency and the Anatomy of Crystal." Duke University Americanist Speaker Series, November, 2003.
- "The Occult Current: A Romantic Poetics of Electricity." National Humanities Center, September, 2003.
- "American Literature and American Landscape Painting: Some Examples from Three Periods." Reynolda Museum of American Art, January, 2002.
- "Science, Biography, Identity: The Cases of Faraday and Emerson." Boston Colloquium for the Philosophy of Science. November, 2001.
- "Becoming an American Scholar." Symposium for Honors Fellows. Appalachian State University. Boone, NC. November, 2000.
- "Thoreau on Ice." Friday Forum Lecture Series. Graduate School and University Center, CUNY. New York City. October, 2000.
- "Emerson, Electricity, and Ecology." The Book Club. Taylorsville, NC. November, 1999.

#### **INVITED READINGS:**

The Mercy of Eternity, The Green Bean, Greensboro, December, 2010. The Mercy of Eternity, Barnes and Noble, Winston-Salem, November, 2010. The Mercy of Eternity, Malaprops Bookstore, Asheville, September, 2010.

# **CONFERENCE TALKS:**

"Emerson's Objects and the Political Sublime," International Conference on Romanticism, Baltimore, 2007.

- "Coleridge on Mesmer: The Philosophy of Sleepwalking." North American Society for the Study of Romanticism. West Lafayette, 2006.
- "Esoteric Cinema." Biannual Conference for the Association for Studies in Esotericism. Davis, 2006.
- "Thoreau's Ironic Optics." The Annual Gathering of the Thoreau Society. Concord, 2006.
- "Thoreau's Analogical Science." The Annual Gathering of the Thoreau Society. Concord, 2006.
- "Shelley and the Poetics of Glaciers." Sponsored by the Wordsworth Coleridge Association.

  Modern Language Association Annual Convention. Philadelphia, 2004.
- "Emerson's Esoteric Electromagnetism." Annual Conference of the Association for Esoteric Studies. East Lansing, 2004.
- "Polar Apocalypse in Coleridge and Poe." North American Society for the Study of Romanticism. New York City, 2003.
- "The Science of the Transparent: Emerson, Thoreau, and Crystallography." The Annual Gathering of the Thoreau Society. Concord, 2003.
- "Emerson, Thoreau, and Public Things." Sponsored by the Thoreau Society. Modern Language Association Annual Convention. New York City, 2002.
- "Thoreau, Crystallography, and the Forms of Turbulence." Sponsored by the Emerson Society. Modern Language Association Annual Convention. New Orleans, 2001.
- Respondent, "Temporal Politics." American Studies Association Annual Convention. Washington, D.C., 2001.
- "Emerson, Electricity, and the Redemption of Matter." Sponsored by the Emerson Society. American Literature Association Annual Convention. Boston, 2001.
- "Thoreau, Nietzsche, and Time's Streams." American Literature Association Annual Convention. Boston, 2001.
- "Coleridge, Emerson, and Electromagnetic Hermeticism." Sponsored by the Wordsworth-Coleridge Association. Modern Language Association Annual Convention. Washington, D.C., 2000.
- Organizer and Chair, "Nietzschean Emerson/ Emersonian Nietzsche." A Special Session. Modern Language Association Annual Convention. San Francisco, 1998.

- "Emerson and the Redemption of Power." Annual Meeting of the Society for Literature and Science. Gainesville, 1998.
- "The Secret Mechanism of Life and Sensation: The Young Emerson and Electricity." Sponsored by the Thoreau Society. Modern Language Association Annual Convention. Toronto, 1997.
- "Parables of Monomania: Scientific Doubling and Sublime Difference in *Moby-Dick*." Annual Meeting of the Society for Literature and Science. Pittsburgh, 1997.
- "Emerson's Electric Tropes." Annual Meeting of the Society for Literature and Science. Atlanta, 1996.
- "Teaching at C.U.N.Y." Annual Panel for New Teaching Fellows. Graduate School and University Center, CUNY. New York City, 1995.
- "The Blood-Wrought Peace: A Girardian Reading of Beowulf." Annual Conference of the New York Medieval Club. New York City, 1994.
- "The Uncanny Nostalgia." Annual Graduate Student Conference of the City University of New York. New York City, 1993.

#### **TELEVISION APPEARANCES:**

WCSH NBC 8's 207, May, 2009 UNCTV's Bookwatch, August, 2008 Ontario TV's The Agenda, March 2008 NBC's Today Show, March, 2008 WGHP Fox 8 (Winston-Salem Fox Affliate) WXII TV 12 (Winston-Salem NBC Affiliate)

# **RADIO APPEARANCES:**

Gnostic Media with Jan Irvin, December, 2010
Wisconsin Public Radio, The Joy Cardin Show, December, 2010
NPR, WFAE 90.7 FM, December, 2010
Aeon Byte Gnostic Radio with Miguel Connor, November, 2010
Impossible Talk with Jeffrey Kripal and Scott Jones, July, 2010
Gnostic Media with Jan Irvin, February, 2010
Expanding Mind with Erik Davis, February, 2010
BBC Newshour, October, 2009
Zapping, National Italian Radio, May, 2009
Counterpoint, Australian ABC Radio National, May, 2009
Voices and Viewpoints, WFDD, November, 2008

