

9/18/2015

## Wes Berry

Dept. of English  
Western Kentucky University  
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### EDUCATION

#### **PhD in English, University of Mississippi, 2000**

\* Dissertation: "Landscapes of Healing: The Sick Self and Ecological Communities in Recent American Prose"

Director: Professor Ann Fisher-Wirth

Committee: Professors Robert H. Brinkmeyer, Jr., Robbie Ethridge, Jay Watson

MA in English, University of Mississippi, 1995

BA in English and creative writing, *summa cum laude*, Western Kentucky University, 1993

### ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Associate Professor of English, Western Kentucky U, Bowling Green, KY, 2010-

Graduate Advisor, English Department, Western Kentucky University, 2012-

Assistant Professor of English, Western Kentucky U, Bowling Green, KY, 2005-2010

Exchange Professor, Chongqing Technology and Business U, Chongqing, China, Feb-July 2008

Assistant Professor, English Department, Rockford College, Rockford, IL, 2000-2004

Graduate Instructor, English Department, University of Mississippi, 1995-2000

### PUBLICATIONS

*The Kentucky Barbecue Book*. Lexington: UP of Kentucky, 2013.

#### Criticism/Essays

"Loyalty to Place and Land Stewardship as Ecological Good Work in Wendell Berry's *The Memory of Old Jack*." *Nature and the Environment (Critical Insights)*. Ed. Scott Slovic. Ipswich, MA: Salem Press, 2012. 269-85.

"Switching on Light Bulbs and Blowing Up Mountains: Ecoliteracy and Energy Consumption in General Education English Courses." *The Bioregional Imagination: Literature, Ecology, and*

*Place*. Ed. Tom Lynch, Cheryll Glotfelty, and Karla Armbruster. Athens: U of Georgia P, 2012. 365-76.

“Earthbound Rhetoric and Praxis: Authentic Patriotism in a Time of Abstractions.” *Seeds of Change: Critical Essays on Barbara Kingsolver*. Ed. Priscilla Leder. Knoxville: U of Tennessee P, 2010. 199-210.

“Toni Morrison’s Revisionary ‘Nature Writing’: *Song of Solomon* and the Blasted Pastoral.” *South to a New Place: Region, Literature, Culture*. Ed. Suzanne W. Jones and Sharon Monteith. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State UP, 2002. 147-64. Rpt. in *Modern Critical Interpretations: Toni Morrison, New Edition*. Ed. Harold Bloom. New York: Chelsea House, June 2009. 133-150.

“Capitalism vs. Localism: Economies of Scale in Annie Proulx’s *Postcards* and *That Old Ace in the Hole*.” *The Geographical Imagination of Annie Proulx: Rethinking Regionalism*. Ed. Alex Hunt. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2009. 169-181.

“Breathing New Life into Warren Studies: A Project in Secondary Education.” *rWp: An Annual of Robert Penn Warren Studies* 8 (2008): 59-86. Co-authored with Kristina Rice and Angela Sloan.

“Wendell Berry.” *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture: Vol 9: Literature*. U of North Carolina P, 2008.

“The Lay of the Land in Cormac McCarthy’s *The Orchard Keeper* and *Child of God*.” *Southern Quarterly* 38.4 (Summer 2000): 61-77. Rpt. as “The Lay of the Land in Cormac McCarthy’s Appalachia.” *Cormac McCarthy: New Directions*. Ed. James D. Lilley. Albuquerque: U of New Mexico P, 2002. 47-73.

“Regeneration in the Adirondacks: Anne LaBastille’s Woodswoman Trilogy.” *Interdisciplinary Literary Studies* 3.1 (Fall 2001): 66-88.

“Leslie Marmon Silko and Wendell Berry: Regionalisms for Ecological Work and Worship.” *Organization and Environment* 13.3 (Sept 2000): 338-53.

“Bioregional Pedagogy, Ecospiritual Autobiography, and *The Horn Island Logs* of Walter Inglis Anderson.” *Southern Quarterly* 38.1 (Fall 1999): 147-58.

## Fiction & Creative Nonfiction

“Boating with the Dead: An Excerpt from a Novel.” *Organization and Environment* 17.3 (2004): 363-395.

“Awash in Blood.” *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment* 6.2 (1999): 165-78.

“Throw Down.” *The Yalobusha Review* 5 (1999): 12-22.

