

# *CURRICULUM VITAE*

(Revised 10/07)

## *PERSONAL DATA*

Name: J. Michael Stitt  
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## *EDUCATION*

Ph.D., Folklore, Indiana University, 1981  
Certificate, Medieval Studies, Indiana University, 1978  
M.A., Folklore, Indiana University, 1975  
B.A., Comparative Literature, Pennsylvania State University, 1973

## *PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE*

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Associate Professor of English, 1991 -  
Assistant Professor of English, 1981 - 1991

Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis

Instructor, 1979-81

## *FELLOWSHIPS*

Senior Fulbright Lecturer, University of Sofia, 1997

## *PROFESSIONAL SERVICE*

Member of the Editorial Board of *Medieval Folklore*

## *PUBLICATIONS AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY*

### **Books**

Refereed: *Beowulf and The Bear's Son. Epic, Saga, and Fairytale in the Northern Germanic Area.* Albert B. Lord Monograph Series (Garland: 1992)

Non-refereed: (co-authored with Robert Dodge) *A Type and Motif Index of Early American Almanac Narrative* (Greenwood: 1991)

Updated 11/1/2007

### Video Documentaries

- Refereed: "Piping in the Rhodope" -- screened at the 1998 American Folklore Society Convention
- "The Orpheus Music Festival" -- screened at the 1998 American Folklore Society Convention  
■ screened at the New York Independent Film Festival, 1999
- "Baba Venka and the Zmei" – screened at the 1999 American Folklore Society Convention
- Non-refereed: "'An Affair in Pioche' -- The Folklore of a Festival," 1983

### Essays

- Refereed: "Ambiguity in The Battle of Þórr and Hrungnir," in *Telling Tales: Medieval Narratives and the Folk Tradition* (St. Martins Press: 1998), 121-36.

### Articles

- Refereed: "Conversational Genres at a Las Vegas '21' Table," *Western Folklore* 45 (1986): 278-89

### Published Proceedings

- "The World Literature Hypermedia Project at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas," – Proceedings of *The New Information Order and the Future of the Archive*, University of Edinburgh (March, 2002) <http://www.ed.ac.uk/iash/publications.html>

### Reviews

- William Hansen, *Saxo Grammaticus and the Life of Hamlet*. In *Classical Journal* (1984), 65-8.
- Peter Buchholz, *Vorzeitkunde. Mündliches Erzählen und Überliefern im mittelalterlichen Skandinavien nach dem Zeugnis von Fornaldarsaga und eddischer Dichtung. Skandinavistische Studien* 13. In *Journal of American Folklore* 96 (1983), 93-4
- Susan Wittig, *Stylistic and Narrative Structures in the Middle English Romances*. In *Journal of American Folklore* 94 (1981) 93-4
- Foster Blaisdell and Marianne Kalinke, *Érex saga and Ívens saga*. In *Journal of American Folklore* 92 (1979), 494-6

### Websites

- Resource website to accompany English 231 World Literature at [www.worldlit.english.unlv.edu](http://www.worldlit.english.unlv.edu)
- Course websites for mythology and heroic epic at [www.unlv.edu/faculty/jmstitt](http://www.unlv.edu/faculty/jmstitt)
- Interactive website for History of English at [www.unlv.edu/faculty/jmstitt/Eng414A/index.html](http://www.unlv.edu/faculty/jmstitt/Eng414A/index.html)

**Papers and Presentations** (past six years only)

Papers Read at Juried Conferences

“The Negotiation of Reality in the Modern Fantasy Novel,” – (Feb, 2003) FWPCA/FWACA

“The World Literature Hypermedia Project at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas,” – *The New Information Order and the Future of the Archive*, University of Edinburgh (March, 2002)

**Work in Progress**

-- article-length study approaching the universal image of the dragon from the viewpoint of cultural biology instead of the more common approach of Jungian archetypes. The study builds on recent arguments regarding the role of snakes and birds in the development of human language to argue that the universal serpentine-bird image of the dragon has similar biological roots.

-- book-length study on dragon lore throughout the world. The study will be a field-oriented survey focusing on currently active oral traditions and beliefs relating to the dragon. The working hypothesis is that a “macro-tradition,” which probably is Neolithic in origin, focuses on dragons in relation to the uncertainties of the availability of water. Alongside this familiar tradition, but of equal or greater importance in everyday life, are narrative “microtraditions” involving dragons but which address myriad issues of current local or personal concern. With the exception of a few studies in Australia and elsewhere, this important aspect of dragon lore has gone unstudied.

