

## JOHN M. BOWERS

CURRICULUM VITÆ: March 2023



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### Professional Career

1997-2000      Chair, English Department, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
1992-           Full Professor of English, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
1987-92        Associate Professor of English, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
1984-87        Assistant Professor of English, Princeton University  
1982-84        Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Humanities, California Institute of Technology  
1980-82        Assistant Professor of English, Hamilton College  
1978-80        Lecturer in English, University of Virginia

### Education

1978           Ph.D. in English, University of Virginia  
                  Dissertation Director: V. A. Kolve  
1976           M.Phil., English Language and Literature, Oxford University  
                  Supervisor: Norman Davis  
1975           B.Phil., Oxford University – Rhodes Scholarship  
                  Thesis Advisor: Rosemary Woolf  
1973           M.A. in English, University of Virginia – English (with Distinction)  
                  Committee Chair: Robert Kellogg  
1971           B.A., Duke University (*magna cum laude*) – Honors in English  
                  Program II: Phi Beta Kappa, Delta Mu Tau

## Academic Honors

2022 Visiting Research Scholar, Merton College, Oxford  
2022 UNLV Sabbatical Award (Fall semester only)  
2020 Visiting Research Scholar, Merton College, Oxford (postponed for covid)  
2020 Morris Award for Excellence in Scholarship, UNLV College of Liberal Arts  
2014 Visiting Research Scholar, Merton College, Oxford  
2014 UNLV Sabbatical Award (Fall semester only)  
2014 Research Fellow, Black Mountain Institute (Spring semester)  
2013 Visiting Research Scholar, Merton College, Oxford  
2013 Morris Award for Excellence in Scholarship, UNLV College of Liberal Arts  
2007 UNLV Sabbatical Award (Fall semester only)  
2004 Professor and Chair of English Department, University of Miami (declined)  
2002 Summer Fellowship, Huntington Library  
2001 Barrick Distinguished Scholar Award, UNLV  
2001 Morris Award for Excellence in Scholarship, UNLV College of Liberal Arts  
2001 Visiting Research Fellowship, Merton College, Oxford (Trinity term)  
2000 Rockefeller Foundation, Bellagio Study Center, Villa Serbelloni  
2000-01 Guggenheim Fellowship  
2000 UNLV Sabbatical Award (full year)  
1998 Nominated for the J. R. R. Tolkien Professorship, Oxford University  
1997 Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, UNLV  
1995 NEH Summer Institute, University of Colorado, Boulder  
1994 UNLV Sabbatical Award  
1992-93 NEH Fellowship for University Teachers  
1991-92 Executive Committee, Western Humanities Conference  
1988 NEH Faculty Development Institute, UNLV  
1987 Visiting Faculty Associate, Caltech  
1986 NEH Summer Stipend to Huntington Library  
1985-86 Faculty Fellow, Butler College, Princeton University  
1985 NEH Travel to Collections Grant  
1982-84 Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, California Institute of Technology  
1976-78 Governor's Fellowship, University of Virginia  
1973-76 Rhodes Scholarship, Merton College, Oxford  
1972 English-Speaking Union Scholarship, Exeter College, Oxford  
1971-72 Danforth Associate Fellowship, University of Virginia  
1971-72 Junior Fellow, Society of Fellows, University of Virginia  
1970 Phi Beta Kappa and Delta Mu Tau (Musical Honorary), Duke University  
1967 Danforth "I Dare You" Award, Henrico High School in Virginia

## Teaching Recognitions

2019	English Department Nominee for Abbey Teaching Award
2012	UNLV Foundation Distinguished Teaching Award
2008	The Teaching Company's Great Courses CDs and DVDs of 36-part lecture series <i>The Western Literary Canon in Context</i>
2006	UNLV Nominee for the CASE Carnegie Professor of the Year Award
2005	UNLV Nominee for the CASE Carnegie Professor of the Year Award
1999	Regents' Teaching Award
1996	Teacher of the Year Award for College of Liberal Arts, Consolidated Students of University of Nevada (C-SUN)
1995	UNLV Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher of English
1990	Rita Deanin Abbey Teacher of the Year Award, College of Liberal Arts
1990	Southern Nevada Teachers of English Distinguished Teacher
1989	Outstanding Teacher in English Department, UNLV

## Scholarly Books

*Tolkien's Lost Chaucer*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019. (refereed) Book-length study based on discovery of Tolkien's unpublished, unknown *Selections from Chaucer's Poetry and Prose* from the 1920s and its afterlife in his scholarship and fantasy fiction.

Released as [an audiobook AudioBooksNow](#) on 07/31/2020, unabridged and narrated by Jennifer M. Dixon: <https://www.audiobooksnow.com/search/Bowers%20Tolkien/>

Nominated by Oxford University Press for the MLA's James Russell Lowell Prize.

Winner of the 2021 Mythopoeic Society's Scholarship Award in Inklings Studies.

*TLS* review: <https://www.the-tls.co.uk/articles/tolkienes-lost-chaucer-john-m-bowers-book-review-mary-c-flannery/>

*Oxonian Review*: <https://www.oxonianreview.org/wp/tolkien-as-chaucer/>

LitHub: <https://lithub.com/did-tolkien-write-the-lord-of-the-rings-because-he-was-avoiding-his-academic-work/>

*Guardian* feature: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/may/18/tolkien-lost-work-chaucer-found>

*English Studies*:

[https://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/XE7BJZVJQWBMUFE3AJ8I/full?target=10.1080%2F0013838X.2021.1970331&fbclid=IwAR00VasOqH57Zlvog\\_wjURf4RfM7OjaIyCI0W5nis0cncWV6GgXdBKHQbzE](https://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/XE7BJZVJQWBMUFE3AJ8I/full?target=10.1080%2F0013838X.2021.1970331&fbclid=IwAR00VasOqH57Zlvog_wjURf4RfM7OjaIyCI0W5nis0cncWV6GgXdBKHQbzE)

*An Introduction to the "Gawain" Poet.* Gainesville: University Press of Florida, New Perspectives on Medieval Literature Series, 2012. (invited and refereed)

Nominated by University Press of Florida for the 2012 Warren-Brooks Literary Award.

