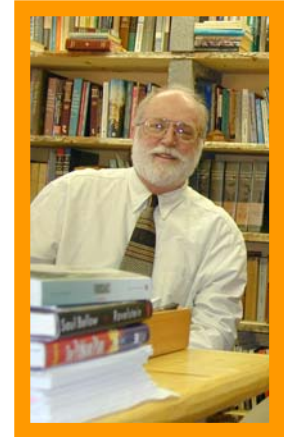


Don C. Benjamin, Ph.D.
Biblical and Near Eastern Studies
dcben@asu.edu

Don C. Benjamin, Ph.D. teaches biblical and Near Eastern Studies at Arizona State University. Among the courses he offers are: Introduction the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), Archaeology and the Bible, Women and the Bible, Poetry and Poetics in the Book of Psalms, Ritual, Symbol, Myth, Religion and Moral Issues – and the Human Event a Great Books reading program at Barrett, the ASU Honors College.



Benjamin holds a Ph.D. in Religion from the Claremont Graduate University, an M.A. in Semitic Languages from the Catholic University of America, and a B.A. from St. Bonaventure University. His publications include: [Social World of Ancient Israel 1250-587 B.C.E.](#) (Hendrickson), [Old Testament Parallels, laws and stories from the ancient Near East](#) (Paulist), [Old Testament Story, an introduction](#) (Fortress) and [Stones & Stories: an introduction to archaeology and the Bible](#) (Fortress). His work in progress is: [Deuteronomy: a feminist commentary](#) (Liturgical Press). He is an active member of the Society of Biblical Literature, the Catholic Biblical Association, the American Schools of Oriental Research and the American Academy of Religion.

Benjamin was born in Louisiana. He and his wife, Patrice A. Welsh-Benjamin RN, MA, OCN, now live in Arizona. They enjoy both the grandeur of nature in the southwest, the cultural amenities of city life and travel.

Education

Ph.D. in Religion and Old Testament
Claremont Graduate University, Claremont CA
Dissertation: "Deuteronomy and City Life" directed by Rolf P. Knierim

M.A. in Semitic Languages
Catholic University of America, Washington DC
Thesis: "Septuagint Translations of 'Man-and-his-Brother' Idiom" directed by Patrick F. Skehan

M. Div. in Catholic Studies
Washington Theological Union, Washington DC

B.A. in Philosophy and Humanities
St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure, NY

Full-Time Professional Experience

Instructor, Jewish Studies Program (2009-present)

Arizona State University

Through undergraduate and graduate courses, research conferences, workshops, scholar-in-residence programs and public lectures, Jewish Studies at ASU seeks to enhance knowledge of all facets of Jewish life as developed over time. Committed to critical inquiry and scholarly entrepreneurship, Jewish Studies offers a new and creative model to integrate a Jewish perspective into all relevant disciplines and academic units, including history, religious studies, political science, justice studies, international letters and cultures, film and media studies, and law. Benjamin's courses in the program include **Poetry and Poetics of the Psalms** (REL 394) a study of the work of Robert Alter, and **Bible On-Location, an archaeological study tour to Egypt, Jordan and Israel** (REL 315, REL 384, REL 499)

Instructor, Barrett Honors College (2007-2010)

Arizona State University

The Barrett Honors College at Arizona State University is a selective, small undergraduate college responsible for recruiting academically outstanding undergraduates to ASU and organizing the resources of that major research university for their benefit. Together, the college and university provide these students with a small, intellectually and socially vibrant environment within the context of a university actively engaged in exploring all areas of human interest and concern. The college's students simultaneously benefit from being with others of the same intellectual preparation and commitments but different talents and interests at a university that can meet their changing needs as they develop academically and socially. Benjamin's courses for the honors students include: **The Human Event (HON 171)** – a Great Books program and honors sections of **Ritual, Symbol and Myth (REL 305)**.

Instructor, School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies (1999-present)

Arizona State University

Teaches biblical and ancient Near Eastern studies to some 125-160 undergraduate students each semester in Department of Religious Studies. Computer supported and on-line courses of instruction included: **Ritual, Symbol and Myth (REL 305)**; **Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament (REL 315)**; **Prophets of Ancient Israel (REL 394)**; **The Bible and Archaeological Discoveries (REL 384)**; **Poetry and Poetics in the Psalms (REL 394)**; **Women in the Bible (REL 396)**; **Religion and Moral Issues (REL 381)**. Courses were computer supported (Blackboard), and fulfilled literacy requirement that 50% of a student's grade was earned from assignments demonstrating students' ability to think and write critically.

