

David P. Withun
Head of School
Jacksonville Classical Academy
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EDUCATION

2019 PhD, Humanities, Faulkner University (Montgomery, AL)

Concentration in Literature

Dissertation: “Co-workers in the Kingdom of Culture: Classics and Cosmopolitanism in the Works of W. E. B. Du Bois”

Dissertation Committee: Jason Jewell (chair), Mark Linville, Chad Redwing (Modesto Junior College), Patrice Rankine (University of Richmond)

2015 MA, Humanities, Faulkner University (Montgomery, AL)

Thesis: “Equal Opportunity through Education: W. E. B. Du Bois's Vision of Liberal Education for Disadvantaged Youth”

Thesis Committee: Robert M. Woods (chair), Jason Jewell, David Stark

2013 BA, History, American Military University (Charles Town, WV)

Concentration in Early European Studies

Minor in Philosophy

Cum laude

Senior Thesis: “Personhood in Late Antiquity: How Barbarians, Slaves, Women, and Children Became Persons”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Total Years: 8+

Higher Education

English and Humanities Instructor

3/2018 – 10/2019

Savannah Technical College

Savannah, GA

- Designed learning experiences and taught courses for a diverse study body with widely varying academic backgrounds, including a majority of first-generation college students.
- Taught remedial and introductory courses in college-level writing, resulting in passage rates on departmental finals outpacing departmental averages.
- Consistently received among the highest ratings on student teaching evaluations.
- Courses taught:

- ENGL 0097: English II
- ENGL 0098: English III
- ENGL 1010: Fundamentals of English I
- ENGL 1101: Composition and Rhetoric
- ENGL 1102: Literature and Composition
- HUMN 1101: Introduction to Humanities

K-12

Certifications (Florida Department of Education)

Social Sciences 6-12

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) K-12

English 6-12

Founding Head of School

10/2019 – Present

Jacksonville Classical Academy

Jacksonville, FL

- Successfully recruit and retain a diverse faculty team of more than 50 highly effective and highly qualified teachers, instructional assistants, and support staff.
- Recruited a student body of 500 students to be the founding scholars of a new charter school through local outreach efforts, including public presentations, school tours, and participation in local events.
- Coach and mentor teachers through weekly rounds of observation/feedback and professional development sessions, resulting in measurable and incremental increases in classroom effectiveness in key areas affecting student outcomes, such as classroom management and rigor.
- Manage all aspects of day-to-day operations of a K-6 school with more than 35 teachers, 15 instructional assistants and support staff, and 500 Kindergarten-6th grade students in a 90,000 square foot facility on a 10-acre campus.

History and Literature Teacher

8/2013 – 7/2018

Savannah Classical Academy

Savannah, GA

- Developed curriculum for Literature, History, Humanities, and other upper elementary, middle, and high school courses.
- Mentored students as well as new teachers, resulting in increased academic success across subject areas and grade levels.
- Success in classroom effectiveness include 9th Grade Literature and Composition students outperforming the district-wide average on the PSAT, standardized reading test scores among the highest in the district, and reading ability growth outpacing state averages for five successive years.
- Courses taught include:
 - 5th Grade History
 - 5th Grade English/Literature
 - 5th Grade Science
 - 6th Grade History
 - 6th Grade English/Literature

- 7th Grade History
- 7th Grade Humanities
- 8th Grade History
- 8th Grade Government/Civics
- 8th Grade Humanities
- 9th Grade Literature and Composition
- Humanities (high school elective)
- Literary Types and Composition (high school elective)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Military Intelligence Analyst

Staff Sergeant

6/2004 – 8/2012

U.S. Army

- Supervised, mentored, and trained a section of junior intelligence analysts during two deployments to Iraq.
- Prepared and delivered over 1000 intelligence briefings, including intelligence analysis, to military and civilian leadership.
- Researched relevant cultural, historical, and political data in order to provide professional recommendations to senior decision makers.
- Maintained accountability for equipment valued at more than one million dollars.
- Maintained Top Secret security clearance.

