

CURRICULUM VITA

I. ACADEMIC/PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

A. Name: James E. McWilliams Title: Professor

B. Educational Background

Degree	Year	University	Major	Thesis/Dissertation
Ph.D.	2001	The Johns Hopkins University	History	<i>From the Ground Up: Economic Development and the Rise of an Internal Economy in the Massachusetts Bay Region, 1630-1700</i>
M.A.	1996	The University of Texas at Austin	American Studies	
B.A.	1991	Georgetown University	Philosophy	

C. University Experience

Position	University	Dates
Professor	Texas State University	2011-present
Associate Professor of History	Texas State University	2007-2011
Associate Fellow in Agrarian Studies	Yale University	2007-2008
Assistant Professor of History/ Visiting Assistant Professor of History	Texas State University Southwest Texas State University	2003-2007 2000-2003

Teaching Honors and Awards:

University Honors Professor of the Year Award, Texas State University (2004)

Honors Program (SWT) Honors Advisor of the Year, 2001-2002

Courses Taught:

History 1310—History of the United States before 1877

History 3365—The Early American Republic, 1763-1789

History 3363—Early American History to 1763

History 4365—Early American History: The Revolutionary Period, 1763-1789

History 5313—Graduate Seminar in Colonial British America

Honors 1390—The Evolution of American Culture, 1607-1850

History 3565—Social and Intellectual History of the U. S., 1776-1850

History 5390—Directed Studies (graduate course)

History 4399—Senior Seminar

History 5399—Theses Directed:

Beau Steenken, “Legislating Existence: The Pequot Indians Under Anglo-American Law.” (October 2008) **Winner of the Brunson Award for Best Thesis in History at Texas State.**

Benjamin A. Hicklin, “Coin and Commerce: Specie and the Development of the Early Massachusetts Economy.” (May 2008) **Winner of the Brunson Award for Best Thesis in History at Texas State.**

Philip Sozansky, “A Mystical Sense of Community: Hood’s Texas Brigade and the Social, Cultural, and Environmental Dimensions of Combat Success in the Army of Northern Virginia.” (December 2006) **Winner of the Brunson Award for Best Thesis in History at Texas State.**

Murray Godfrey, “Fear and Loathing in New England: A Reexamination of King Philip’s War.” (May 2011) **Winner of the Brunson Award in History at Texas State.**

Honors Thesis

Anthony Villanacci, “The Beehive as a Model in Transatlantic English Migration.” (May 2009)

II. SCHOLARLY/CREATIVE

Books:

Just Food: Where Locavores Get It Wrong and How We Can Truly Eat Responsibly (Little, Brown 2009) **Winner of the 2009 Books for a Better Life Award.**

American Pests: The Losing War on Insects from Colonial Times to DDT (Columbia University Press, 2008)

Building the Bay Colony: Local Economy and Culture in Early Massachusetts (University of Virginia Press, 2007)

A Revolution in Eating: How the Quest for Food Shaped America (Columbia University Press, 2005)

Chapters in Books:

“Groping for National Identity by Forging a National Cuisine,” in Donald A. Yerxa (ed.), *Recent Themes in Early American History: Historians in Conversation* (University of South Carolina Press, 2008).

“Eat Global, Eat Local: The Prospects of Life Cycle Assessments and Sustainable Food Production,” *Proceedings of the World Export Development Forum* (October 2007).

“The Quest for Markets: Economic Adaptation and the End of Declension in the Massachusetts Bay Region, 1630-1700,” in Alan Tully and Robert Olwell (eds.), *Cultures and Identities in Colonial British America* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006).

Academic Articles (refereed):

“Worshipping Weeds: The Parable of the Tares, The Rhetoric of Ecology, and the Origins of Agrarian Exceptionalism in Early America,” *Environmental History* (April 2011), p. 290-311.

”The Pen and the Plow: Bridging the Knowledge Gap between American Entomology and Agriculture, 1740-1870,” *American Entomologist* (56) 1 (2010), 44-53.

“Butter, Milk, and a ‘Spare Rib’: Women’s Work and the Transatlantic Economic Transition in Seventeenth-Century Massachusetts,” *The New England Quarterly* (LXXXII) no. 1 (March 2009), p. 1-20.

“The horizon opened up very greatly: Leland O. Howard and the Transition to Chemical Insecticides in the United States, 1894-1927,” *Agricultural History* (Fall 2008), 3-26.

“Cuisine and National Identity in the Early Republic,” *Historically Speaking* (May/June 2006), p. 5-8.

”African Americans, Native Americans, and the Origins of American Food,” *The Texas Journal of History and Genealogy*. Volume 4 (2005), p.12-16.