Executive Director (1997-2000)

Kino Institute of Theology, Phoenix AZ

For more than twenty-five years Kino Institute was a school of theology in the Catholic tradition with an annual budget of \$650,000, 15-20 full time faculty and staff from a variety of faith traditions and some 350-400 adult students. Kino provided programs in theology, spirituality and ministry in both English and Spanish for adults from cities throughout the greater Phoenix metropolitan area as well as Prescott, Flagstaff, Kingman and Lake Havasu. Courses taught: **Biblical Ancestors and Heroes; Prophets of Ancient Israel; Women in the Bible; Bible, Creation and Apocalypse; The Bible on-location, a study tour.**

Scholar in Residence (1978-1996)

Rice University, Houston TX

Developed and taught two undergraduate and two adult education courses in Biblical and ancient Near Eastern studies courses each semester. Rice undergraduates come from around the United States and around the world. They are valedictorians, national merit scholars, and have SAT scores which average 1300. Working with them was both a pleasure and a challenge. There were 15-50 undergraduates in each class. Each course included computer assisted directed research projects. The adult learners with whom I work come from across the spectrum of Houston's multicultural community. Some of these classes are offered in the

Rice University School of Continuing Studies. Some were hosted by Jewish and Christian congregations as part of their adult education programs.

Developed a travel study program to Egypt, Jordan and Israel which combined archaeology and the Bible. There were 15-25 participants in each of the tours (1986, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996), who received nine hours of instruction prior to departure. Visits to working archaeological sites were interpreted by a member of the excavation team. In conjunction with each site, I lectured on appropriate biblical and other ancient Near Eastern literature.

Assisted in development of programs in Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations and in Study of Women and Gender. These two interdepartmental programs expose students to the study of a particular area, period or topic in a variety of disciplines in the humanities.

Taught graduate seminars in Biblical studies, advised graduate students with dissertations pertaining to the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament, and served as outside reader on dissertation committees requiring an expert in Biblical and ancient Near Eastern Studies.

Part-Time Professional Experience

Instructor (2002)

Glendale Community College

Taught World Religions to undergraduate students in Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies

Instructor (1999-2000)

University of San Francisco

Taught biblical and ancient Near Eastern Studies to M.A. students in department of theology.

Instructor (1998)

Fuller Theological Seminary, Southwest, Phoenix AZ

Taught Archaeology and the Bible to students in M.Div. Program.

Visiting Scholar (1986, 1988)

University of Houston, Houston TX

Designed and taught Biblical Ancestors and Heroes (Reli 355) to University of Houston undergraduates during one semester, and Archaeology and the Bible (Reli 205) during another as part of its developing program in religion.

Visiting Scholar (1980-1983, 1994)

**St. Mary's Seminary and Graduate School of Theology
University of St Thomas, Houston TX**

Designed and taught one course in Old Testament Studies each semester to seminarians in the master of divinity program. Seminarians were primarily Roman Catholic, but also came from other mainstream and evangelical Christian traditions.

Designed and taught a three week summer-school course introducing the Old Testament (YSS9315) to 5-10 students in the master of arts and master of pastoral studies programs.

Books

Deuteronomy, a feminist commentary. Wisdom Commentary Series. Edited by Barbara E. Reid. Collegeville: Liturgical Press (In process)

Stones and Stories: archaeology and the Bible, an introduction. Minneapolis/St Paul: Fortress, 2010

Old Testament Parallels: laws and stories from the ancient Near East. With V.H. Matthews. Fully Revised and Expanded 3rd edition; Mahwah: Paulist Press, 2006

Paralelos del Antiguo Testamento: leyes y realtos del Antiguo Oriente Biblico. Parcela: Sal Terrae, 2004.

Old Testament Story: an introduction. Minneapolis/St Paul: Fortress Press, 2003.

In this wonderfully crafted book, Benjamin addresses important question, illuminates the role that faith and culture played in the shaping of the biblical text and tradition, and presents familiar material in a fresh and engaging way. Creatively drawing out the richness of many literary strands embedded in the Old Testament, Benjamin teases out the artistry of an ancient document while imaginatively capturing, with accuracy, its historical and social dimensions. The Old Testament Story, an introduction is a gem among many texts of its kind.