## Book Reviews

*Duncan Hines: How a Traveling Salesman Became the Most Trusted Name in Food*, by Louis Hatchett; *Adventures in Good Cooking*, by Duncan Hines; *The Duncan Hines Dessert Book*, by Duncan Hines. *Bowling Green Daily News*, May 3, 2015.

*Hog Meat and Hoecake: Food Supply in the Old South, 1840-1860*, by Sam Bowers Hilliard. *Studies in American Culture* 38.1 (Oct 2015). (forthcoming)

*Eat Drink Delta: A Hungry Traveler's Journey through the Soul of the South*, by Susan Puckett and Langdon Clay. *Studies in American Culture* 36.1 (Oct 2013): 187-89.

*Beyond the Cabbage Patch: The Literary World of Alice Hegan Rice*, by Mary Boewe. *Indiana Magazine of History* (fall 2012): 295-97.

*Poultry Science, Chicken Culture: A Partial Alphabet*, by Susan Merrill Squier. *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment* 19.2 (2012): 429-30.

*Dictionary of Literary Biography, Vol. 320: Robert Penn Warren: A Documentary Volume*. Ed. James A. Grimshaw, Jr. *Daily News* [Bowling Green, KY] 23 Apr. 2006: 12C.

*After O'Connor: Stories from Contemporary Georgia*, ed. Hugh Ruppersburg. *Flannery O'Connor Review* 2 (2003-04): 115-16.

*The Unforeseen Self in the Works of Wendell Berry*, by Janet Goodrich. *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment* 10.2 (Summer 2003): 259-60.

*Jaguar Totem*, by Anne LaBastille. *ISLE* 8.1. (Winter 2001): 228-9.

*Fugitive Faith: Conversations on Spiritual, Environmental, and Community Renewal*, by Benjamin Webb. *ISLE* 7.2 (Summer 2000): 274-5.

*The Sacred Place: Witnessing the Holy in the Physical World*, ed. Scott Olsen and Scott Cairns. *ISLE* 5.2 (1998): 149-51.

## Public Scholarship

"Kentucky Barbecue—An Introduction." The Southern Foodways Alliance Documentary: The Southern BBQ Trail. September 2012.

<http://www.southernbbqtrail.com/kentucky/index.shtml>

48 Short Videos Highlighting Kentucky Culture, Cuisine, Farms and Farmers Markets  
[www.youtube.com/wbkogolocal](http://www.youtube.com/wbkogolocal)

## WORK IN PROGRESS

*Boating with the Dead: A Novel*. Finalist for Bellwether Prize for Fiction of Social Change, 2008.

*Kentucky Green: Our Environmental Literary Heritage* (literary scholarship and folk studies)

"Evolving Caves in Post WWII Southern Literature: Setting, Symbol, & Natural History" (literary scholarship)

"Singing the Body Electrified, or Poetics of the Bardo from Walt Whitman to Gretel Ehrlich" (literary scholarship)

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

### **Western Kentucky University, 2005-**

ENG 100	Intro to College Writing
ENG 200	Introduction to Literature
ENG 200	Special Section: Health & Human Services Living & Learning Community
ENG 299	Introduction to English Studies
ENG 300	Writing in the Disciplines
ENG 321	American Studies: Land, Nature, Wilderness
	American Studies: Dissent
ENG 390	American Masterpieces
ENG 391	Survey of American Literature I
ENG 392	Survey of American Literature II
ENG 394	Kentucky Literature
ENG 395	Contemporary Literature
ENG 399/SOCL 470	Honors: Literature, Culture, and the Environment
ENG 494/G	Kentucky Literature
ENG 495/G	Southern Literature
ENG 498/G	Robert Penn Warren Seminar
ENG 504	Studies in American Literature: Social Change / Counterculture / Life on the Margins
ENG 520	Introduction to Graduate Studies
ENG 534	Studies in Genre: Environmental Literature and Ecocriticism
ENG 596	Seminar in American Writers: Regionalism vs. Cosmopolitanism in Modern American Literature

### **Chongqing Technology and Business University, China (Feb.-July 2008)**

Taught courses in Western Civilization and American Culture to English majors; Oral English for postgraduates; Oral English for faculty who teach foreign students; English Training to prepare English majors for government examination