*COURSES TAUGHT*

Eng 101 Composition

Hon 101H Honors Literature and Composition

Eng 102 Composition

Eng 103 Introduction to the Study of Literature

Eng 104 (231) Great Works of Western Literature

Hon 110 Western Civilization I

Eng 111 (211) Introduction to Linguistics

Eng 148 (248) Introduction to Folklore

Eng 404 Technical Writing

Eng 415 History of the English Language

Eng 421 Survey of English Literature I

Eng 422 Chaucer

Eng 446 Heroic Epic

Eng 447 Folklore and Literature

Eng 448 American Folklore

Eng 449 Special Topics in Folklore: Narrative

Eng 480 Mythology

Eng 495 Special Topics: Medieval Scandinavian Prose and Poetry

Eng 495 Special Topics: Tolkien and Modern Fantasy

Eng 499 Independent Studies (Old Norse Language and Literature)

Eng 520 Medieval Literature

Eng 595 Seminar: Folklore and Literature

Eng 760 Topics in Genre: Epic and Romance

Eng 791 Teaching College Composition

*RESEARCH GRANTS RECEIVED*

University Research Council grant for travel among European folklore centers for an archival survey for an Encyclopedia of Medieval Folklore, 1988

University Research Council grant for travel to UCLA to gather data on "'Sapientia et Fortitudo' in the Fornaldarsögur," 1986

University Research council grant for travel to UCLA to gather data on "'The Grendel Episode, the Saga analogs, and AT301,'" 1983

Nevada Humanities Council grant for video documentary of the Pioche Labor Day Festival, 1982

*PROFESSIONAL, UNIVERSITY, AND COMMUNITY SERVICE*

Professional Service

Member of the Editorial Board, *Journal of Medieval Folklore*

Alternate Representative, Nevada State Board of Geographic Names, 1985-98

Referee of paper proposals for the 1985 and 1986 American Folklore Society meetings

University Service

Assistant Chair, Department of English, 2003-6

Interim Director of Freshman Composition, 1991-92

Site director, London Program, Spring 1988

University Committees:

Institutional Review Board (social/behavioral subcommittee), 1991 – ; **chair**, 2003 -  
Campus Affairs, 2003-5

Graduate College Program Review (1998-99), chair

*Ad hoc* Honors 110/115 Committee, 1990-92

Computer Users Group Advisory Committee, 1990-4

Graduate College Program Review (Theatre), 1994

Graduate College Program Review (Psychology), 1989

Senate Ad Hoc Faculty Appeals, 1989; chair, 1990

Education Liaison, 1985-90

Senate Priorities, 1983-85

College Committees:

Scholarship, 2002-3

Computer Liaison, 1986-94

Faculty Evaluation Appeal, 1987  
Bylaws, 1985-87  
Financial Aid, 1984-86; Chair, 1985-86  
Promotion and Tenure, 1983-85

Departmental Committees:

Undergraduate Curriculum, **chair** 2003 -6  
Technology, **Chair**, 2000-04  
Faculty Search, 1986, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1997,2002  
Research Resources; Chair, 1988-90; 1992-3;98-99  
Undergraduate Curriculum, 1981-83; 1985-7;97-98  
Freshman composition, 1981-83; 1985-92  
Advisory, 1986-88; 91-92  
*Ad hoc* 104, 1984-86  
Library Committee; chair, 1983-84

Dissertation Committees:

Clyde Northrup, 2001-4

MA Committees:

Amy Greene, 2005

Community Service

Folklorist/Advisor to Project PEARLS (Ed. Dev.), 2003-4

Stage Coordinator/Interpreter, Las Vegas Folklife Festival, 1993, 1994

Nevada Humanities Committee:

Project Director (Pioche documentary), 1982  
Speaker, "Humanities on the Road," 1989-91  
Speaker and Academic/Humanist:  
    American Heritage Winners' Performance Series (Nevada State Museum), 1991  
    Folk Art Exhibit, 1986 (also produced a fifteen minute interpretive slide show)  
    Southern Nevada Storytelling Conference, 1985  
Consultant, Paradise Valley Folklife Project  
Program evaluator

Judge, Nevada State Spelling Bee, 1984-85  
Creator of three short programs for KNPR Radio  
Speaker to various school and business groups