Carol J. Dempsey, University of Portland (Portland OR)

Old Testament Parallels: laws and stories from the ancient Near East. With V.H. Matthews. Revised and enlarged 2nd edition; Mahwah: Paulist, 1997. (Also available on CD)

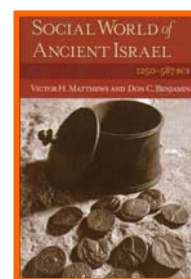
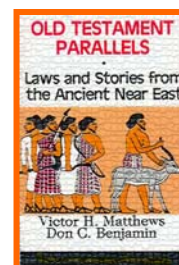
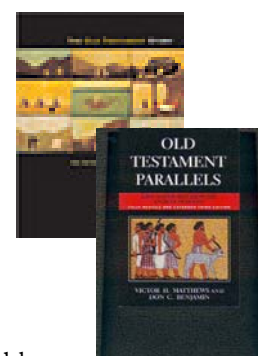
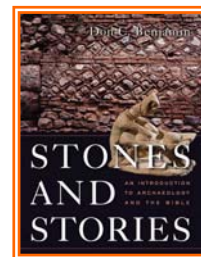
"...the best asset of this book, in my opinion, is the wide variety of texts collected in it. From creation stories, to legal codes, from treaties to historical annals, from instructions to hymns, from love songs to visions, Old Testament Parallels offers a comparison to virtually every major type of literature found in the Bible. Moreover, this book has included a number of texts which are not readily found elsewhere. In comparison to the two-volume paperback set of Pritchard's Ancient Near Eastern Texts – the standard anthology, and the predominant alternative to Old Testament Parallels – it contains the following additional texts: the Atrahasis Story, the Hymn to Atum, the Treaty of Ramesses II and Hattusilis III, the Story of Balaam, the Yavne-Yam Inscription, the Story of Kirta, the Lament of Ur, the Mari Prophecies, the Sufferer and the Soul, and the Farmer and the Courts. These are all very important texts and shed substantial light on the interpretation of the Hebrew Bible. Their inclusion in Old Testament Parallels increases the value of this book."

Ronald A. Simkins, Creighton University

Honor and Shame in the World of the Bible. Edited with V. H. Matthews. Semeia: an experimental journal for Biblical criticism, 68. Atlanta: Scholars, 1996.

The Social World of Ancient Israel, 1250-587 BCE. With V. H. Matthews. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1993.

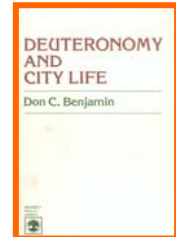
All the chapters are informative, but chapter two, on the role of the mother, has special relevance as a corrective to the common observation that the Bible is antifeminist. Regarding the status of women in the biblical world, the authors state: "The Bible itself grants women much more access to the



administrative, judicial, and economic systems than many of today's generalizations about women and the Bible acknowledge." The biblical world, to be sure, was patriarchal, but patriarchy as a social system and sexism as a form of prejudice are quite different. Women in the biblical household had significant authority and power, especially over the education of their children. The authors emphasize the responsibilities and not the restrictions placed upon the mother. In biblical teaching, for instance, homemaking and childbearing are not inferior roles. The father and mother had different functions, but the Bible insists that honor is due equally to both parents.

Philip J. King, Boston College

Old Testament Parallels: laws and stories from the ancient Near East. With V. H. Matthews. Mahwah: Paulist, 1991.



Deuteronomy and City Life: a form criticism of texts with the word "city" in Deuteronomy 4:41-- 26:19. Lanham: University Press of America, 1983.

Deuteronomy and City Life is a Claremont Graduate School dissertation devoted to the form criticism of ten passages from Deuteronomy. By demonstrating that Deut 4:41-26:19 endorses cities as settings where Yahweh could be encountered, Benjamin hoped to challenge the assumption that biblical religion was exclusively rural religion.... The book is challenging in its attempt to relate two quite different methods of biblical analysis. Even if the author does not convince us with every detail of his arguments, he has identified an important agenda that deserves additional study.