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

Co-workers in the Kingdom of Culture: Classics and Cosmopolitanism in the Thought of W. E. B. Du Bois. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2021. Forthcoming.

ARTICLES IN REFEREED JOURNALS

“American Archias: Cicero and *The Souls of Black Folk*.” *Classical Receptions Journal*. Forthcoming.

“Zora’s Bookshelf in *The Quest of the Silver Fleece* by W. E. B. Du Bois.” *The Explicator* 77, nos. 3–4 (2019): 124–127.

“‘A Dark, Abiding, Signing Africanist Presence’ in Walker Percy’s Dr. Tom More Novels.” *The Costal Review* 11, no. 1 (Fall 2019–Spring 2020): 1–18.

“W. E. B. Du Bois and Irving Babbitt: A Comparative Evaluation of Their Views on Education, Leadership, and Society.” *Phylon: The Clark Atlanta University Review of Race and Culture* 54, no. 1 (Summer 2017): 25–42.

“Washington and Du Bois in the Context of Western Thought on Education.” *Journal of Faith and the Academy* 9, no. 1 (Spring 2016): 32–52.

OTHER ARTICLES

- “A Classical and Cosmopolitan Education.” *Forma Journal* 13 (Winter 2020): 46–50.
- “Faith, Myths, and Black Prometheus.” *Monthly Review Online* (16 November 2017), <https://mronline.org/2017/11/16/faith-myths-and-black-prometheus/>.
- “African Americans and the Classics: An Introduction.” *Black Perspectives*. Edited by Keisha Blaine. September 7, 2017. <http://www.aaihs.org/african-americans-and-the-classics-an-introduction/>.
- “Making Peace with the World: T. S. Eliot & the Purpose of Poetry.” *The Imaginative Conservative*. Edited by W. Winston Elliott III. August 24, 2017. <http://www.theimaginativeconservative.org/2017/08/poetry-ts-eliot-david-withun.html>.
- “Savannah Classical Academy Unfairly Criticized.” *Savannah Morning News*, August 3, 2017.
- “The Pagan Origins of Christmas?” *Leben: A Journal of Reformation Life* 10, no. 1 (October–December 2014): 1–10.

DICTIONARY AND ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

- “The Washington-Du Bois Debate (1900-1910): Elitism and Racial Progress.” *Anti-intellectualism and Elitism in America: An Encyclopedia of Conflict*. Edited by Tim Lacy. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO. Forthcoming.
- “Black Theology.” *American Religious History: Belief and Society through Time*. Edited by Gary S. Smith. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2020.
- “Cone, James H.” *American Religious History: Belief and Society through Time*. Edited by Gary S. Smith. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2020.
- “Crummell, Alexander.” *American Religious History: Belief and Society through Time*. Edited by Gary S. Smith. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2020.
- “Father Divine.” *American Religious History: Belief and Society through Time*. Edited by Gary S. Smith. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2020.
- “Benham, Robert.” *BlackPast.org*. Edited by Quintard Taylor. <http://www.blackpast.org/aah/benham-robert-1946>. 2018.
- “Beasley, Mother Mathilda.” *BlackPast.org*. Edited by Quintard Taylor. <http://www.blackpast.org/aah/beasley-mother-mathilda-1832-1903>. 2018.

BOOK REVIEWS

“*The Classics in Modernist Translation*. Edited by Miranda Hickman and Lynn Kozak. London, UK and New York, NY: Bloomsbury, 2019. Pp. xviii + 270. Hardback, \$114.00. ISBN: 978-1-350-04095-3.” *Classical Journal Online*, 31 October 2020.

“Faith, Myths, and Black Prometheus.” A review of Hickman, Jared. *Black Prometheus: Race and Radicalism in the Age of Atlantic Slavery*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017. *Black Perspectives*. November 14, 2017. <http://www.aaihs.org/faith-myths-and-black-prometheus/>.

“Malamud, Margaret. *African Americans and the Classics*. New York: I. B. Taurus, 2016.” *Journal of African American Studies* 21, no. 2 (June 2017): 287–289.