*Chaucer and Langland: The Antagonistic Tradition.* Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2007. (refereed)

*The Politics of "Pearl": Court Poetry in the Age of Richard II.* Cambridge: D. S. Brewer, 2001. (refereed)

*The Canterbury Tales: Fifteenth-Century Continuations and Additions.* Kalamazoo: Western Michigan University TEAMS Medieval Institute Publication, 1992. (invited and refereed)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Revised, 1999.

*The Crisis of Will in "Piers Plowman."* Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 1986. (refereed)

### **Creative Writing**

*End of Story.* (novel) Santa Fe: Sunstone Press, 2010.

*Martin and Alan.* (novella) *Red Anthology.* Ed. Miles Newbold Clark. Berkeley CA and Ithaca NY: No Record Press, 2009. Pp. 157-215.

### **Work in Progress**

*Tolkien on Chaucer, 1913-59* – critical collection of J. R. R. Tolkien's published and unpublished writings on Chaucer – under contract with Oxford University Press.

*To the Boathouse* (9/11 novel) forthcoming on Amazon KDP

*Legion of the Daggerstone* (Iraq War novel) forthcoming on Amazon KDP

*The Plague Artists* (Covid-19 novel)

"Durin's Stone, Ruthwell Cross, and Dream of the Rood." Under revision for *Tolkien Studies*

### Scholarly Articles and Book-Chapters

- "Langland, Father of American Literatures." *Quidditas: Journal of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association*. (forthcoming 2023)
- "Courts, Life at Court" and "Thomas Chaucer" entries in *The Chaucer Encyclopedia* (Blackwell Wiley), 2023.
- "Audiences, Medieval and Modern." *Becoming the Pearl-Poet: Perceptions, Connections, Receptions*. Ed. Jane Beal. New York and London: Lexington Book, Studies in the Medieval Literature, 2022. Pp. 265-78. (invited and refereed)
- "Teaching *Pearl* When Teaching Tolkien." *Approaches to Teaching the Middle English "Pearl"*. Ed. Jane Beal and Mark Bradshaw Busbee. New York: Modern Language Association, 2018. Pp. 156-63. (invited and refereed)
- "Geoffrey Chaucer." *Encyclopedia of British Medieval Literature*. Ed. Siân Echard and Robert Rouse. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell, 2016. (5000 words)
- "Speaking Images: Iconographic Criticism and Chaucerian Ekphrasis." *The Art of Vision: Ekphrasis in Medieval Literature and Culture*. Ed. Andrew James Johnston, Margitta Rouse, and Ethan Knapp. Columbus: Ohio University Press: 2015. Pp. 55-76. (refereed)
- "The Naughty Bits: Dating Chaucer's *House of Fame* and *Legend of Good Women*." *The Medieval Python: The Purposive and Provocative Work of Terry Jones, Essays Presented on the Occasion of His Seventieth Birthday*. Ed. R. F. Yeager and Toshiyuki Takamiya. New York and London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012. Pp. 105-117. (invited and refereed)
- "Tolkien's Goldberry and *The Maid of the Moor*". *Tolkien Studies* 8 (2011): 23-36. (refereed)
- "Rival Poets: Gower's *Confessio* and Chaucer's *Legend of Good Women*." *John Gower, Trilingual Poet: Language, Translation, and Tradition*. Ed. Elisabeth Dutton with John Hines and R.F. Yeager. Cambridge: D.S. Brewer, 2010. Pp. 276-87. (refereed)
- "Latinity, Colonialism, and Resistance." *Chaucer: Contemporary Approaches*. Ed. Susanna Fein and David Raybin. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2009. Pp. 114-29. (refereed)
- "'Beautiful as Troilus': Richard II, Chaucer's Troilus, and Figures of (Un)Masculinity." *Men and Masculinity in Chaucer's "Troilus and Criseyde"*. Ed. Tison Pugh and Marcia Smith Marzec. Cambridge: D. S. Brewer, Chaucer Studies, no. 38, 2008. Pp. 9-27. (refereed)
- Oxford Encyclopedia of British Literature*. Ed. David Scott Kastan. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006:  
*Breton Lays* -- vol. 1, pages 263-66.

*William Caxton* -- vol. 1, pages 413-16.  
*Thomas Hoccleve* -- vol. 3, pages 62-65.  
*King James I of Scotland* -- vol. 3, pages 120-22.  
*John Lydgate* -- vol. 3, pages 340-43.  
*Travels of Sir John Mandeville* -- vol. 3, pages 376-79.  
*Pearl*-- vol. 4, pages 202-05.