James W. Flanagan, Case Western Reserve University

Articles

- "Jeremiah: memoirs or laments?" Bible and Interpretation. 2010 (forthcoming)
- "Rahab: harlot or host?" Bible and Interpretation. 2010
<http://www.bibleinterp.com/opeds/rahab357938.shtml>
- "Abel: murder or sacrifice?" Bible and Interpretation. 2010
<http://www.bibleinterp.com/opeds/cain357925.shtml>
- "The Making of Stones & Stories: an introduction to archaeology & the Bible." Bible and Interpretation 2009
http://www.bibleinterp.com/articles/benjamin_35790927.shtml
- "Stones & Stories: an open discussion." Yahoo Biblical Studies List. Hosted by Jim West. 2009.
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/biblical-studies/messages/20935>
- "The Archaeology of Pilgrims." The Bible Today " 45 (July, 2007): 248-253.
- "Mourners and the Psalms." In Worship in the Hebrew Bible: essays in honor of John T. Willis. Edited by M. Patrick Graham, Rick R. Marrs and Steven L. McKenzie. JSOT, Suppl. 284: Sheffield University, 1999: 56-77.
- "Amnon and Tamar: A Matter of Honor (2 Sam 13:1-38)." With Victor H. Matthews. In Interconnections, A Festschrift for M. Astour. Edited by Gordon D. Young, Marck Chavalas and Richard E. Averbeck. CDL Press (forthcoming).
- "Stories of Naomi and Ruth (Ruth 1:1--2:23)." In Master of the Sacred Page: essays and articles in honor of Roland E. Murphy, O. Carm. on the occasion of his eightieth birthday. Edited by Craig Morrison and Keith Egan, 1997: 131-54.
- "City, Cain, Abel, Nurse, Birthright." In Dictionary of the Bible. Edited by D. N. Freedman and A. C. Myers. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans (forthcoming)
- "Stories of Adam and Eve." In Problems of Old Testament Theology: essays in honor of Rolf Knierim. Edited by Henry T. C. Sun and Keith L. Eades. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1997: 38-58.
- "Stories of Hagar." The Bible Today 35 (January 1997): 27-31.
- "Social Sciences and Biblical Studies." In Honor and Shame in the World of the Bible. Edited with V. H. Matthews. Semeia, 68; Atlanta: Scholars, 1996:7-21.

- "Bethel, Clean/Unclean, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Leprosy, Sarah, Sodom, Gomorrah." In Collegeville Pastoral Dictionary of Biblical Theology. Edited by C. Stuhlmüller. Collegeville Liturgical Press, 1996.
- "Response to 'The Kenites, the Midianites, and the Rechabites as Marginal Mediators in Ancient Israelite Tradition,' by Paula M. McNutt." Semeia: Passages, Transformations, and Processes: Ritual Approaches to Biblical Texts. Edited by Mark McVann 67 (1994):133-146.
- "A Story of Rahab as Host, not Harlot." Explorations. 12 (Winter, 1993): 55-80.
- "Jael, Host or Judge?." With V. H. Matthews. The Bible Today 30 (September 1992) 291-6.
- "From Village to Tribe." With V. H. Matthews. The Bible Today 30 (July 1992) 235-9.
- "The Elder." With V.H. Matthews. The Bible Today 30 (May 92) 170-4.
- "The Prophet." With V.H. Matthews. The Bible Today 30 (March 92) 105-11.
- "The Prince and the Virgin." With V. H. Matthews. The Bible Today 30 (January 1992) 42-6.
- "Stories of Elijah." In A Journey with Elijah: 39-53. Rome: Casa Editrice Institutum Carmelitanum, 1991.
- "An Anthropology of Prophecy." Biblical Theology Bulletin 21 (Winter 1991): 135-44.
- "The Divine Assembly." With V. H. Matthews. The Bible Today 29 (May 1991) 157-62.
- "Stories of Elijah." In The Land of Carmel: a festschrift for Joachim Smet on his 75th birthday: 1991:27-42. Rome: Institutum Carmelitanum.
- "The Stubborn and the Fool." With V. H. Matthews. The Bible Today 29 (July 1991) 222-26.
- "The Leper." With V. H. Matthews. The Bible Today 29 (September 1991) 292-7.
- "The Persistent Widow: parables in Ruth and Luke." The Bible Today 28 (1990) 213-19.
- "Israel's God: Mother and Midwife." Biblical Theology Bulletin 19 (October 1988) 115-120.
- "Mapping the Old Testament: form criticism reconsidered." The Bible Today 24 (September 1986) 315-21.
- "Roman Catholics and the Lima Document." Ecumenist 22 (1984) 36-7.
- "Papal Visits." Sword 40 (1980) 29-32.

