

John Gatta  
931-598-1913

## Curriculum Vitae

**Education:** B.A. 1968 University of Notre Dame, *maxima cum laude*  
M.A. 1972 Cornell University  
Ph.D. 1973 Cornell University

### Teaching Experience and Positions:

Named William B. Kenan Jr. Professor of English, 2014; Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Sewanee: The University of the South, 2007-2014 ; Associate Dean of the College for Faculty Affairs, 2006-7; Visiting Professor and Brown Foundation Fellow at Sewanee, 2005-06; Professor, University of Connecticut, 1990-2004; Associate Professor, 1979-1990; Asst. Prof, 1974- 79; English Department Head, 1992-98 and Interim Head, spring term 2003; Director of English Graduate Studies, 1989-92. Fulbright lecturer at University of Dakar, Senegal, 1987-88. One-term lecturer in Scriptural Studies and English Composition at St. Bede's Theological College, Transkei, Southern Africa, 1987. Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Missouri, 1973-74. Teaching Fellow in English, Cornell University, 1970-71. Teacher of high school English, Hammond, Indiana, 1968-69.

### Scholastic and Professional Honors:

Fulbright lectureship, 1987-88; Woodrow Wilson Fellow (1969); Phi Beta Kappa (1968); Harvard Summer Scholarship (1967); NDEA Title IV Fellowship (1969); Phi Kappa Phi (1972); University of Connecticut Chancellor's Research Fellowship (spring 2002); other honors listed below under book publications.

### Main Research Interests:

Colonial American Literature (Edward Taylor); Nineteenth-Century American Literature (Hawthorne, Stowe, Whitman); Religion and Literature; American Environmental Literature and Ecocriticism.

### Campus Service (mostly prior to Sewanee) and Professional Activities other than Conference Papers

Service over the years on a broad range of university bodies at UConn included membership on College Courses and Curriculum Committee, Senate Courses and Curriculum Committee, Committee on Committees, University Senate, and Graduate Faculty Council. Also served on Environmental Studies Curriculum Committee, organizing committee for interdisciplinary Teale Lecture Series on Nature & Environment, Committee for Religious Studies, and American Studies Committee. Other notable service roles included chairing UConn's committee for selecting undergraduate members of Phi Beta Kappa, chairing the committee charged with implementing standards for the university's writing-intensive course offerings; chairing

the Connecticut Research Foundation Humanities Area Review Committee, serving as Humanities Area Coordinator for UConn Honors Convocation, and as UConn Campus Secretary of Phi Beta Kappa.

Major advisor for fourteen Ph.D. dissertations at UConn.

President of Sewanee chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, 2009.

Guest Editor, *Sewanee Theological Review* (vol. 49:4, 2006), Special Issue on Literature and Christianity.

Currently an Executive Board Member, *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture*

Have evaluated submissions for a broad range of professional journals as well as for university and other monograph presses (including University of California Press, Duke University Press, Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, University of Notre Dame Press, University of Alabama Press, University of Virginia Press, Rowman & Littlefield, and Peter Lang).

Served on twelve-member, national Working Group on Religion and American Literature sponsored by the Pew Foundation.

### **Titles of Courses Previously and Currently Taught:**

#### ***Undergraduate Courses:***

***Courses Taught At Sewanee:*** (English 101), Literature and Composition; (Humanities 201), The Early Modern World; (Religion 201), The Spirit and Forms of Anglicanism; (English 396) American Environmental Literature; (English 218), Religion and Literature: Writings of the Spiritual Quest; (English 392), Modern American Fiction; (English 331; Melville's *Moby-Dick*; FYP course, Making a Place for Literary Imagination.

***Courses taught at UConn and elsewhere:*** American Literature to 1875 (many writing-intensive sections); Colonial American Literature; American Literature Since 1875; Concise Survey of American Literature (at University of Missouri); American Romanticism; The Rise of Realism; Life and Letters in Early America; Individual Authors: Nathaniel Hawthorne; Individual Authors: Harriet Beecher Stowe; American Literature and the Land; American Nature Writing; Masterworks of English and American Literature; Introduction to Literature; The Bible (interdepartmental course); Literature and Mysticism; Short Story; English Composition; Literature and Composition; Advanced Expository Writing.

#### ***Graduate Courses:***

American Literature I (broadly pre-1900 course); Seminar on Colonial American Literature; Literature of American Transcendentalism; Seminar on Hawthorne; The Bible as Literature; Seminar on American Environmental Writing and Ecocriticism; Literature of the American Renaissance (at UConn as well as in Sewanee's graduate School for Letters).