### **Rockford College, 2000-2004**

Taught multiple sections of Composition & Literature I and II, with special topics in Literature and Environment, Contemporary Literature, and Writers of Place and Community. Also taught the following courses: Freshman Seminar, Survey of American Literature, Fiction Writing, Modern British Poetry and Prose, Modern Drama, World Literature, Contemporary British and American Poetry and Prose, Advanced Expository Writing, The American Odyssey (special topics course), Senior Seminar (directed senior theses)

### **University of Mississippi, 1995-2000**

Taught numerous sections of the following, 2:2 load, as sole instructor: English Composition I, English Composition II, Introduction to Literature, Major Authors in American Literature, Major Authors in World Literature, Advanced Composition

## **PRESENTATIONS**

“Evolving Caves in Post-WWII Southern Literature: Setting, Symbol, & Natural History.” Notes from Underground: The Depths of Environmental Arts, Culture, and Justice Conference, Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID, June 23-27, 2015.

- “Living Stories in the Age of STEM.” Lindsey Wilson College’s 2014 English Majors Colloquium. Columbia, KY, April 25, 2014
- “Kentucky: More than Mutton.” Southern Foodways Symposium: Barbecue: An Exploration of Pitmasters, Places, Smoke, and Sauce. University of Mississippi, Oct. 19-21, 2012.
- “Appalachian Literature as Change Agent.” The Emma Bell Miles Symposium on Southern Appalachian Culture and Nature. University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Sept. 9-10, 2011.
- “Switching on Lightbulbs and Blowing Up Mountains: Ecoliteracy and Energy Consumption in General Education English Courses.” Species, Space, and the Imagination of the Global Conference, Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, June 25, 2011.
- “Political Art in the Fight for/against Mountaintop Removal in Appalachia” Marking the Land in North America Conference, University of Toulouse le Mirail, Toulouse, France, May 13-14 2011.
- “From Skinny Bitchery to Smug Carnivory: Literary Responses to Eating Animals.” Fall Colloquium, English Dept, Western Kentucky University, Oct 1, 2010.
- “Overcoming Student Objections to Conservation Ethics in China and the USA.” Presented at World Ecological Organization, Beijing, PRC, August 14-21, 2009.
- “Environmental History and Policy-Making in the U.S. and Mexico.” American Studies Association, Albuquerque, NM, October 2008. Moderator and Commentator.
- “Making It Real! Student Engagement from a Sustainability Perspective.” Co-presented with Nancy Givens at the Engaging the Spirit Conference, Western Kentucky U, August 2007.
- “Environmental Literature and Sociology: Dissolving Boundaries between Disciplines, the Classroom, and Field Work.” Association for the Study of Literature & Environment, Spartanburg, SC, June 2007.
- “Stomping the Banjers: Seeking a Musical Aesthetics for Appalachian Fiction.” Southern American Studies Association Conference on Blues Tunes / Blues Texts: Music, Cultures and Literature in the Global South. Oxford, MS, Feb. 2007.
- “Chicken Feeding, Rice Weeding, Noodle Kneading: Images of a Japanese Organic Farm.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE), Eugene, OR, June 2005.
- “Toxic Diets in Contemporary Writing.” ASLE--Korea, Dongguk University, Seoul, May 2003.
- “Alternative Medicines in Ecoliterate Memoir and Fiction: LaBastille, Hogan, Ehrlich, Castillo: Peyote and Yoga.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Flagstaff, AZ, June 2001.
- “Healing and Environment in Contemporary Southern Narrative: The Complications of Minority Experience.” Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL, December 1999.

“Speaking Taboo and Getting Away with It: Rapping with Gary Snyder.” ASLE Symposium on Japanese and American Environmental Literature, Honolulu, HI, August 13-17, 1996.

## LECTURES

“Kentucky BBQ from the Big Muddy to Appalachia,” presented 14 times to groups around the state as part of the Kentucky Humanities Speakers Bureau

“Modernism and Modernity” and “Faulkner,” Fulbright American Literature Research Seminar, Hong Kong America Center, Chinese University of Hong Kong, May 12-17, 2008.

“Fighting for Our Land and Health: Environmental Justice in the U.S.A.” The Environmental School, Chongqing Technology and Business U, Chongqing, China, May 2008.

“Energy Use in the USA: Reversing the Mistakes of the Past.” The Environmental School, Chongqing Technology and Business U, Chongqing, China, April 2008.

“The Destructive American Diet: The Ecology of Food in the USA.” The Environmental School, Chongqing Technology and Business U, Chongqing, China, March 2008.