- “Langland’s *Piers Plowman* in HM 143: Copy, Commentary, Censorship.” *Yearbook of Langland Studies* 19 (2005): 137-68. (refereed)
- “Three Readings of *The Knight’s Tale*: Sir John Clanvowe, Geoffrey Chaucer, and James I of Scotland.” *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies* 34 (2004): 279-307. (refereed)
- “Two Professional Readers of Chaucer and Langland: Scribe D and the HM 114 Scribe.” *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* 26 (2004): 113-46. (refereed)
- “Thomas Hoccleve and the Politics of Tradition.” *Chaucer Review* 36 (2002): 352-69. (refereed)
- “Queering the Summoner: Same-Sex Union in Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales*.” *Speaking Images: Essays in Honor of V. A. Kolve*. Ed. R. F. Yeager and Charlotte C. Morse. Asheville NC: Pegasus Press, 2001. Pp. 301-24. (invited)
- "Chaucer after Smithfield: From Postcolonial Writer to Imperialist Author." *The Postcolonial Middle Ages*. Ed. Jeffrey Cohen. New York: St. Martin’s Press, 2000. Pp. 53-66. (refereed) Reprinted in Norton Critical Edition of Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales*, ed. V. A. Kolve and Glending Olson, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. rev. New York: W. W. Norton, 2017.
- “Chaucer after Retters: The Wartime Origins of English Literature.” *Inscribing the Hundred Years’ War in French and English Cultures*. Ed. Denise Baker. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2000. Pp. 91-125. (refereed)
- “Dating *Piers Plowman*: Testing the Testimony of Usk’s *Testament*.” *Yearbook of Langland Studies* 13 (1999): 65-100. (refereed)
- "Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* – Politically Corrected." *Rewriting Chaucer: Culture, Authority and the Idea of the Authentic Text, 1400-1602*. Ed. Thomas A. Prendergast and Barbara Kline. Columbus and Athens: Ohio State University Press, 1999. Pp. 13-44. (refereed)
- "Controversy and Criticism: Lydgate's *Thebes* and the Prologue to *Beryn*." *Chaucer Yearbook* 5 (1998): 91-115. (refereed)
- “*The Tale of Beryn* and *The Siege of Thebes*: Alternative Ideas of the *Canterbury Tales*.” (1985) Reprint in *Writing after Chaucer: Essential Readings in Chaucer and the Fifteenth Century*. Ed. Daniel Pinti. New York: Garland, 1998. Pp. 201-26. (selected)

- “*Pearl* in its Royal Setting: Ricardian Poetry Revisited.” *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* 17 (1995): 111-55. (refereed) Reprint in *Classical and Medieval Literature Criticism*. Ed. Arthur W. Bahr. Gale/Cengage Learning, 2016.
- “Chaste Marriage: Fashion and Texts at the Court of Richard II.” *Pacific Coast Philology* 30 (1995): 15-26. (refereed)
- “*Piers Plowman's* William Langland: Editing the Text, Writing the Author's Life.” *Yearbook of Langland Studies* 9 (1995): 87-124. (refereed)
- “The Politics of *Pearl*.” *Exemplaria: A Journal of Theory in Medieval and Renaissance Studies* 7 (1995): 419-41. (refereed)
- “*Mankind* and the Political Interests of Bury St. Edmunds” *Æstel* 2 (1994): 77-103. (refereed)
- “Ordeals, Privacy, and the *Lais* of Marie de France.” *Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies* 24 (1994): 1-31. (refereed)
- “*Piers Plowman* and the Police: Notes toward a History of the Wycliffite Langland.” *Yearbook of Langland Studies* 6 (1992): 1-50. (refereed)
- “The House of Chaucer & Son: The Business of Lancastrian Canon-Formation.” *Medieval Perspectives* 6 (1991): 135-43. (refereed)
- “Review Article: George Kane, *Chaucer and Langland: Historical and Textual Approaches*.” *Yearbook of Langland Studies* 4 (1990): 155-65. (invited)
- “Dronkenesse Is Ful of Stryvyng!: Alcoholism and Social Violence in Chaucer's *Pardoner's Tale*.” *ELH* 57 (1990): 757-84. (refereed)
- “Augustine as Addict: Sex and Texts in the *Confessions*.” *Exemplaria: A Journal of Theory in Medieval and Renaissance Studies* 2 (1990): 403-48. (refereed)
- “Hoccleve's Two Copies of *Lerne to Dye*: Implications for Textual Critics.” *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America* 83 (1989): 437-72. (refereed)
- “Hoccleve's Huntington Holographs: The First 'Collected Poems' in English.” *Fifteenth-Century Studies* 15 (1989): 27-51. (refereed)
- “*Piers Plowman* and the Unwillingness to Work.” *Mediævalia* 9 (1987): 239-49. (refereed)
- “*Patience* and the Ideal of the Mixed Life.” *Texas Studies in Literature and Language* 28 (1986): 1-23. (refereed)

"*The Tale of Beryn and The Siege of Thebes: Alternative Ideas of the Canterbury Tales.*" *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* 7 (1985): 23-50. (refereed)

"'I Am Marble-Constant': Cleopatra's Monumental End." *Huntington Library Quarterly* 46 (1983): 283-97. (refereed)

"How Criseyde Falls in Love." *The Expansion and Transformations of Courtly Literature*. Ed. N. B. Smith and J. T. Snow. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1980. Pp. 141-55. (refereed)

"Ring Parallelism in Joyce's *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man.*" *Freshman English* (Durham NC: Duke University, 1967-68). Pp. 12-21.

### **Invited Publications**

"Class of 1973 Letter," *The American Oxonian* 97 (2010): 398-412.

"Class of 1973 Letter," *The American Oxonian* 96 (2009): 394-404.

"Class of 1973 Letter," *The American Oxonian* 95 (2008): 354-64.

"Class of 1973 Letter," *The American Oxonian* 94 (2007): 405-15.

"Class of 1973 Letter," *The American Oxonian* 93 (2006): 387-95.

"Class of 1973 Letter," *The American Oxonian* 92 (2005): 343-50.

"Class of 1973 Letter," *The American Oxonian* 91 (2004): 339-46.

"Class of 1973 Letter," *The American Oxonian* 90 (2003): 391-96.

"Class of 1973 Letter," *The American Oxonian* 89 (2002): 412-18.

"Class of 1973 Letter," *The American Oxonian* 88 (2001): 384-88.

"Class of 1973 Letter," *The American Oxonian* 87 (2000): 320-24.

"Class of 1973 Letter," *The American Oxonian* 86 (1999): 363-67.

"Class of 1973 Letter," *The American Oxonian* 85 (1998): 366-69.

"Class of 1973 Letter," *The American Oxonian* 84 (1997): 322-25.

"Class of 1973 Letter," *The American Oxonian* 83 (1996): 319-24.

"Class of 1973 Letter," *The American Oxonian* 82 (1995): 331-35.

"Class of 1973 Letter," *The American Oxonian* 81 (1994): 326-29.

"Class of 1973 Letter," *The American Oxonian* 80 (1993): 304-06.