## **Publications:**

### **Books**

*Spirits of Place in American Literary Culture* (Oxford University Press, 2018).

*Making Nature Sacred: Literature, Religion, and Environment in America from the Puritans to the Present* (Oxford University Press, 2004), 291 pages. Published simultaneously in cloth and paperback.

*The Transfiguration of Christ and Creation* (Wipf & Stock, 2011), 144 pages.

*American Madonna: Images of the Divine Woman in Literary Culture.* (Oxford University Press, 1997), 191 pp. Published simultaneously in cloth and paperback. [Discusses works by Hawthorne, Stowe, Fuller, Harold Frederic, Henry Adams, and T.S. Eliot.]

Named by editors of *Choice* an "Outstanding Academic Book" for 1998, one of 47 titles so named in category of "English and American Literature."

*Gracious Laughter: The Meditative Wit of Edward Taylor* (University of Missouri Press, 1989), 248 pp.

Winner of 1989 Academic Book-of-the Year Award from Conference on Christianity and Literature.

### **Articles in Books and Contributions to Reference Works**

"Colonial Writing in North America," [substantially revised version of an earlier print article], in the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Literature* (June 2018)

<http://literature.oxfordre.com/page/recently-published>

"'Not a Tame lion': Animal Compassion and the Ecotheology of Human Imagination in Four Anglican Thinkers," in *Ecotheology in the Humanities: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Understanding the Divine and Nature*, ed. Melissa J. Brotton (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2016, pp. 197-207.

"Toward a Theology of Pilgrimage" (review essay), in *Traveling Well: Christian Reflection, A Series in Faith and Ethics* (Institute for Faith and Learning, Baylor, 2016) , 89-93

"Sam Pickering," (biographical and critical essay), *American Writers, Supplement XXI* (Gale-Scribner's, 2011), ed. Jay Parini, pp. 191-207.

- "Meditation on the Creatures: Ecoliterary Uses of an Ancient Tradition," in *Early Modern Ecocriticism: From the Florentine Codex to Shakespeare*, ed. Ivo Kamps, Thomas Hallock, and Karen Raber (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008), pp. 181-192.
- "Rare and Delectable Places: Thoreau's Imagination of Sacred Space at Walden," in *There Before Us: Religion, Literature, and Culture from Emerson to Wendell Berry*, ed. Roger Lundin (Eerdmans, 2007), pp. 23-48.
- "Colonial Writing in America," *Oxford Encyclopedia of American Literature*, ed. Jay Parini. (Oxford UP, 2004): 1:290-298."
- "Harriet Beecher Stowe," *Dictionary of Literary Biography: American Women Prose Writers, 1820-1870*, vol. 240, ed. Amy Hudock and Katherine Rodier (Gale, 2001), pp. 310-321.
- "Peter Matthiessen," in *American Writers, Supplement V*, ed. Jay Parini (Scribner's, 2000), pp. 199-218.
- "*The Scarlet Letter* as Pre-text for Flannery O'Connor's "'Good Country People,'" in *Hawthorne and Women: Engendering and Expanding the Hawthorne Tradition* (Univ. of Mass. Press, 1999), ed. John Idol and Melinda Ponder [rpt. version of journal article below]
- "*Four Quartets* as Capstone Text in a Literature and Mysticism Course," in *Approaches to Teaching the Poetry and Plays of T.S. Eliot*, ed. Jewel Spears Brooker (Modern Language Association Series on "Teaching Masterpieces," 1988), pp. 152-57.
- "Whitman's Re-Vision of Emersonian Ecstasy in 'Song of Myself,'" in *Walt Whitman Here and Now*, ed. Joann Krieg (Greenwood Press, 1985), pp. 173-83.
- Entries on James Fitch, Benjamin Lynde, Nathan Strong, and Isaac Wilkins in *American Writers before 1800: A Biographical and Critical Dictionary*, ed. J. Levernier and D. Wilmes (Greenwood Press, 1983), pp. 578-80, 918-19, 1402-05, 1596-99.

### **Journal Articles**

- "Sacramental Communion with Nature: From Emerson on the Lord's Supper to Thoreau's Transcendental Picnic," *Religions* (MDPI open-access journal), Vol. 9, 48 February 2018.  
<http://www.mdpi.com/2077-1444/9/2/48>
- "Harriet's Houses," *The Sewanee Review*, 123 (Summer 2015): 494-502.
- "The Elusive Truths of Literary Narrative" (essay-review), *The Sewanee Review*, 115 (Winter 2007): 131-136.