“China in American Eyes.” Chongqing Technology and Business University, Chongqing, China, May 2007.

“Cross-Cultural Interpretive Issues in Leslie Silko’s *Ceremony*.” RELS 307: Native American Religious Traditions (Professor Larry Snyder), Western Kentucky U, Feb 2007.

“Kentucky-Fried Home Economics: The Common-Sense Environmentalism of Farmer-Poet Wendell Berry.” Nagoya University, Nagoya, Japan, July 2004.

“Gary Snyder’s Poetry and the Issue of Cultural Exclusiveness.” American Literature (Professor Yoshiko Kayano), Meisei University, Tokyo, Japan, June 2004.

“Wendell Berry’s Poetry of Secession.” Contemporary American Poetry (Professor Won-Chung Kim), Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, Rep. of Korea, May 2003.

## SERVICE

Western Kentucky University

- \*
- \*WKU Faculty Senate, 2015 (alternate)
- \* WKU Student Complaints Committee, 2015
- \* English Department Executive Committee, 2015
- \*English Department Mentoring Program, 2015
- \* WKU Sustainability Scholarship Committee, 2014-present
- \* Compiler/Completer of MA in English Program Review, a 6-year review of our graduate program in English to satisfy the State education people (the CPE)
- \* M.A.T. in Middle and High School English Content Advisor/Application Reviewer, 2013-present
- \* Cherry Presidential Scholarship Committee, 2013-present
- \* Judge, WKU Student Research Conference, 2014 and 2015
- \* Search Committee Member for African-American & Multicultural Literature Specialist, 2013-14
- \* Chair of English Graduate Studies Assessment Committee, 2012-present
- \* Advisor of SAGE: Student Association for Graduates in English, 2012-present

- \* Chair of English Graduate Studies Committee, 2012-present
- \* Judge, Alan Miller Award for Writing on the Environment, 2013-present
- \* Sustainability Scholarship Committee, 2013-present
- \* Graduate Advisor, English Department, 2012-
- \* Coordinator of Center for Robert Penn Warren Studies, Western Kentucky University, 2007-2014
- \* Hosted Annual Meeting of the Robert Penn Warren Circle + the Warren-Brooks Award for Outstanding Literary Criticism lecture, April 2007-2013
- \* Board Member, Robert Penn Warren Advisory Group, 2009-2014
- \* Copy editor, Potter College of Arts and Letters magazine, 2009-2011
- \* Teacher, GEAR UP Summer Camp, June 2009, June 2010
- \* Interviewer for WKU Presidential Scholarships, March 26, 2010
- \* Program Assessment Committee, English Dept, 2008-2010
- \* Field Trip Organizer, Campus Community Partnerships for Sustainability Conference, April 09
- \* Attendee, Association of American Colleges and Universities Conference, Seattle, Jan 2009.
- \* Liaison with Center for Entrepreneurship--Coordinated Class Visitation & Social Events for Visiting Chinese Scholars from Liaoning U, Fall 2008
- \* Master of Ceremonies, Spring International Gala, Chongqing Business and Technology U, May 08
- \* Essay on Honors Field Trip to Gauley River, published in *Arete*, the honors newsletter, Nov 07
- \* Hosted Visiting Writer Wendell Berry, November 2007
- \* Organized Booth "Studying in China" at Study Abroad Fair, October 2007
- \* WKU Faculty Development Seminar in China, May 2007
- \* Invited Speaker, GreenToppers Earth Day Festival, April 2007
- \* Hosted Visiting Poet Ann Fisher-Wirth, Feb. 2007
- \* Medievalist Search Committee, 2006
- \* Participant, Kentucky Engagement Conference, Lexington, KY, Nov. 29, 2006
- \* Food and Beverage Coordinator for Homecoming Committee, 2006

## Academic Community

- \* Attended Executive Council Meeting for Association for Study in Literature and Environment, Montreat, NC Feb 19-21, 2010
- \* International Liaison, Association for the Study of Literature and Environment 2004-2011
- \* Host, Kentucky-Tennessee American Studies Association Alternative Annual Meeting, May 2009
- \* Participant, EcoRes Forum E-Conference, "From Anthropocentrism to Ecocentrism: Making the Shift," 14-30 April 2007
- \* Editor, *Wavelength 14: Poems in Prose and Verse* (Spring 2007)
- \* Executive Council, Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, 2004-06
- \* Judge, Kobe College Corporation Japanese Language & Culture Program Essay Contest, 2000-2007