### **Audio and Video Release**

*The Western Literary Canon in Context*. This 36-part lecture series was recorded and released as CD audio and DVD video by The Teaching Company as part of its Great Courses along with a companion booklet and three-volume publication of transcripts with Timeline, Glossary, Biographical Notes, and Bibliography. There were more than 19,000 copies sold internationally by the end of 2020.

1. *The Bible and the Literary Canon*
2. *The Bible as Literature*



3. *The Epic of Gilgamesh – Western Literature?*
4. *Homer's Odyssey and the Seafaring Hero*
5. *The Context of Athenian Tragedy*
6. *Herodotus versus Thucydides*
7. *Socrates and Plato – Writing and Reality*
8. *Aristotle's Poetics – How We Tell Stories*
9. *Virgil's Aeneid and the Epic of Empire*
10. *Love Interest – Ovid's Metamorphoses*
11. *St. Augustine Saves the Classics*
12. *All Literature is Consolation – Boethius*
13. *Beowulf – the Fortune Survivor*
14. *King Arthur, Politics, and Sir Gawain*
15. *Dante and the Canon of Christian Literature*
16. *Boccaccio – Ancient Masters, Modern Rivals*
17. *Chaucer – The Father of English Literature*
18. *Man for All Seasons – More and His Utopia*
19. *Hamlet – English Literature Goes Global*
20. *Brave New Worlds – Shakespeare's The Tempest*
21. *Cervantes's Don Quixote and the Novel*
22. *The Rebel as Hero – Milton's Paradise Lost*
23. *Voice of an Age – Voltaire's Candide*
24. *Pride and Prejudice – Women in the Canon*
25. *Nationalism and Culture in Goethe's Faust*
26. *Melville's Moby-Dick and Global Literature*
27. *Cult Classic – The Charterhouse of Parma*
28. *East Meets West in War and Peace*
29. *Joyce's Ulysses and the Avant-Garde*
30. *The Magic Mountain and Modern Institutions*
31. *Mrs. Dalloway and Post-War England*
32. *T. S. Eliot's Divine Comedy*
33. *Faulkner and the Great American Novel*
34. *Willa Cather and Mosaics of Identity*
35. *Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings – Literature?*
36. *Postcolonial – The Empire Writes Back*

### **Teaching Interests**

Late Medieval English Literature: Chaucer, Langland, and *Gawain* Poet  
 World Literature: Beginnings to the Early Modern  
 Literary Theory and Criticism  
 Shakespeare  
 J. R. R. Tolkien

### Recent M.A. and Ph.D. Supervisions

Chair, Ph.D. Committee for Peter Steffensen, English Department

Dissertation: "Chaucer and Tolkien: Texts and Paratexts"

Outside Member MFA in Theater Arts for Jennifer Holland

Outside Member, Ph.D. Committee for Monique Arar, Music Department

Member, Ph.D. Committee for Cortney Lechmann

Member, MFA Committee for Kristian Einstman

Member, Ph.D. Committee for Julia Combs:

Dissertation title: "'Carefull' Ethos: The Construction of Ethos in Dorothy Leigh's *The Mothers Blessing*."

Chair, Ph.D. Committee for Kenneth Eckert:

Dissertation title: "Chaucer's Reading List: Sir Thopas, Auchinleck, and Middle English Romances in Translation"

Published as *Middle English Romances in Translation* (Sidestone Press, 2015)

Chair, M.A. Committee, Abbie Ebert-Pait

Chair, Ph.D. Committee for Vince Locke

Member, Ph.D. Committee for Scott Hollifield

Member, Ph.D. Committee for Heather Winterer

Chair, Ph.D. Committee for Karl Wilcox

Dissertation Title: "Chaucer's Parson and the Politics of Penance"

Member, Ph.D. Committee for Tim Gauthier

Chair, M.A. Committee for Jason Rey

Chair, M.A. Committee for Renée Siegler

Member, M.A. Committee for Ryan Moeller

Member, M.A. Committee for Julia Combs

### Conference Papers and Invited Lectures

Special session on my book *Tolkien's Lost Chaucer* was scheduled for 118<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association (PAMLA) meeting in Las Vegas in November, 2021.

"J.R.R. Tolkien's *Selections from Chaucer's Poetry and Prose*" – conference paper for the New Chaucer Society congress in Durham UK in July 2020, cancelled for covid.

"Chaucer Mis-Remembering: Counter-Factual History in *The Man of Law's Tale*." Medieval Association of the Pacific and the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association meeting at University of Nevada Las Vegas, "Memory and Remembrance in the Middle Ages and Renaissance," April 13, 2018.

“J. R. R. Tolkien and *The Pardoner’s Tale*.” Invited keynote lecture for Sixth Biennial ASU Chaucer Celebration, sponsored by the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Arizona State University at Tempe, March 22, 2018.

“Tolkien as a Chaucerian: *The Reeve’s Tale*.” Invited lecture for English Department and Honors College, University of Arkansas, December 1, 2017. Sponsored by the Walton Family Trust.

“Tolkien Presenting Chaucer.” Medieval Association of the Pacific. Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University, March 17, 2017.

“*Bring Out Your Dead! Cashing in on Shakespeare in the First Folio*.” UNLV Lied Library Celebration of Shakespeare’s First Folio.” Las Vegas, September 22, 2016.  
[https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/special\\_collections\\_events/8/](https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/special_collections_events/8/)

“What’s Old Is New: Embracing the Classics Today.” Vegas Valley Book Festival, Las Vegas, October 17, 2015.

“Tolkien at Merton College.” Keynote for the Merton College Charitable Corporation, Brooklyn NY, April 11, 2015.

“Tolkien’s Chaucer.” Lecture for Medieval Colloquium, University of Virginia, October 28, 2014.

“Tolkien Editing Chaucer.” Conference paper for New Chaucer Society congress in Reykjavik, Iceland, July 2014.

“Tolkien’s Chaucer Edition.” Lecture for the Black Mountain Institute, April 10, 2014.