Out the Rabbit Hole, KUCI, August, 2008

Weekend America, NPR, July, 2008

Who's Talking with DG Martin, June, 2008

Saturday Morning with Kim Hill, Radio New Zealand, March, 2008

The Tommy Schnurmacher Show, March, 2008

Viewpoint University, KSOO, March, 2008

The Dennis Praeger Show, March, 2008

Late Night Live, Australia's ABC Radio National, March, 2008

These Days, KPBS, March, 2008

Here on Earth, Wisconsin Public Radio, March, 2008

Newstalk, Irish Radio, February, 2008

The Book Babes, WMNF, February, 2008

Fair Game, New York Public Radio, February, 2008

The Shannon Nelson Show, CFUN, Februrary, 2008

The Leslie Roberts Show, CFRB, February, 2008

Q, Canadian Broadcasting Company, February, 2008

On Point, Boston Public Radio, February, 2008

All Things Considered, NPR, February, 2008

Talk of the Nation, NPR, February, 2008

BBC Radio 4's The Morning Show, January, 2008

Out the Rabbit Hole, KUCI, June, 2007

Out the Rabbit Hole, KUCI, May, 2007

What's the Word?, NPR, October, 2005.

Odyssey, Chicago Public Radio, February, 2005

Odyssey, Chicago Public Radio, December, 2004

# APPEARANCES IN POPULAR PRINT:

New York Times, May, 2009

Psychology Today, January, 2009.

Daily Iowan, December, 2008.

Fashion Magazine, November, 2008

San Francisco Chronicle, November, 2008.

The Spectator, October, 2008.

Montreal Gazette, November, 2008.

New Zealand Herald, November, 2008.

The Guardian, June, 2008.

The Charlotte Observer, May, 2008.

Republicca, May, 2008.

Smithsonian.com, May, 2008.

El Pais, March, 2008

Vancouver Sun, February, 2008.

New York Times, February, 2008.

Hartford Courier, February, 2008.

McDowell News, February, 2008.

Boston Globe, February, 2008.

Chicago Tribune, February, 2008.

The Winston-Salem Journal, February, 2008.

Winnipeg Free Press, February, 2008.

Ottawa Citizen, February, 2008.

Newsweek, February, 2008.

Los Angeles Times, February, 2008.

Time, January, 2008.

Jezebel.com, January, 2008.

### OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Referee, Emerson Society Quarterly, 2008

Referee, European Romantic Review, 2007

Referee, European Romantic Review, 2006

Referee, Palgrave Macmillan Press, 2006

Referee, University of Missouri Press, 2006

Referee, State University of New York Press, 2005

Referee, Farleigh Dickinson University Press, 2005

Referee, European Romantic Review, 2005

Referee, European Romantic Review, 2004

Referee, Studies in the Novel, 2003

Referee, Eighteenth-Century Life, 2003

Referee, Publications of the Modern Language Association, 2003

Referee, Emerson Society Quarterly, 2001

Referee, Palgrave Macmillan Press, 2001

Referee, University of California Press, 1999

Referee, Emerson Society Quarterly (Special Volume on Emerson and Nietzsche), 1998

# **TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

Thomas H. Pritchard Professor, Wake Forest University, 2007-present.

Professor, Wake Forest University, 2006-2007

Associate Professor, Wake Forest University, 2002-2006

Assistant Professor, Wake Forest University, 1998-2002

Assistant Professor, St. John's University (New York), 1997-98

Visiting Assistant Professor, Wake Forest University, 1996-1997

Teaching Fellow, Baruch College, CUNY, 1991, 1993-1996

Adjunct Lecturer, Queens College, CUNY, 1994-95

Lecturer, Appalachian State University, 1990-91, 1992-93

# **COURSES TAUGHT:**

British Romantic Poetry; Romantic Philosophy and Literary Theory; William Blake and David Lynch; American Romanticism; American Poetry to 1900; Nineteenth-Century American Literature; Literature and Film; Literature and Psychology; Literature and Ecology

#### **SCHOLARLY FIELDS:**

British Romantic Poetry; The American Renaissance; Nineteenth-Century American Literature; Transatlantic Romanticism; Literature and Philosophy; Literature and Psychology; Film Studies

# **ACADEMIC SERVICE:**

Director of Graduate Studies in English, Wake Forest University, 2010-present

Masters Program's Task Force, Wake Forest University, 2009-present

Graduate Council, Wake Forest University, 2009-present

English Department Executive Committee, 2008-present

Director, Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, Wake Forest University, 2008-2010

Lower Division Advisor, Wake Forest University, 2008-present

Chair, Jessica Richard's Tenure Committee, Wake Forest University, 2008

Provost's Tenure and Promotion Committee, Wake Forest University, 2008

Chair, English Department, Wake Forest University, 2003-07

Search Committee for Provost, Wake Forest University, 2007

Dean's Scholarly Advisory Board, Wake Forest University, 2007

University-Wide Writing Assessment Committee, Wake Forest University, 2004-06

Director of Graduate Studies, English Department, Wake Forest University, 2003-04

Executive Committee, English Department, Wake Forest University, 2002-04

Interview Committee, Early Modern Poetry, English Department, Wake Forest University, 2002

Major Advisor, English Department, Wake Forest University, 2001-03

Richter Fellowship Committee, Wake Forest University, 2000-02

Marshall and Rhodes Scholarships Committee, Wake Forest University, 2000-02

University Scholarship Committee, Wake Forest University, 2000-02

Lower Division Committee, English Department, Wake Forest University, 2000-03

Search Committee, British Romantic Poetry, English Department, Wake Forest University, 2000

Search Committee, British Romantic Poetry, English Department, Wake Forest University, 1999

Carswell Scholarship Interview Committee, Wake Forest University, 1999-2000

Freshman Advisor, Wake Forest University, 1999-2001, 2008-

Library Representative, English Department, Wake Forest University, 1998-99