## Outreach

- \* Organizer/Caterer of Local Foods Awareness Event, SOKY Tennis Assoc. Tournament, 2007, 08
- \* Hosted two WKU students from China, Winter Break 2008
- \* Host Parent, High School Exchange Student from South Korea, August-December 2007

## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- \* Co-Host, Barbecue with the Professors, Honors Program, fall semester 2007-2012
- \* Drove vanload of students to Frankfort for I Love Mountains Day, Feb. 2010
- \* English Club Sponsor, 2008-2009
- \* Field Trip for Kentucky Literature Students to Robert Penn Warren Birthplace and Meeting of the Warren Circle, April 2009

- \* Recruited and Hosted International Students, Including WKU Students, Summer Study Program, Chongqing Technology and Business U, Chongqing, China, May 10-31, 2008.
- \* Faculty Leader, Youth League Mountain Hike and Cleanup, Chongqing Technology and Business U, China, March 2008
- \* Faculty Leader, WKU Honors Program Gauley River Rafting Trip, West Virginia, Oct 2007
- \* Cookout with the President, Honors Program, Aug 2007
- \* Host, English 399/Soc 470 Capstone BBQ at Dr. B's House (with local pork on the smoker), May 2007
- \* Leader, Honors Overnight Backpacking and Caving at Mammoth Cave NP, April 2007
- \* Faculty Leader, Student Field Trip to Robert Penn Warren Birthplace & Floyd Collins Museum & Sand Cave Guthrie, KY and Mammoth Cave, KY April 2007
- \* Faculty Leader, WKU Honors Program Trip to Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont, March 2007
- \* Leader, Honors Trip to Andrew Habegger's Organic Farm, March 2007
- \* Leader, Honors Trip to Kentucky Author Forum with Wendell Berry & Bill McKibben, Louisville, Feb 2007
- \* Hosted Student Coffee Hour with Poet Ann W. Fisher-Wirth, Feb 2007
- \* Hosted Visiting Speaker John Glass, English 498: Robert Penn Warren Seminar, Feb 2007
- \* Kentucky Engagement Conference, Lexington, KY November 2006
- \* Accompanied students to Maya Angelou lecture, Bowling Green, Fall 2006
- \* Faculty Leader, WKU Honors Program Gauley River Rafting Trip, October 2006
- \* Faculty Leader, WKU Honors Program Trip to Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont, March 2006
- \* Faculty Leader, WKU Kentucky Literature Field Trip to Robert Penn Warren Birthplace & Museum, Guthrie, KY and to Chaney's Dairy Barn, April 2006

## AWARDS, GRANTS, HONORS

- \* Potter College Faculty Research Grant (\$2287) for the project Kentucky's Environmental Legacy
- \* Finalist 2015 Kentucky Literary Award (for *The Kentucky Barbecue Book*)
- \*Nomination Potter College 2015 Faculty Award in Advising
- \*Traditions Professorship, WKU English Dept., 2009-10
- \* Faculty Honoree and Guest Speaker, Golden Key Honor Society, March 09
- \* Nomination Potter College 2009 Faculty Award in Teaching
- \* Finalist, Bellwether Prize for Fiction of Social Change, 2008
- \* New Faculty Grant (\$4,000), Western Kentucky U (2008) for the project "Meat Politics in the Land of Plenty: Literature and Culture."
- \* Mary Ashby Cheek Grant, Rockford College (Summer 2001)
- \* Ph.D. Degree Program in English Graduate School Award, U of Mississippi (2000)
- \* First Place, Ella Somerville Award for Fiction, U of Mississippi (1998) (1999)

## MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS

- \*Host of *WBKO Go Local / The Local Traveler*, WBKO Television, Bowling Green, KY (May 2012-Sept 2013)—created 40+ video programs on Kentucky and Tennessee's cultural heritage
- \*TLC's *BBQ Pitmasters*, Jan 20, 2013
- \*Numerous radio appearances on National Public Radio and commercial radio stations on the topic of Kentucky barbecue



**PROFESSIONAL AND PUBLIC SERVICE MEMBERSHIPS**

Association for the Study of Literature and Environment  
Robert Penn Warren Circle  
The Southern Foodways Alliance  
Kentuckians for the Commonwealth