“J. R. R. Tolkien’s Clarendon Chaucer.” Conference paper for the New Chaucer Society congress in Portland, Oregon, July, 2012.

*End of Story: A Novel Reading*. UNLV University Forum. April 7, 2011.

“Speaking Images? Iconographic Criticism and Chaucerian Ekphrasis.” International Workshop on the Research Project Ekphrasis: Literariness and Tradition in Late Medieval and Early Modern Literature. Organized by Andrew James Johnston and Margitta Rouse. Max Planck Institute, Berlin, February 25-28, 2010.

“Gower’s Influence upon Chaucer’s *Legend of Good Women*.” First International John Gower Conference: 1408-2008, The Age of Gower. London, July 12-16, 2008. (refereed)

Organizer for two sessions on “Chaucer and the Crusades” for the 16<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the New Chaucer Society. Swansea, Wales, July 18-22. 2008. (invited)

- “Prato Haggadah Manuscript (ca. 1300).” Las Vegas Art Museum, March 1, 2007. (invited)
- “Jean d'Angoulême and John Duxworth: Chaucer's Captive Audience.” New Chaucer Society, 15<sup>th</sup> International Congress. New York City, July 31, 2006. (refereed)
- “Colonial/Postcolonial.” Session sponsored by the journal *Chaucer Review*. 39<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, May 2006. (invited)
- “William Langland, Father of American Literature.” Rossell Hope Robbins Memorial Lecture, Medieval Club of New York. October 1, 2004. (invited lecture)
- “Langland's *Piers Plowman* in HM 143: Transcriptions and Transgressions.” 39<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, May 2004. (refereed)
- “Chaucer in Context: Society, Politics, and Gender.” Invited lecture for the Institute for Medieval Studies at the University of New Mexico. Albuquerque, October 10, 2003.
- “Two Professional Readers of Langland and Chaucer: Scribe D and the HM 114 Scribe.” 38<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, May, 2003.
- “Hoccleve's *Regiment of Princes*: Chaucerian Poetry and Langlandian Themes.” 13<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the New Chaucer Society. Boulder, Colorado, July, 2002.
- “Three Readings of Chaucer's *Knight's Tale*: Homosocial, Patriarchal, Heteronormative.” Invited lecture co-sponsored by the English Department and the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, New York University. New York, October 16, 2001.
- “Queering the Summoner: Same-Sex Union in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*.” Invited lecture sponsored by the Institut für Englische Philologie, Freie Universität Berlin. Berlin, June 6, 2001.
- “Chaucer's Odd Couples: Summoner and Pardoner, Summoner and Friar.” Speaking Images: A Conference in Honor of V. A. Kolve, sponsored by the UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. Los Angeles, May 19, 2001.
- “*St. Erkenwald* and Ricardian Culture.” 12<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the New Chaucer Society. London, July, 2000.
- “Chaucer After Smithfield: From Postcolonial Writer to Imperialist Author.” Invited lecture sponsored by the English Department, UCLA. Los Angeles, February 9, 2000.
- “Representations of the New Jerusalem in *Pearl*.” MLA Convention. San Francisco, December, 1998.

- “Male Virgins, Richard II, and Chaucer's Poetry in the 1380s.” 11<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the New Chaucer Society. Paris, July, 1998.
- “John Gower and the Gendered Body: A Response.” 33<sup>rd</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, May 1998.
- “The Summoner's Bisexuality and How It Matters.” Medieval Association of the Pacific. Honolulu, March 1997.
- “Why Did Chaucer Write *The Lyfe of Seint Cecile*?” Chaucer Session of the Modern Language Association. Washington DC, December 1996.
- “Queering the Summoner: Oaths of Brotherhood and Same-Sex Union in Chaucer's *Friar's Tale*.” 10<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the New Chaucer Society. Beverly Hills, July 27, 1996.
- “From Elegy to Epithalamium in *Pearl*: Mourning and Marriage at the Court of Richard II.” Medieval Academy of America. Boston, March 30, 1995.
- “*Piers Plowman* and Gender: A Response.” Modern Language Association. San Diego, December 28, 1994.
- “Chaste Marriage: Fashion and Texts at the Court of Richard II.” Philological Association of the Pacific Coast. San Francisco, November 6, 1994.
- “Chaucer and the French: From Postcolonial Poet to Imperialist Author.” 29<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, May 1994.
- “*Piers Plowman's* Langland: Editing the Text, Writing the Author's Life.” First International Langland Conference. Queens College, Cambridge, July/August, 1993.
- “Unmentionables: What the Academy Doesn't Like to Discuss.” 28<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, May, 1993.
- “The Politics of *Pearl*.” 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Southeastern Medieval Association. Williamsburg, September, 1992.
- “Chaucer's Captive Audience: Jean d'Angouleme and Charles d'Orleans.” 8<sup>th</sup> congress of the New Chaucer Society, Seattle, August, 1992.
- “*Piers Plowman* and the New Historicism.” International Congress on Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, May, 1992.
- “*Mankind* and the Monastic Agenda of Bury St. Edmunds.” Modern Language Association. San Francisco, December, 1991.

“Ordeals, Judicial Violence, and the *Lais* of Marie de France.” Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America. Princeton University, April, 1991.

“The House of Chaucer & Son: The Business of Lancastrian Canon-Formation.” Southeastern Medieval Association, 16th Annual Conference. Raleigh, September, 1990.

“Chaucerian Manuscripts and the New Historicism.” Modern Language Association. Washington, DC, December. 1989.

“Chaucerian Manuscripts and Their Uses.” (Re)producing Texts/(Re)presenting History, Interdisciplinary Group for Historical Literary Studies. Texas A&M University, October, 1989.