Reviews

- Review. Created Equal: how the Bible broke with ancient political thought. By Joshua A. Berman. Catholic Biblical Quarterly. Catholic Biblical Quarterly 72 (2010): 333-334.
- Review. Leaders and People in Bible Stories. By James A. Fischer. Catholic Biblical Quarterly 67 (2005): 684-685. .
- Review. Daily Life in Ancient Mesopotamia. By Karen Rhea Neme-Nejat. Catholic Biblical Quarterly. 66 (2004):296-298.
- Review. Ancient Israelite Literature in Context. By Willem Boshoff, Eben Scheffler, Izak Spangenberg. Review of Biblical Literature. <http://www.bookreviews.org/default.asp>
- Review. Body Symbolism in the Bible. By Thomas Staubli and Silvia Schroer. Catholic Biblical Quarterly. 64 (2002): 749-750.
- Review. The Bible Looks at Fathers. By A. Ohler. Catholic Biblical Quarterly 64 (2002): 140-141.
- Review. Cities of the Biblical World. By L. F. DeVries. Catholic Biblical Quarterly. 60 (1998): 723-4.
- Review. Social Structure of Ancient Israel: the institution of the family (beit >ab) from the settlement to the end of the monarchy. By S. Bendor. Catholic Biblical Quarterly 60 (1998): 516-17.
- Review. Israel and the book of the Covenant: an anthropological approach to Biblical Law. By J.W. Marshall. Catholic Biblical Quarterly 57 (1995): 564-5.
- Review. Introduction to the Old Testament: a liberation perspective. By A.R. Ceresko. Biblical Archaeologist. 58 (1995):173-5.
- Review. Contexts for Amos: prophetic poetics in Latin American Perspective. By M.D. Carroll R. Biblical Theology Bulletin 25 (1995): 48-9.
- Review. Religion and Culture. By J.A. Dearman. Biblical Archaeologist. 57 (1994) 64.
- Review. The Savage in Judaism. By H. Eilberg-Schwartz. Biblical Archaeologist 56 (1993): 49-50.
- Review. The Anchor Bible Dictionary. Edited by D.N. Freedman. Bible Review (April 1993) 10-12.
- Review. Theological Diversity and the Authority of the Old Testament. By John Goldingay. Catholic Biblical Quarterly 52 (1990): 318-20.
- Review. Biblical Archaeology: the World, the Mediterranean, the Bible. By H.O. Thompson. Biblical Archaeologist (June/Sept, 1989): 149-50.
- Review. The Limits of Story. By G. Aichele, Jr. Biblical Theology Bulletin 17 (1987) 157.

- Review. Daniel. By J. J. Collins. Biblical Theology Bulletin 17 (1987) 32.
- Review. Tours of Hell. By M. Himmelfarb. Biblical Theology Bulletin 17 (1986) 76-7.
- Review. Sociological Approaches to Old Testament. By R. R. Wilson. Biblical Theology Bulletin 16 (1986) 42.
- Review. Der einzige Gott. Edited by B. Lang. Catholic Biblical Quarterly 46 (1984) 764-6.
- Review. Der sogenannte Landtag zu Sichem. By H. Molle. Catholic Biblical Quarterly 44 (1982) 658-60.
- Review. Israel und Kanaan. By W. Dietrich. Catholic Biblical Quarterly 42 (1980) 537-9.
- Review. City in Ancient Israel. By F.S. Frick. Catholic Biblical Quarterly 41 (1979) 129-30.