“how unripe we are”: An Intellectual Construction of American Food,” *Food, Society, and Culture* (Fall 2005), p. 143-160.

“‘To Forward Well-Flavored Productions’: The Kitchen Garden in Early New England.”
The New England Quarterly (March 2004), p. 25-50.

“Integrating Primary and Secondary Sources,” *Teaching History* (Spring 2004), p. 3-14.

“The Transition from Capitalism and the Consolidation of Authority in the Chesapeake Bay Region, 1607-1760: An Interpretive Model,” *Maryland Historical Magazine* (Summer 2002), p. 135-152.

“New England’s First Depression: An Export-Led Interpretation,” *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History* (Summer 2002), p.1-20.

“Work, Family, and Economic Improvement in Seventeenth-Century Massachusetts Bay,” *The New England Quarterly* (September 2001), p. 355-384. **Winner of the 2000 Whitehill Prize in Colonial History (this prize is given annually to the best essay published that year in colonial history).**

“Brewing Beer in Massachusetts Bay, 1640-1690.” *The New England Quarterly* (December 1998), p. 353-384.

Selected Academic Book Reviews:

Heavenly Merchandise: How Religion Shaped Commerce in Puritan America, by Mark Valeri, *Business History Review* (forthcoming, the *Business History Review*).

Midnight Ride, Industrial Dawn: Paul Revere and the Growth of American Enterprise, by Robert Martello, *The New England Quarterly* (Winter, 2011).

Urban Farming in the West: A New Deal Experiment in Subsistence Homesteads, by Robrt Carriker, *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* (January 2011).

Industrializing the Corn Belt by J. L. Anderson, *Journal of American History* (December 2009)

The Early American Table, by Trudy Eden, *Agricultural History* (Spring 2009).

African American Foodways, by Anne Bower (ed.), *American Historical Review* (Spring 2008).

Food in History, by Jeffrey Pilcher, *Journal of the Social History of Medicine* (Summer 2006).

Seduced, Abandoned, and Reborn: Visions of Youth in Middle-Class America, 1780-1850, by Rodney Hessinger, *Reviews in American History* (June 2006).

Dining at the Governor's Mansion, by Carl McQueary, *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* (January 2004).

Donald Barthelme: The Genesis of a Cool Sound by Helen Barthelme. *Southwestern American Literature* (Fall 2002).

Marriage in the Early Republic: Elizabeth and William Wirt and the Companionate Ideal, by Anya Jabour, *Maryland Historical Magazine* (Summer 1999).

Works in Progress

Books:

A Gentle Dominion: An Intellectual History of Animal Agriculture in the United States. (This project is currently under advanced contract with Cornell University Press. It will be completed in 2013).

The Pecan: A History of America's Native Nut. (This project is under consideration with University of Texas Press).

Book Chapters:

"Biological Control, Transnational Exchange, and the Construction of Biological Thought in the United States," in Mark Lawrence et al (eds.), *The Nation State and the Transnational Environment* (forthcoming, Oxford University Press, 2012).

"Agrarian Idealism and the Transgenic Backlash: How the Self-Interested Politics of the Food Movement Undermines Sustainable Technologies," in David Songstad (ed.), *Convergence of Food Security, Energy Security and Sustainable Agriculture* (forthcoming, Springer Press, 2011).

"The Rise of a Meat-Based Diet in the United States," *The Routledge History of Food* (forthcoming, Routledge, 2013).

Fellowships, Awards, Grants, and Honors:

Election, Texas Institute of Letters (2010)

Presidential Award for Scholarly Excellence, Texas State (2009-2010)

Presidential Seminar Award, 2009-2010.

Books for a Better Life Award, *Just Food*, 2009.

The Hiatt Prize, Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture (2009)

The Valero Award, Texas State University (2009)

Postdoctoral Fellowship, Program in Agrarian Studies, Yale University (2007-2008)

Dean's Award for Scholarly Excellence, Texas State (2007)

Runner Up, Presidential Award for Scholarly Excellence, Texas State (2006)

Research Enhancement Grant, Texas State University (2006)

Runner Up, Presidential Award for Excellence in Scholarly/Creative Activities, Texas State (2004)

Dean's Award for Excellency in Scholarly/Creative Activity, Texas State (2004)

Schlesinger Library Research Support Grant, Harvard University (2004)

The Linda D. Russo Travel Grant, the International Association of Culinary Professionals Foundation (January 2003)

University Honors (Whitbread) Advisor of the Year Award, Texas State (2003)

The Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts, scholar-in-residence (May and December 2002)

W.H.B Clowse Fellowship, Massachusetts Historical Society (Summer 2001)

The John E. Rovensky Fellowship in Business and Economic History, Department of Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2000-2001)

The Alfred D. Chandler Traveling Fellowship, Harvard Business School (2000-2001)

The Johns Hopkins University Department of History Fellowship (1997-2001)

University of Texas at Austin Research Assistantship (1996-1997)

Invited Lectures and Papers Delivered:

Invited Lecture, "The Downside of Sustainable Animal Agriculture," MIT Food Boot Camp—Massachusetts Institute of Technology, March 23, 2012.

