

## JOSEPH M. THOMAS

### Business Address:

Office of Academic Affairs, Albright College  
P.O. Box 15234, Reading, PA 19612-5234  
Phone (610) 921-7643, fax (610) 921-7554, email <jthomas@alb.edu>

### Education:

Ph.D., English, 1993, Rutgers University (New Brunswick)  
*Dissertation: "Harnessing Proteus: Editing the Canon of Emerson's Poetry"*  
(directors – Richard Poirier, Myra Jehlen, G. Thomas Tanselle)  
M.A., English, 1984, University of Texas (Austin)  
*Thesis: "Woolf, Beckett, and the Compensations of Language"*  
B.A., *summa cum laude*, Philosophy, 1977, University of Texas (Austin)

### Academic Positions:

Dean of Undergraduate Studies  
*Albright College, Reading, PA 2007-*  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs; Associate Dean for Graduate Studies  
*Caldwell College, Caldwell, NJ, 2003 – 2007*  
Assistant Dean for Research and Graduate Programs; Adjunct Associate Professor of English  
*Pace University, New York, NY, 2000-2003*  
Director, Graduate Program in English; Assistant Professor of English (tenured)  
*Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX, 1996-2000*  
Director, Technical Writing Program; Visiting Assistant Professor of English  
*Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, 1993-1996*  
*Pre-doctoral: Teaching Associate; Teaching Assistant (Rutgers); Teaching Assistant (Texas)*

### Selected College Service:

#### Albright College

Educational Policy Council	Assessment Committee
Curriculum Committee	Business Advisory Council
Enrollment Development Committee	Campus Life Council
General Education Committee	Retention Task Force and Policy Group
Strategic Planning Council	
Search chair: Writing Program Director; Asst. Dean of Academic Affairs; Writing Center Coordinator; Asst. Director, Academic Learning Center	

#### Caldwell College

President's Planning Council	Chair, Undergraduate Academic Committee
Enrollment Management Task Force	Chair, Graduate Academic Committee
Adult Education Task Force	Curriculum Committee
Student Services Task Force	Chairs' Committee
Search chair: Assoc. Dean of Education	

Program advisory boards: Writing Across the Curriculum, Business, Educational Administration, Pastoral Ministry

**Pace University**

Sponsored Research Advisory Council	Model United Nations/Pi Gamma Mu
International Task Force	Dean's Advisory Committee
Teacher Education Council	Core Curriculum Committee
Fulbright representative	Chair, Graduate Committee
Advisory Board, Pace Institute for Environmental and Regional Studies	

**Sam Houston State University**

University Graduate Committee  
Arts & Sciences Graduate Committee  
English Department Program Committee

**Professional Service:**

Review editor, *ESQ: Journal of the American Renaissance*, 1997-2007  
Board member and Program Chair, Ralph Waldo Emerson Society, 2001-2007  
Evaluator, Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 2006  
Inspector, Committee on Scholarly Editions of the Modern Language Association, 2000-2001  
Area Coordinator, National Association of African-American Studies, 1998-2001

**Professional Associations:**

American Conference of Academic Deans • American Literature Association • Association for Documentary Editing • Association for General and Liberal Studies • Association on Higher Education and Disability • Modern Language Association • Ralph Waldo Emerson Society

**Grants, Fellowships and Awards:**

Co-author, funded grants from NEH, Ford Foundation, NHPRC (National Archives), Pace University, and the Delmas Foundation for *The Harriet Jacobs Papers* (General Editor, Jean Fagan Yellin), 2001-2003  
Faculty Research Council grants, Sam Houston State University, 1997, 1998, 1999  
Kahrl Fellowship in Houghton Library Manuscripts, Harvard University, 1996  
David L. Kalstone Memorial Award, 1994 (distinguished Rutgers dissertation)  
Runnerup, Richard Beale Davis Prize, 1993 (best essay published in *Early American Literature*)  
Fellow, Center for the Critical Analysis of Contemporary Culture, Rutgers University, 1988-89  
Pre-Doctoral Excellence Fellow, Rutgers University, 1985-1989  
Teaching Excellence Nominee, University of Texas, 1982

**Publications:**

Executive Editor, *The Harriet Jacobs Papers*, ed. Jean Fagan Yellin, 2 vols. (Chapel Hill: U. North Carolina Press, 2008).

"Poverty and Power: Revisiting Emerson's Poetics," *Emerson Bicentennial Essays*, ed. Conrad Wright and Joel Myerson (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia / Massachusetts Historical Society, 2006), 213-246.