### **Academic Societies and Professional Service**

Advisory Board, *Exemplaria: A Journal of Theory in Medieval and Renaissance Studies*

Editorial Board, *Yearbook of Langland Studies*

Class Secretary, American Association of Rhodes Scholars

Nevada State Secretary, Rhodes Scholar Trust

Medieval Academy of America

Modern Language Association

New Chaucer Society

International Langland Society

Early English Text Society

Southeastern Medieval Association

John Gower Society

Medieval Association of the Pacific

### **Referee and Reviewer for Journals**

*Speculum*, *Studies in the Age of Chaucer*, *Chaucer Review*, *Yearbook of Langland Studies*, *Medium Ævum*, *Clio*, *Exemplaria: A Journal of Theory in Medieval and Renaissance Studies*, and *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*; *SELIM. Journal of the Spanish Society for Medieval English Language and Literature*.

### **Book Reviews**

Alfred Thomas, *The Court of Richard II and Bohemian Culture: Literature and Art in the Age of Chaucer and the “Gawain” Poet* (Cambridge: D. S. Brewer, 2020) for *Speculum*.

David K. Coley, *Death and the Pearl Maiden: Plague, Poetry, England* (Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 2019) for *Studies in the Age of Chaucer*.

Russell A. Peck and R. A. Yeager, eds. *John Gower: Others and the Self*. Publications of the John Gower Society, vol. XI (Cambridge: D. S. Brewer, 2017) for *Arthuriana: The Quarterly for the International Arthurian Society-North American Branch*.

- New Directions in Medieval Manuscript Studies and Reading Practices: Essays in Honor of Derek Pearsall*. Ed. Kathryn Kerby-Fulton, John J. Thompson, and Sarah Baechle (Notre Dame IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2014) for *Journal of English and Germanic Philology*.
- Andrew Higl, *Playing the "Canterbury Tales": The Continuations and Additions* (Farnham UK and Burlington VT: Ashgate, 2012) for *The Medieval Review*.
- Amanda Holton, *The Sources of Chaucer's Poetics* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2008) for *Review of English Studies*.
- Sarah A. Kelen, *Langland's Early Modern Identities* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007) for *The Medieval Review*.
- Alfred Thomas, *A Blessed Shore: England and Bohemia from Chaucer to Shakespeare* (Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2007) for *Journal of English and Germanic Philology*.
- Marion Turner, *Chaucerian Conflict: Languages of Antagonism in Late Fourteenth-Century London* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2007) for *Studies in the Age of Chaucer*.
- Dana M. Symons, ed., *Chaucerian Dream Visions and Complaints* (Kalamazoo: Medieval Institute Publications, 2004), and Kathleen Forni, ed., *The Chaucerian Apocrypha: A Selection* (Kalamazoo: Medieval Institute Publications, 2005), for *Studies in the Age of Chaucer*.
- Kathy Lavezzo, ed., *Imagining a Medieval English Nation* (Minneapolis and London: University of Minnesota Press, 2004), and Sylvia Federico, *New Troy: Fantasies of Empire in the Late Middle Ages* (Minneapolis and London: University of Minnesota Press, 2003), for *Clio: A Journal of Literature, History and the Philosophy of History*.
- Ethan Knapp, *The Bureaucratic Muse: Thomas Hoccleve and the Literature of Late Medieval England* (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2001) for *Medium Ævum*.
- Paul Strohm, *Theory and the Premodern Text* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2000) for *Speculum*.
- John Lydgate, *The Siege of Thebes*. Ed. Robert R. Edwards. (Kalamazoo: Medieval Institute Publications, 2001) for *Speculum*.
- Kathleen Forni, *The Chaucerian Apocrypha: A Counterfeit Canon* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2001) for *Studies in the Age of Chaucer*.

- Andrew James Johnston, *Clerks and Courtiers: Chaucer, Late Middle English Literature, and the State Formation Process* (Heidelberg: C. Winter, 2001) for *Medium Ævum*.
- Helen Barr, *Socioliterary Practice in Late Medieval England* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001) for *Medium Ævum*.
- Katherine L. French, *The People of the Parish: Community Life in a Late Medieval English Diocese* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2001) for *Medium Ævum*.
- Peggy A. Knapp, *Time-Bound Words: Semantic and Social Economies from Chaucer's England to Shakespeare's* (New York: St. Martin's Press/London: Macmillan Press, 2000) for *Speculum*.
- C. David Benson and Lynne S. Blanchfield, *The Manuscripts of "Piers Plowman": The B-Version* (Cambridge: D. S. Brewer, 1997) for *Studies in the Age of Chaucer*.
- Derek Pearsall, *John Lydgate (1371-1449): A Bio-Bibliography* (Victoria: University of Victoria English Literary Studies, Monograph Series, 71, 1997) for *Speculum*.
- Alex Kerr, *Lost Japan* (Melbourne: Lonely Planet Publications, 1996) for *The American Oxonian*.
- M. Teresa Tavormina, *Kindly Similitude: Marriage and Family in "Piers Plowman"* (Woodbridge: D. S. Brewer, 1995) for *Studies in the Age of Chaucer*.
- Stephen Morillo, *Warfare under the Anglo-Norman Kings, 1066-1135*. (Woodbridge: Boydell & Brewer, 1994) for *The American Oxonian*.
- Miceal F. Vaughn, ed. *Suche Werkis to Werche: Essays on "Piers Plowman" in Honor of David C. Fowler* (East Lansing: Colleagues Press, 1993) for *Yearbook of Langland Studies*.
- Seth Lerer, *Chaucer and his Readers* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993) for *Medium Ævum*.
- Ernest N. Kaulbach, *Imaginative Prophecy in the B-Text of "Piers Plowman"* (Cambridge: D.S. Brewer, 1993) for *Envoi*.
- Julia Boffey and Janet Cowen, eds., *Chaucer and Fifteenth-Century Poetry* (London: King's College London Medieval Studies, 1991) for *Studies in the Age of Chaucer*.
- James Simpson, *Piers Plowman: An Introduction to the B-Text* (London: Longman, 1990) for *Medium Ævum*.
- Christopher Brook and Roger Highfield, *Oxford and Cambridge* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988) for *Envoi*.