“Cooper, Derek. *Introduction to World Christian History*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2016.” *Journal of Faith and the Academy* 9, no. 2 (Fall 2016): 85–87.

PRESENTATIONS

“‘A Dark, Abiding, Signing Africanist Presence’ in Walker Percy’s Dr. Tom More Novels.” Southeast Coastal Conference on Languages and Literatures. Georgia Southern University. April 4, 2018.

“The Semiotics of Sacrifice in T. S. Eliot’s *Murder in the Cathedral*.” Scholars Seminar, T. S. Eliot Society Annual Meeting. St. Louis, Missouri. September 22, 2017.

“‘Only Hints and Guesses’: Overcoming Isolation in T. S. Eliot’s ‘Dry Salvages.’” College English Association Annual Conference. Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. April 1, 2017.

“American Archias: The Influence of Cicero’s *Pro Archia Poeta* in W. E. B. Du Bois’s *The Souls of Black Folk*.” African American Intellectual History Society Conference. Vanderbilt University. March 25, 2017.

“The Creative Power of Love in Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales*.” Institute of Faith and the Academy Conference. Faulkner University. February 10, 2017.

“Identity and Ostentation in Shakespeare’s *The Taming of the Shrew*.” Southeast Coastal Conference on Languages and Literatures. Georgia Southern University. April 7, 2016.

“Washington and Du Bois in the Context of Western Thought on Education.” Institute of Faith and the Academy Conference. Faulkner University. February 5, 2016.

“Sacramental Anthropology: Human Nature According to Early Christian Eucharistic Rites.” Institute of Faith and the Academy Conference. Faulkner University. February 6, 2015.

GRANTS

Society for Classical Studies, “Classics Everywhere” Initiative. December 2018 (\$1350).

Bridge Initiative Grant, Classical Association of the Middle West and South. December 2018 (\$500).

Leadership Initiative Grant, Classical Association of the Atlantic States. October 2018 (\$3000).

Bridge Initiative Grant, Classical Association of the Middle West and South. October 2017 (\$500).

Leadership Initiative Grant, Classical Association of the Atlantic States. September 2017 (\$2000).

Travel Grant, African American Intellectual History Society Conference. February, 2017 (\$250).

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Award for Outstanding Promotional Activity in the Schools. Committee for the Promotion of Latin, Classical Association of the Middle West and South. April 2018.

Editorial Internship, *Black Perspectives*. African American Intellectual History Society. June 1–August 31, 2017.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Anonymous Reviewer. *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*. 2020.

Volunteer. 2019 Autism Conference. Savannah Convention Center, Savannah, GA. February 16–17, 2019.

Advisor to Likewise College, liberal arts higher education program for inmates of the Arkansas Department of Corrections. 2016–Present.

Organizer and moderator. “The Symposium on African American History and Liberal Education: A Celebration of the Life and Legacy of Anna Julia Cooper.” The Allan P. Kirby, Jr. Center for Constitutional Studies and Citizenship (Hillsdale College), Washington, D.C. Participants: Shirley Moody-Turner (Pennsylvania State University) and Carolivia Herron (Howard University). February 16–17, 2019.

Editorial Assistant, *Black Perspectives*. African American Intellectual History Society. September 2017–February 2018.

Organizer and moderator. “Savannah Symposium on African American History and Liberal Education: A Celebration of the Life and Legacy of William Sanders Scarborough.”

Savannah Classical Academy, Savannah, Georgia. Participants: Michael Benjamin (Georgia Southern University), Patrice Rankine (University of Richmond), Michele Ronnick (Wayne State University). February 16–17, 2018.

Savannah Philosophy Club, afterschool philosophy learning and discussion program for middle and high school students. 2016 – 2017.

Savannah Classical Academy Thespian Society, afterschool drama club for middle school students. 2016 – 2017.

Church history lecture series. 8 lectures. St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church, Rincon, Georgia. September 2013–May 2014.