- "The Transfiguration of Christ and Cosmos: A Focal Point of Literary Imagination," *Sewanee Theological Review*, 49 (Michaelmas 2006): 484-506.
- "Rediscovering the Earth," essay-review [discussing several books concerned with American natural and social history], *The Sewanee Review*, (Fall 2004): 618-625.
- "Godliness Writ Large in John Muir's Sierra," *Religion and Literature*, 35 (summer-autumn 2003): 11-28.
- "The Anglican Aspect of Harriet Beecher Stowe," *The New England Quarterly*, 73 (September 2000): 412-433.
- "Calvinism Feminized: Divine Matriarchy in Harriet Beecher Stowe," *Connotations: A Journal for Critical Debate*, 5 (1995/96): 147-66.
- "Richard Wilbur's Poetry of Love," *Renascence*, 45 (1992/93): 3-15.
- "The Apocalyptic End of *The Scarlet Letter*," *Texas Studies in Literature and Language*, 32 (1990): 506-21.
- "*The Scarlet Letter* as Pre-text for Flannery O'Connor's "'Good Country People,'" *Nathaniel Hawthorne Review*, 16 (1990): 6-9.
- "Election par la majorité divine chez Henry Thoreau et Emily Dickinson," *Le Soleil* (March 1988): 13-14.
- "Coleridge's 'Fears in Solitude' and the Prospect of Social Redemption," *Cithara*, 26 (1986): 36-43.
- "The Making of Walt Whitman," [critical review-essay] *ESQ: A Journal of the American Renaissance*, 31 (1985): 272-79.
- "Little Lower than God: The Super-Angelic Anthropology of Edward Taylor," *Harvard Theological Review*, 75 (1982): 361-68.
- "Making Something of Whitman's 'Miracles,' *ESQ: A Journal of the American Renaissance*, 27 (4th Quarter 1981): 222-29.
- "The Uses of Wilderness: A Christian Perspective," *Anglican Theological Review*, 62 (July 1980): 256-65. [Rptd. and slightly revised from earlier version that appeared in the British journal *Christian*.]
- "Spheric and Silent Music in Eliot's *Four Quartets*," *Renascence*, 32 (Summer 1980): 195-213.

- "The Interior Progress of Tolkien's Niggle," *Studia Mystica*, 3 (Spring 1980): 2-15.
- "The American Subject: Moral History as Tragedy in the Plays of Eugene O'Neill," *Essays in Literature*, 6 (Fall 1979): 227-39.
- "Edward Taylor and Thomas Hooker: Two Physicians of the Poore Doubting Soul," *Notre Dame English Journal: A Journal of Religion in Literature*, 12 (October 1979): 1-13.
- "Progress and Providence in *The House of the Seven Gables*," *American Literature*, 50 (March 1978): 37-48. Rptd. in *The Critical Perspective*, 8 (New York: Chelsea House, 1988), general ed. Harold Bloom, pp. 4512-16.
- "Aylmer's Alchemy in 'The Birthmark,'" *Philological Quarterly*, 57 (Summer 1978): 388-413.
- "'Busy and Selfish London': The Urban Figure in Hawthorne's 'Wakefield,'" *ESQ: A Journal of the American Renaissance*, 23 (3rd Quarter 1977): 164-72.
- "Coleridge and Allegory," *Modern Language Quarterly*, 38 (March 1977): 62-77.
- "Transformation Symbolism and the Liturgy of the Mass in *Pearl*," *Modern Philology*, 71 (February 1974): 243-56.
- "The Comic Design of *Gods Determinations touching his Elect*," [on Edward Taylor], *Early American Literature*, 10 (Fall 1975): 121-43.

### **Reviews and Other:**

#### **Review of**

Review (online) of Mark Stoll's *Inherit the Holy Mountain: Religion and the Rise of American Environmentalism* (Oxford University Press, 2015) for American Academy of Religion's Reading Religion site, 2017, <http://readingreligion.org/books/inherit-holy-mountain>

Review of Robert MacSwain (ed.), *Scripture, Metaphysics, and Poetry: Austin Farrer's The Glass of Vision with Critical Commentary*, in *Sewanee Theological Review* 58 (2014), 206-212.

Review of Nancy Koester, *Harriet Beecher Stowe: A Spiritual Life*, in *Sewanee Theological Review* 57 (Michaelmas 2014), 575-578.