Presentations

- "Laws and Penalties in Biblical and Extra-biblical Texts: Slander in Deuteronomy and UET 5." Society of Biblical Literature, Pacific Coast Region. University of Santa Clara. Santa Clara CA. March 23, 2009.
- "Annales Archaeology and the Bible: the house that Lawrence E. Stager Built." American Schools of Oriental Research, Pacific Southwest Regional Meeting. Fuller Theological Seminary. Pasadena CA. March 31, 2008.
- "Stories of Adam and Eve, Revisited." Arizona Foundation for Contemporary Theology. Phoenix AZ. February 7, 2007.
- "Stories & Stones: an introduction to archaeology & the Bible." Archaeology Institute of America, Central Arizona Society. Tempe AZ. January 29, 2007.
- "The Death of Abel: murder or human sacrifice?" SBL Pacific Coast Regional Meeting. Los Angeles CA. March, 2002.
- "A Response to 'Toward a Framework for Viewing Sacrifices in Hebrew Scripture'" by Joe Barnhart (University of North Texas). SBL Annual Meeting, Denver CO. November, 2001.
- "The Search for the Historical Israel: Joshua as a Test Case." Jesus Seminar Annual Meeting. Santa Rosa CA. October, 2001.
- "A Response to 'Israelite Kinship Organization and the Priestly Writings' " by David Vanderhooft (Boston College). SBL Annual Meeting, San Francisco CA. November, 1997.
- "Stories of Naomi and Ruth (Ruth 1:1--4:22)." Society of Biblical Literature Southwest Regional Meeting, Dallas TX. March 8-9, 1997.
- "Stories of Cain and Abel (Gen 4:3--5:32)" Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. Philadelphia PA. November 18-21, 1995.
- "Water, Power and Place in the Bible." Western Small Church Rural Life Center Forum on Church and Land. Twin Falls ID. November 8-11, 1995.
- "The Book of Exodus." Southwest Biblical Studies Seminar. Ft. Worth TX. October 6, 1995.
- "Stories of Cain and Abel (Gen 4:3--5:32)." Society of Biblical Literature Southwest Regional meeting. Dallas TX. March 10-11, 1995.
- "A Review of Introduction to the Old Testament: a liberation perspective (1992) " by A.R. Ceresko. Catholic Biblical Association Annual Meeting. San Diego CA. August 13-16, 1994.
- "Stories of Adam and Eve (Gen 2:4b--4:2)." Society of Biblical Literature Southwest Regional Presidential Address. Dallas TX. March 19, 1994.
- "Rereading the Stories of Adam and Eve." Religious Studies Program. Texas A&M University. Bryan-College Station TX. February 24, 1994.
- "An Anthropology of the Priest." Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. Washington D.C. November 20-23, 1993.
- "The Anchor Bible Dictionary: a critique of its use of social scientific criticism." Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. Washington D.C. November 20-23, 1993.
- "Story of Rahab as Host, not Harlot." Southwest Biblical Studies Seminar. Ft. Worth TX. October 29, 1993.
- "Story of Rahab as Host, not Harlot." Catholic Biblical Association Annual Meeting. Atchison KS. August 15-18, 1993.
- A Review of Religion and Culture in Ancient Israel. By J. Andrew Dearman. Society of Biblical Literature. Southwest Regional Meeting. Dallas TX. March 12, 1993.
- "Stories of Adam and Eve." Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. San Francisco CA. November 21, 1992.

"Teaching the Hebrew Bible: the Book of Genesis." Society of Biblical Literature Southwest Regional Meeting. Dallas TX. March 14, 1992.

"An Anthropology of Saul as Chief in 1 Sam 11:1-5." Society of Biblical Literature Southwest Regional Meeting. Dallas TX. March 13, 1992.

"Teaching an Introductory Course in Old Testament: the Book of Exodus." Catholic Biblical Association Annual Meeting. Washington DC. August 15-18, 1992.

"Teaching an Introductory Course in Old Testament: the Book of Genesis." Catholic Biblical Association Annual Meeting. Loyola University, Los Angeles, August 15-18, 1991.

Professional Memberships

Society of Biblical Literature

president, Southwest Region, 1993-94

program committee, Southwest Region, 1991

steering committee, Social Sciences and the Interpretation of the Hebrew Scriptures Section, annual meeting, 1990-1993

program chair, Social Sciences and the Interpretation of the Hebrew Scriptures Section, annual meeting, 1993-96.

American Schools of Oriental Research

nominations committee

Catholic Biblical Association

task force program chair, "Teaching an Introductory Course in Old Testament," 1993-98

annual meeting program committee, 1987-90

abstractor, Old Testament Abstracts

associate editor, Catholic Biblical Quarterly, 2007-present

American Academy of Religion

College Theology Society

Southwest Biblical Studies Seminar

Archaeological Institute of America

president and program chair, Houston Society, 1991-1993

Personal Interests

cycling, carpentry, gardening, camping, travel