John A. Alford, ed., *Companion to "Piers Plowman"* (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1988) for *Envoi*.

Jon Whitman, *Allegory: The Dynamics of An Ancient and Medieval Technique* (Harvard University Press, 1987) for *Yearbook of Langland Studies*.

### **Other Service Activities**

2017-18 Las Vegas Senior Citizens' Advisory Board – reporting directly to the Mayor and City Council.  
2012-19 Alumni Interviews, Duke University Admissions  
2007 Member, District 16 (California) Rhodes Scholar Selection Committee  
1998-2004 Secretary, Nevada Rhodes Scholar Committee  
1987-97 Member, Nevada Rhodes Scholar Committee  
1993-2011 Class Secretary, Rhodes Scholar Class of 1973

### **UNLV Institutional Service**

2023 Member, Morris Scholar Award Committee, College of Liberal Arts  
2023 Member, Merit Committee, English Department, UNLV  
2021-22 Chair, Personnel Committee, College of Liberal Arts, UNLV  
2021-22 Member, Morris Scholar Award Committee, College of Liberal Arts  
2020-21 Member and *Ad Hoc* Co-Chair, College Personnel Committee  
2019-20 Member, Research Resources Committee, English Department  
2018-19 Chair, Research Resources Committee, English Department  
2018-19 Elected Member, Advisory Committee, English Department  
2018-19 Member, Search Committee for Shakespearean/Early Modern Scholar  
2017-19 Member, Graduate Committee, English Department  
2017-18 Chair, Morris Scholar Award Committee, College of Liberal Arts  
2016-17 Member, Creative Writing Fiction/Nonfiction Search Committee  
2016-17 Chair, Research Resources Committee, English Department  
2015 Merit Committee, English Department  
2012-14 Chair, Personnel Committee, College of Liberal Arts  
2013-14 Chair, Research Resources Committee, English Department  
2012-15 Morris Scholar Award Committee, College of Liberal Arts  
2006-08 Executive Committee (elected), College of Liberal Arts  
2003-05 Tenure and Promotion Committee, Faculty Senate  
2003-08 Barrick Distinguished Scholar Award Committee  
2002-06 Morris Scholar Award Committee, College of Liberal Arts  
1997-2000 Chair, English Department, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
1999 Nevada Regents' Teaching Award Committee  
1998-99 UNLV Representative, Association of Departments of English (ADE)  
1997-98 Chair, Search Committee for Medievalist, English Department, UNLV

1995-97	Chair, Personnel Committee, College of Liberal Arts
1995-96	Chair, <i>Ad Hoc</i> Committee on the Teaching of World Literature
1993-2011	Secretary, Rhodes Scholar Class of 1973
1991-92	Chair, Bylaws Committee, English Department, UNLV
1991-92	UNLV Representative, Executive Committee, Western Humanities Conference
1988-90	Budget Committee, Faculty Senate, UNLV
1988-90	Film Studies Committee, UNLV
1988	<i>Ad Hoc</i> Committee on Estate Tax Fund, UNLV
1987-88	Appeals Committee, Faculty Senate, UNLV
1987-96	Chair, UNLV Rhodes / Marshall / Fulbright Screening Committee

### **Chair of UNLV English Department 1997-2000**

#### (1) Two-year Program Review and Re-Accreditation Process

- Program Review for the Department of English
  - Authored 49-page "Department Self-Study Questionnaire"
  - Outside evaluators Dr. John Ganim (Chair, UC Riverside) and Dr. Louise Fradenburg (UC Santa Barbara)
  - Implementation of the review's final recommendations
- Re-Accreditation Process for the English Department
  - Assembled two large ring-binders with documentation
  - Arranged interviews with members of the Accreditation Committee
  - Represented the department for the College phase of the Accreditation

#### (2) New Faculty Recruitment and Hiring:

- Oversaw the hiring of a quarter of the English Department faculty:
  1. Dr. Philip Rusche (Yale) in Medieval Language and Literature
  2. Dr. Edwin Nagelhout (Purdue) in Business and Professor Writing
  3. Dr. Karen Droisen (Virginia) in 19th-Century British Literature
  4. Dr. Sharon Moore (Georgia) in African-American Literature
  5. Dr. Vincent Perez (Stanford) in Chicano Literature (Target of Opportunity)
  6. Dr. Alik Barnstone (UC Berkeley) in Poetry and 19<sup>th</sup>-Century American
  7. Dr. Megan Becker-Leckrone (UC Irvine) in Literary Theory
  8. Dr. Jeff Jablonski (Purdue) in Business and Professional Writing

#### (3) Technology Upgrades for Faculty and Teaching Facilities

- Secured funding to convert CBC C309 and C311 as computer classrooms
- Created English Department Website
- Instituted new standing Committee on Technology Resources
- Distance Education sections of ENG 101, ENG 403, ENG 412, ENG 480

(4) Important Initiatives in Creative Writing:

- Oversaw the start-up of the MFA in Creative Writing
- Coordinated U. S. Peace Corps Partnership
- Started fund-raising efforts that resulted in \$2 million donation from Mandalay Bay CEO Glenn Schaeffer
- Initiated recruitment effort that resulted in hiring of Nobel Laureate author Wole Soyinka as a Professor of English at UNLV

(5) Administrative initiative for 12.1% FTE average annual increases:

- Lower division ENG 101 and 102: +6.2%
- Upper division 400-level classes: +35.1%
- Graduate 700-level classes: +22.6%
- 50% increase in the number of English majors between fall 1997 and spring 2000.