"Emerson's 'The Poet,'" *American History Through Literature, 1820-1870*, ed. Janet Gabler-Hover

- and Robert D. Sattelmeyer (Detroit: Scribners, 2006), 891-898.
- “Ralph Waldo Emerson,” *The Literary Encyclopedia*, ed. Robert Clark (<<http://www.literaryencyclopedia.com>>, 2002).
- “The Library of America,” *The Literary Encyclopedia*, ed. Robert Clark (<<http://www.literaryencyclopedia.com>>, 2002). Translated in *Ecdotica* [U. of Bologna] 2 (2005), 106-109.
- “Ralph Waldo Emerson,” *The Encyclopedia of American Studies*, ed. George T. Kurian (NY: The American Studies Association / Grolier Press, 2001), 82-84.
- “The Post-Abolitionist’s Narrative: William Greenleaf Eliot’s *The Story of Archer Alexander*,” *New England Quarterly* 73:3 (September 2000), 463-481.
- “Late Emerson: Selected Poems and the ‘Emerson Factory,’” *ELH* 65:4 (1998), 971-994.
- “‘The Property of My Own Book’: Emerson and the Literary Marketplace,” *New England Quarterly*, 69:3 (1996), 406-425.
- “*Roughing It* In Style: The 1993 Iowa-California Twain Edition,” *Review*, vol. 17, ed. James O. Hogue (Charlottesville: U. Press of Virginia, 1995), 253-265.
- “Figures of Habit in William James,” *New England Quarterly*, 66:1 (1993), 3-26.
- “‘Peculiar Soil’: Mining the Early American Imagination,” *Early American Literature*, 27:3 (1992), 151-169.

### **Other Scholarship**

- “*The Works of George Santayana*, volume 5 (MIT Press),” report commissioned by the Committee on Scholarly Editions of the Modern Language Association, 2001.
- “The Library of America: A Documentary Chronology of Its Background and Inception,” unpublished study commissioned by The Library of America, 1996.

### **In Progress**

- “Edmund Wilson’s War Revisited: An Inside Narrative”
- “Becoming The Library of America”

### **Selected Presentations:**

- “Binding Proteus: Publishing Emerson’s Poetry,” Association for Documentary Editing annual panel at Modern Language Association, Chicago, 2007.
- “Edward Waldo Emerson and the Familial Canon of Emerson’s Poetry,” American Literature Association, Boston, 2007.
- “Harriet Jacobs: Activist, Author, American Slave,” Lifelong Learning Institute, Caldwell NJ, 2007.
- Conference co-chair and panel moderator, “The Legacies of Slavery and Sisterhood: The Life and Work of Harriet Jacobs,” New York, 2006.
- “Institutionalizing Harriet Jacobs,” American Literature Association, Cambridge, MA 2003.
- “Emerson, Pragmatism, and the Making of Poetry,” Spires of Form: The Emerson Bicentennial Conference, Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, 2003.
- “Mixed Messages: The Slave Narrative as Eclectic Performance,” National Association of African-American Studies, Houston, 2000.
- “Emerson’s Pragmatist Poetics,” Modern Language Association, Chicago, 1999.
- “The Post-Abolitionist’s Narrative,” Modern Language Association, Chicago, 1999.

- “Emerson, Jose Marti, and the Legacy of Reform,” Thoreau Society Annual Gathering, Concord, MA, 1999.
- “Reassessing Emerson and Jose Martí,” National Association of African-American Studies, Houston, 1999.
- “Editing History: The WPA’s Federal Writers Project and Texas Slave Narratives,” National Association of African-American Studies, Houston, 1998.
- “The Library of America as Fruit of the MLA,” South Central MLA, Dallas, 1997.
- “The ‘Emerson Factory’ and Emerson’s Poetry,” American Literature Association, Baltimore, 1997; abstracted in *Emerson Society Papers* 8:2 (Fall 1997), 3-4.
- “A Brahmin Slave Narrative: William Greenleaf Eliot’s *The Story of Archer Alexander*,” National Association of African-American Studies, Houston, TX, 1997.
- “William James and the Physiology of Modernism,” 20th-Century Literature and Science Conference, University of Louisville, 1988.

## **Courses Taught:**

### Graduate

American Literature, 1800-1860  
 American Literature, 1860-1900  
 Methods in Research and Bibliography  
 Thesis

### Undergraduate

American Literature 1820-1860	Perspectives on the Environment
American Literature Survey to 1865	Literary Masterpieces
American Literature, 1865 to Present	Literature of the Western World
American Poetry and Poetics	Poems, Plays, and Fictions
Studies in the American Novel	Short Story
English Romantics	Composition
Harlem Renaissance	Technical Writing
Literature of American Slavery	“Discovery” program
Honors Readings in American Literature	“Equal Opportunity Fund” program

Independent studies on slave narratives, Romanticism, Realism, Naturalism, “Beat” writers

## **Research Interests:**

American Literature and American Studies, primarily of the 19<sup>th</sup> century  
 Emerson, Transcendentalism, and American literary pragmatism  
 African American literature and the slave narrative  
 Textual and editorial theory and practice; book history