Review of Susan Power Bratton, *The Spirit of the Appalachian Trail: Community, Environment, and Belief on a Long-Distance Hiking Path*, in *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture* (2014), 376-378.

Review of Belden C. Lane, *Ravished by Beauty: The Surprising Legacy of Reformed Spirituality*, in *Church History* (March 2013), 220-223.

Review of Colleen Warren, *The Word Made Flesh: An Incarnational Theory of Language*, in *Christianity and Literature* (Winter 2012), 335-338.

“Reassessing the Legacy of C.S. Lewis” (Review of *The Cambridge Companion to C.S. Lewis*, ed. Robert MacSwain and Michael Ward), *Sewanee Theological Review* (Easter 2012), 211-215.

“Bound for the Promised Land” (Review of Jay Parini’s *Promised Land: Thirteen Books that Changed America*), *Sewanee Review* (Winter 2010), iii-vi.

Review of David Middleton, *The Language of the Heart*, in *Sewanee Theological Review* (2005), 371-372.

Review of Benjamin Franklin V, *The Other John Adams, 1705-1740*, in *Modern Language Review* (July 2005), 78.

“Harriet Beecher Stowe” [originally titled “Harriet Beecher Stowe: New England Reformer and Florida Episcopalian”], *The Living Church*, 222:20 (May 20, 2001), 9-10.

Review of David Lowenthal, *George Perkins Marsh: Prophet of Conservation*, in *New England Quarterly*, 74 (June 2001), 323-326.

Review of Jeffrey A. Hammond, *The American Puritan Elegy: A Literary and Cultural Study*, in *Christianity and Literature* (Winter 2001), 50, 356-359.

Review of Kimberly Van Esveld Adams, *Our Lady of Victorian Feminism*, in *Christianity and Literature* (2002), 297-299.

Review of Thomas and Virginia Davis, ed., *The Unpublished Writings of Edward Taylor* (3 vols.), in *Seventeenth-Century News*, 30 (Fall 1982), 51-52.

Review of Karen Rowe's *Saint and Singer: Edward Taylor's Typology and the Poetics of Meditation*, in *Seventeenth-Century News*, 45 (Fall 1987), 41-42.

Review of Theodore Dwight Bozeman, *To Live Ancient Lives: The Primitivist Dimension in Puritanism*, in *Seventeenth-Century News*, (Spring-Summer 1989), 14-15.

Review of Taylor's *Upon the Types of the Old Testament*, ed. C.W. Mignon, in *Early American Literature*, 26 (1991), 88-90.

Review of Steven C. Scheer, *Pious Impostures and Unproven Words: The Romance of Deconstruction in Nineteenth-Century America*, in *American Literature*, 63 (March 1991), 127-28.

Review of E.H. Miller's *Salem is My Dwelling Place: A Life of Nathaniel Hawthorne* and Sacvan Bercovitch's *The Office of the Scarlet Letter*, in *Religion and Literature*, 24 (1992), 91-96.

Review article on books by Joseph Conforti, Philip Gura, and David Miller in *Religion and Literature*, 30 (Spring 1998), 99-106.

Reviews for *The Living Church*: of Tadie and MacDonald, ed., *Permanent Things: Toward the Recovery of a More Human Scale at the End of the Twentieth Century* (1996); of Mark R. Schwehn's *Exiles from Eden: Religion and Academic Vocation in America* (1993); of Gene Edward Veith, Jr., *Reading Between the Lines: A Christian Guide to Literature* (9/6/92); of *Profitable Wonders: Aspects of Thomas Traherne*, by A.M. Allchin, Anne Ridler, and Julia Smith.

### **Poetry**

Snow Fences," "Late April Pasch" in *Anglican Theological Review*, 59 (January 1977), 50-51.