### **Selections from Reviews of Books**

#### ***Tolkien's Lost Chaucer (2019)***

"For anyone seriously interested in either Tolkien or Chaucer, Bowers' book will be indispensable. For others, it is a meticulous, elegant, and at times moving look into how one great author read another ... Bowers' book is insightful and enjoyable: a fitting testament to the two writers with whom it is concerned." -- Daniel Sutton, *The Oxonian Review*

"Bowers' book is full of such insights for the Tolkien aficionado. And if you're a Chaucer fan or scholar, you'll also find much to admire in Tolkien's detailed and sometimes illuminating work on the great poet." -- Oliver Tearle, *Interesting Literature*

Amazon's early reviews:

I found this book fascinating. It is a deeply scholarly work, replete with dozens of footnotes and a lengthy Works Cited section. I was most interested in the connections Dr. John Bowers noted between Chaucer's Tales and Tolkien's own characters such as the millers of Hobbiton and the healer Ioreth. Reading Tolkien's Lost Chaucer gave me new insights into my favorite author and introduced me to much that I had never known about both him and his medieval predecessor Geoffrey Chaucer.

This was a great read – Bowers has worked closely with OUP to unearth the full story of Tolkien's abandoned edition of Chaucer, and the results are fascinating. As well as providing a new context for reading both authors (how had I never noticed the linking idea of 'felaweshipe'?), it fills gaps in the Tolkien life-story, and gives a bewildering glimpse of how scholarship and publishing veered chaotically about in the twentieth century. Top work.

This is the essence of what scholarship means. I hope to God we don't lose the ability to produce scholars and scholarship of this quality.

### **An Introduction to the GAWAIN Poet (2012)**

University of Lausanne's Mary C. Flannery in *Times Literary Supplement*: "Having already undertaken extensive work on the literature of Ricardian England, including numerous publications on the works of the *Gawain*-poet, Bowers is well placed to take on such challenging tasks. His learned, wide-ranging study offers a valuable introduction to the major themes and concerns of the anonymous poet, tracing trends in recent scholarship as well as older debates that continue to be wrangled."

University of Texas's D. V. Dominguez in *Choice*: "An invaluable resource...Highly recommended."

### **Chaucer and Langland: The Antagonistic Tradition (2007)**

Oxford's A.V.C. Schmidt in *Medium Ævum*: "what makes his book instructive as well as provocative is that his 'fabricated narrative' derives from an archive of factual evidence... Bowers, a Ricardian specialist, cheerfully joins the ranks of those striving to make the 'dull' fifteenth century a thing of interest (if not beauty)... "a lively and engaging book..."

Yale's Matthew Giancarlo in *Speculum*: "The latest book by John Bowers is an impressive feat of synthetic scholarship and bold argumentation... This is a book well worth reading, learning from, and arguing with... a touchstone for critical conversation about Chaucer and Langland for years to come."

Cambridge's Christopher Cannon in *Review of English Studies*: "The book has, at times, the texture and quality of a variorum edition, so fully does Bowers bring directly into this text the best and most recent work on a given topic."

University of Delaware's James Dean in *Yearbook of Langland Studies*: "John Bowers's fine, wide-ranging new book on two of the four major authors of the English fourteenth century challenges readers to reorient themselves to the authors and to the historical period."

Harvard's James Simpson in *Studies in the Age of Chaucer*: "Thanks to the thorough presentation, always sensitive to cultural politics, of the two *Nachleben*, Bowers unquestionably persuades us that the two traditions were significantly and interestingly different. . . it is utterly persuasive in its account of a different tradition."

University of Sydney's Lawrence Warner in *The Medieval Review*: "Bowers deserves great credit for his boldness, especially in bringing the complex textual histories of Chaucer's and Langland's great works to bear on his interpretation."

Mount Holyoke's Carolyn Collette in *Arthuriana*: "Bowers's new book is destined to stir controversy and response... The end result is that this is a book one reads actively, fully engaged with the argument from the first page, agreeing, objecting, thinking."

UCLA's Emily Runde in *Comitas*: "he ably integrates his study of the two poets into a sweeping narrative of tradition formation and perpetuation."

Harvard's C. David Benson in *The Weekly Standard*: "John Bowers's new study will excite interest in the early history of the reception of Chaucer and Langland, and should inspire some -- maybe many! -- to seek out the riches of these two magnificent poets."

### **The Politics of PEARL: Court Poetry in the Age of Richard II (2001)**

Oxford's Helen Barr in *Medium Ævum*: "John Bowers's book is an important critical intervention into received ways of reading *Pearl*... Scholars are deeply indebted to Bowers for showing how *Pearl* is so carefully crafted from social materials, and for recovering the poem from socio-historical oblivion."

Warburg Institute's Peter Mack in *Times Literary Supplement*: "John M. Bowers's aim is to relocate the poem in the realities of fourteenth-century court life. The heart of the book (as its subtitle suggests) is a long description of the cultural politics and achievements to the last decade of the Richard II's reign... Richard's campaign of patronage was intended to project an image of royal authority to overturn the humiliations he had suffered at the hands of the Appelants..."

University of Kent's Malcolm Andrew in *Review of English Studies*: "an original, distinctive, and significant study of *Pearl*."

Northeastern University's Robert Blanch in *Speculum*: "Bowers has produced a first-rate exposition of *Pearl's* immersion in Ricardian court culture. His study is buttressed admirably by exhaustive documentation (812 notes) and a comprehensive bibliography (pp. 197-225)."

Wesleyan University's Ruth Nissé in *Studies in the Age of Chaucer*: "In Bowers's marvelous recreation of the Ricardian era, the *Pearl*-poet once again speaks in a public voice."

### **The Crisis of Will in PIERS PLOWMAN (1986)**

Alabama's Mary Flowers Braswell in *Envoi*: "Bowers's critical stance is historicism, and he introduces throughout a steady stream of historical testimony -- from scholastic commentaries, devotional manuals, sermons, mystical writings, religious poetry, secular poetry, even from accounts of events in the streets of Oxford."

Oxford's Priscilla Martin in *Huntington Library Quarterly*: "His excellent study of *Piers Plowman* ... presents a convincing general account of the poem as well as offering continual illuminations of details."

UC Berkley's Anne Middleton in *Speculum*: "he offers a thorough and accomplished account of a deep vein of Langland's moral imagination, one scarcely explored in this breadth and depth before."