Invited Lecture, "The Downside of Sustainable Agriculture," Wesleyan University, Middleton, CT, February 9, 2012.

Invited Lecture, "Eating Sustainable in the 21st Century," The Eats Symposium, The University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill, November 17, 2011.

Invited Lecture, The 2011 Viking Range Lecture, Southern Foodways Alliance, The University of Mississippi, September 20, 2011.

Invited Lecture, “Business, but Not Business as Usual: The Future of Sustainable Global Agriculture,” The National Corn Growers Association Summer Meeting, Tucson, AZ. August 17, 2011.

Invited Lecture, “The Truth Shall Set Them Free: A Case for Animal Rights,” Our Hen House, New York City. July 8, 2011.

Invited Lecture, The Kritikos Lecture, University of Oregon—Portland, April 27, 2011.

Invited Lecture, The Kritikos Lecture, University of Oregon--Eugene, Oregon, April 26, 2011.

Invited Speaker, The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, “Sustainable Food Production, 2050,” March 23, 2011.

Invited Panelist, “Farmers, Markets, and Farmers Markets: What Agricultural History Can Tell Us about the Local Foods Movement,” sponsored by the Agricultural History Society, Organization of American Historians annual meeting—Houston, Texas March 19, 2011.

Plenary speaker, “Farmers, Entomologists, and Expertise in Nineteenth-Century America,” Association of American Entomologists, San Diego, December 10, 2010.

Invited panelist, “The Local Food Collaborative,” University of Virginia October 7, 2010.

Invited Lecture, “Business But Not Business as Usual: The Future of Sustainable Global Agriculture,” Oregon State University, March 15, 2010.

Invited Lecture, “The Limits of the Local,” Colgate University, Hamilton, New York, April 22, 2010.

Invited Lecture, “Sustainable Farming in the Past and Future,” Knight Program of Science Journalism, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, April 9, 2010.

Plenary Speaker, “Agriculture’s Golden Mean: Achieving Global Sustainability in the Twenty-First Century,” Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources Statewide Conference, University of California, Berkeley, April 27, 2009.

Invited Lecture, “Agricultural History and the Future of Food,” Knight Science Fellowships, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, March 27, 2009.

Invited Panelist, "The History at Stake in Calls for Alternative Agriculture," American Society of Environmental Historians, Tallahassee, Florida, February 27, 2009.

Invited Lecture, "American Pests: Insect Control in the United States," Center for Multicultural Affairs, Texas A&M University, November 12, 2008.

Invited Lecture, "The History of Insect Control," The Aspen Ideas Festival, July 8, 2008.

Invited Lecture, "The Pen and the Plow: The Origins of Economic Entomology in the United States," The American Antiquarian Society, April 2008.

Invited Lecture, "Silent Spring, Insecticides, and the Origins of Earth Day," Drexel University, Great Works Symposium, April 21, 2007.

Invited Lecture, "Let Us Spray.: The Origins of Insecticides in the United States," Yale University, Program in Agrarian Studies, October 27, 2006.

Invited Lecture, "Cuisines and Cultures," The Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey, April 27, 2006.

Invited Lecture, Drexel University, the Benjamin Franklin Symposium, "Ben Franklin, Mario Batali, and the Birth of American Indulgence," March 1, 2006.

Invited Lecture, "Native Americans, African Americans, and the Origins of American Food," The Culinary Historians of New York, September 14, 2005.

Invited Lecture, "Native Americans, African Americans, and the Origins of American Food," Fraunces Tavern Lecture Series, New York, September 14, 2005.

Invited Lecturer, The Burrell Lecture, Howard Payne University, "Native Americans, African Americans, and the Origins of American Food," February 10, 2005.

Invited Lecturer, "A Taste of the Past: Understanding the Transatlantic World Through Food," World History Association of Texas Annual Meeting, February 28, 2004.

"Anxious Merchants and Technological Change in Puritan New England," paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Historians of Technology, San Jose, California, October 2002.

Invited Lecture, "Accounting for the Past One Debit and Credit at a Time," The Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts, May 2002.