### **Papers, Conferences, and Oral Presentations**

"Reflections on Spirits of Place in American Literary Culture," Sewanee Emeritus Association," 2018; "The Anglican Aspect of Harriet Beecher Stowe," Episcopal Guild of Scholars, Albuquerque, NM, 2018; "Prior Intimations of the Anthropocene—in the Light of American Environmental Literature and Christian Tradition," EFSRE conference on "Religion and the Environment," Munich, Germany, May 2015; "An American Literary Bestiary," for Associated Colleges of the South Faculty Workshop on "Teaching the Animal," Sewanee, April 12, 2013; "From Bounty to Beauty: Imagining a Land Ethic in Early America," LUMA Art Museum Program on Environmentalism and Art of the American Landscape, Chicago, May 16, 2008; "The Transfiguration of Christ and Cosmos," Lilly Fellows Conference on The World and Christian Imagination, Baylor, Texas, 2006; "Contemplative Seeds of Environmental Activism," International Society for Study of Nature, Religion, and Culture, Gainesville, Florida, 2006; "Harriet Beecher Stowe as Educator for America," keynote address for Beecher House Society, Torrington, CT, March 2004; "Environmental Imagination and the Renewal of Reverence," Entreat Program, Sewanee, Tennessee, February 10, 2005; ; "Harriet Beecher Stowe: A Southern Episcopalian?" Sewanee Friends of the Library Lecture, March 23, 2005; "Stalking the Wild with Books: How Can Reading Natural History Enrich a Student's Own Nature Writing?" Conference on College Composition and Communication, New York, March, 2003; "Heartless Voids and Immensities': The Inscrutable Nature of *Moby Dick*," seminar presentation at University of Notre Dame, April 3, 2002; "Rare and Delectable



Places': Thoreau's Imagination of Sacred Space at Walden," IMAGE-CCL Conference, Seattle, Washington, October, 2000; "Religious Foundations of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*," featured training presentation for Staff and Executive Director of Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, Hartford, CT, November, 2000; "The Anglican Aspect of Harriet Beecher Stowe," lecture at Trinity Church, Hartford, October, 2000; "Theology and Writings of St. Paul," for Adult Education Program of Diocese of Connecticut, April, 2000 and fall 2003; "Can the American Puritans be Saved?" American Literature Association Conference, Baltimore, Maryland, 1999; "Edwin Way Teale's *A Naturalist Buys an Old Farm* and the Inspiration of Trail Wood," for UConn Natural History Museum, Hampton, CT, 1998 (co-presented with Kurt Heidinger); "Visions and Landscapes of Nature in American Literature," Templin seminar, Templin, Germany, May, 1997; "Nathaniel Hawthorne's Season of Contentment in Concord," Curiodyssey Series, Hartford Public Library, April, 1996; "Writing Ourselves: Versions of American Autobiography," co-presentation with Lynn Bloom, York Correctional Institution, Niantic, CT, 1996; "Literature and the Environment," UConn Environmental Scholars Colloquium (1996); "Divine Matriarchy in Harriet Beecher Stowe," Symposium on Mythology and American Literature, Cologne, Germany, 1995; Program Chair for conference on sacred music, National Guild of Episcopal Scholars, New York, 1993; "Richard Wilbur's Poetry of Love," Modern Language Association Convention, New York, 1992; Presentation on "Ash Wednesday" for T.S. Eliot Club, S. Windsor, CT, 1992; "The Transfiguration as Verbal Icon for East and West," Conference on Eastern Orthodox Spirituality, New York, 1991; "The Sacred Woman: The Problem of Hawthorne's Madonnas," Biennial Meeting of Nathaniel Hawthorne Society, North Adams, Massachusetts, 1990; "The Apocalyptic End of *The Scarlet Letter*," Conference on Christianity and Literature, Savannah, GA. 1989; "Flannery O'Connor's 'Good Country People' as Pre-Text for *The Scarlet Letter*," Modern Language Association Convention, Washington, D.C., 1989; "Edward Taylor's Canonical Reputation: Prospects," Modern Language Association Convention, Washington, D.C., 1989; "Election by Divine Majority in Thoreau and Dickinson," International Convocation on Elections in America, Dakar, Senegal, March, 1988 (delivered in French); "Early American Literature and Culture," Ellington CT Historical Society, 1984; "Divinity at Play in the Poetry of Edward Taylor," National Guild of Episcopal Scholars, New York, 1984; "Coleridge's 'Fears in Solitude' and the Prospect of Social Redemption," Modern Language Association Convention, New York, 1983; Chair of Special Session on "The Artist and the Engineer in Emerson's Essays," Modern Language Association Conference, New York, 1981; "Whitman's Re-Vision of Emersonian Ecstasy in 'Song of Myself'," Hofstra Conference on "Walt Whitman: Here and Now," 1980; Talk on American Utopianism, UConn museum program, 1978; "Progress and Providence in *The House of the Seven Gables*," for seminar on American Visionary History, Modern Language Association Convention, New York, 1976; "Faces of Bondage and Prospects of Liberty in the Poetry of Phillis Wheatley," UConn History Honors Society, 1976.