PERFORMANCE HISTORY

Measure for Measure. Pompey Bum. Savannah Shakes: Savannah Repertory Theatre, Savannah, GA. Directed by Teresa Kizer. June 13–16, 2019. 4 shows.

Twelfth Night. Sir Toby Belch. Savannah Shakes: Kennedy Fine Arts Building, Savannah State University, Savannah, GA. Directed by Mike Moore. June 22–July 1, 2018. 6 shows.

Henry V. John Bates. Savannah Shakes: The Muse Arts Warehouse, Savannah, GA. Directed by Sheila Lynne Bolda. November 11–20, 2016. 6 shows.

Much Ado About Nothing. Conrade. Savannah Shakes: The Muse Arts Warehouse, Savannah, GA. Directed by Karla Knudsen. June 10–19, 2016. 6 shows.

The Taming of the Shrew. Christopher Sly. Savannah Shakes: The Muse Arts Warehouse, Savannah, GA. Directed by Shiela Lynne Bolda. July 10–19, 2015. 6 shows.

MEDIA

“New school looks like a classic success,” editorial, *Florida Times-Union*, 29 November 2020, <https://www.jacksonville.com/story/opinion/editorials/2020/11/29/editorial-new-charter-school-looks-like-classic-success/6373373002/>.

Solé, Elise. “School Report Card,” *Yahoo! Life*, 23 October 2020, <https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/school-report-card-teen-sues-school-trump-face-mask-policy-student-newspaper-halts-mental-health-204603104.html>.

Press briefing on education and the Coronavirus with Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and Florida Secretary of Education Richard Corcoran, Jacksonville Classical Academy, 20 October 2020, <https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/10-20-20-briefing-on-education-and-coronavirus-covid-19/>.

Ready, Jennifer. "Coronavirus quarantine causes 'disruption crisis' for school aged children," 2 April 2020, <https://www.news4jax.com/news/local/2020/04/02/coronavirus-quarantine-causes-disruption-crisis-for-school-aged-children/>.

Edwards, Jennifer. "New charter school beginning enrolment, selection process," *The Resident*, 2 February 2020, <https://residentnews.net/2020/02/02/new-charter-school-beginning-enrollment-selection-process/>.

First Coast Connect with Melissa Ross, WJCT, Jacksonville, Florida, 13 January 2020, <https://news.wjct.org/post/homicide-statistics-divorce-jacksonville-classical-academy-0>.

Hoskinson, Cyd. "Enrolling Now for 2020: New Charter School Choices in Jacksonville," WJCT, Jacksonville, Florida, 5 December 2019, <https://news.wjct.org/post/enrolling-now-2020-new-charter-school-choices-jacksonville>.

Chandler, Anna. "Bringing the Bard Back to Savannah," *Savannah Connect*, 20 June 2018, <https://www.connectsavannah.com/savannah/bringing-the-bard-back-to-savannah/Content?oid=8779972>.

Margol, Ian. "Education vs Poverty: Money Preventing Progress," WSAV, Savannah, Georgia, 12 August 2015, <https://www.wsav.com/news/education-vs-poverty-money-preventing-progress/>.

Morekis, Jim. "Review: *The Taming of the Shrew* by Savannah Shakes," *Savannah Connect*, 14 July 2015, <https://www.connectsavannah.com/savannah/review-taming-of-the-shrew-by-savannah-shakes/Content?oid=2826196>.

Morekis, Jim. "Do You *Shrew*?", *Savannah Connect*, 8 July 2015, <https://www.connectsavannah.com/savannah/do-you-shrew/Content?oid=2814594>.

LANGUAGES

Ancient Greek

Latin

Spanish

HISTORICAL PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Society for Classical Studies (SCS)
- Classical Association of the Middle West and South (CAMWS)
- Classical Association of the Atlantic States (CAAS)
- African American Intellectual History Society (AAIHS)
- Modern Language Association (MLA)
- College English Association (CEA)
- T. S. Eliot Society
- American Society of Church History (ASCH)