Selected Media Appearances:

WNYC (NPR), New York, “The Leonard Lopate Show,” July 20, 2010.

WHYY (NPR), Philadelphia, “You Bet Your Garden,” September 27, 2008

ABC (Australian Broadcasting Association), “By Design,” August 17, 2007.

KUT (NPR) Austin, “Morning Addition,” August 11, 2007

KUT (NPR) Austin, “Morning Edition,” June 28, 2005

WBUR (NPR) Boston, “Here and Now with Robin Young,” July 5, 2005

WNYC (NPR) New York, “The Leonard Lopate Show,” July 21, 2005

WAMC Albany (NPR), “Roundtable” with Susan Arbetter, August 4, 2005

WURO Pittsburg, “On the Menu” with Ann and Peter Haigh, August 10, 2005

WREL, Lexington, VA. “Jim Bresnahan Show,” August 10, 2005

WERE, Cleveland, OH. “Maury’s Market,” September 8, 2005

Houston Public Radio, “Front Row,” September 8, 2005 (in studio)

WHYY (NPR), Philadelphia, “A Chef’s Table,” September 12, 2005 (in studio)

WKBK, Keene, NH. “What’s Cooking with Luca,” September 15, 2005

WREL, Lexington, VA. “The Happy Cook,” September 16, 2005

IV. SERVICE

University:

Faculty Advisor, Texas State Veg Society

Faculty Senator (elected 2011, resigned 2011)

Faculty Senate Liaison (2009-2010)

Faculty Advisor, Water Polo Club (2006)

Department:

Graduate Program Outcome Committee (2008-present)

Faculty Advisor, Phi Alpha Theta Society (2006-present)

Landscaping Committee (2006-present)

Search Committee: Colonial South America (2009)

Search Committee: American History Position (2005)

Professional:

I have evaluated manuscripts and book proposals for the following presses and journals: Columbia University Press, University of North Carolina Press, Oxford University Press, University of Kansas Press, *The William and Mary Quarterly*, *The Journal of Southern Cultures* and the *Journal of Sustainable Agriculture*.

Selected Popular Writing in Print Media:

“Organic Alone Cannot Feed the World,” *Slate* (March 10, 2011)

“Beware the Myth of Grass Fed Beef” *Slate* (January 22, 2010)

“Genetically Engineered Distortions,” *The New York Times* (May 15, 2010)

"Just Food," *The Wall Street Journal* (August 22, 2009) (excerpt of book)

“New Ideas for the 21st Century,” *Times of London* (February 15, 2009)

"The Locavore Myth," *Forbes* (August, 2009)

"Bellying Up to Environmentalism," *Washington Post* (November 15, 2009)

"Room for Debate: Do We Need a Department of Food?," *The New York Times* (February 8, 2009)

“Could Genetically Modified Foods be Good for the Environment?” *Slate* (January 28, 2009)

“Our Home Grown Melamine Problem,” *The New York Times* (November 18, 2008)

“Tainted Government,” *Slate* (December 29, 2008)

“Rusted Roots,” *Slate* (October 8, 2008)

“Food Politics, Half Baked,” *The New York Times* (February 5, 2008)

“Food that Travels Well,” *The New York Times* (August 6, 2007)

“Out of Our Gourds,” *The New York Times* (October 25, 2006)

“They Held Their Noses and Ate,” *The New York Times* (November 24, 2005)

“The Narrow Halls of Academe,” *The Washington Post* (August 25, 2004)

“Just Another Leftist Loon,” *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (January 8, 2004)

“Plain Old Cowboy’s Winning Ways,” *The Los Angeles Times* (November 26, 2003)

Contributing Writer Positions:

The Texas Observer (2002-present)

The History News Service (2003-2005)

Columnist, Freakonomics, *The New York Times* (2009-2011)

Columnist, *The Atlantic.com*

Community:

“What It’s Like Being a Writer,” talk delivered to seventh graders at Chapas Middle School, Kyle, Texas (April 2010)

“Just Food,” talk delivered to the Seguin Community Center (October 2009)

“Native Americans, Backcountry Trade, and Food Preparation in the Colonial South,” Brown Bag Lecture Series, Phi Alpha Theta Society, Texas State (November 2003)

“Food Production in Colonial British America,” commencement address, Phi Alpha Theta Society annual banquet, Texas State (May 2003)

“What Did Early Americans Eat and Why Should We Care,” Student/Faculty Lunch Bunch, Campus Community Center, San Marcos, Texas (April 2003)

Invited Lecturer, “Native Americans, African Americans, and the Origins of American Food,” Daughters of the Texas Revolution, Jacob’s Well Chapter (March 14, 2005)