

# Brett Chandler Patterson

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Department of Philosophy and Religion  
Clemson University  
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## EDUCATION

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- Ph. D.**     **The University of Virginia (Charlottesville, VA), January 2003**  
Department of Religious Studies  
Concentration: Religion, Ethics, and Culture  
Dissertation Topic: Narrative Ethics (Niebuhr & Hauerwas) and Multicultural Theory  
Dissertation Advisors: Larry Bouchard and Charles Mathewes.  
Other Committee Members: James Childress, Walter Jost, E. D. Hirsch, James D. Hunter, Nathan Scott  
Readers: Stanley Hauerwas and Wesley Kort
- M. Div.**    **Duke University (Durham, NC), 1995**  
Concentration: Theology, Ethics, and Literature  
Advised by Wesley Kort, Stanley Hauerwas, James Crenshaw, Willie Jennings, and Geoffrey Wainwright  
Magna Cum Laude
- B.A.**       **Furman University (Greenville, SC), 1992**  
English Major (Advised by Rudy Bates in English and David Rutledge in Religion)  
Magna Cum Laude

## UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

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- Lecturer in Religion**, *Clemson University*, Clemson, SC (2016-present)  
I teach introduction to religion, a survey of world religions, the Christian tradition, and religion & literature in the Department of Philosophy & Religion as well as religion-and-speculative-fiction seminars for the Honors College.
- Adjunct Professor of Religion**, *Southern Wesleyan University*, Central, SC (2016)  
A one-semester appointment to teach New Testament.
- Adjunct Professor of Religious Studies**, *Francis Marion University*, Florence, SC (2011 to Dec. 2012)  
Courses included Hebrew Bible and an introduction to religious studies that surveyed the history of interactions among Jews, Christians, and Muslims—from their origins to today.
- Instructor/Assistant Professor of Religion**, *Anderson University*, Anderson, SC (2002-2009)  
I entered as an instructor, primarily to teach introductory biblical courses. In succeeding years I revived neglected upper-level courses (church history and theology), added new ones in my specialties (ethics and religion & literature), and contributed to the Honors Program (ethics & superheroes and mythopoeia).
- Instructor of Theology**, *Meredith College*, Raleigh, NC (2000-2001)  
For three semesters I counseled students and taught Bible, Theology, and Theology & Literature.
- Teaching Assistant**, *Duke University Divinity School*, Durham, NC (2000-2002)  
Lord's Prayer (Wainwright), Martin Luther King, Jr. (Lischer), and Black Church Studies (Battle).
- Instructor of Religion**, *The University of South Carolina at Beaufort*, Beaufort, SC (1998-2000)  
For three summers I taught a survey of world religions (Eastern and Western).
- Teaching Assistant**, *The University of Virginia*, Charlottesville, VA (1997-1999)  
Christian Thought (Rogers), Religious Ethics and Moral Problems (Mathewes), and Comparative Religions (Ray).

**Professor Intern, Duke University, Durham, NC (1994-1995)**

I assisted Dr. Wesley Kort in developing and teaching a course in the works of C. S. Lewis.

**Professor Intern, Furman University, Greenville, SC (1991-1992)**

I collaborated with Dr. David Rutledge in the teaching of Religion and Literature.

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Writer and Publisher, Pen Name: Chandler Brett (2013-present)**

Inspired by a creative writing workshop (led by Orson Scott Card), I began writing speculative fiction and researched how to start a small press. I published *Wolf Code: A Sheltering Wilderness* in 2016 via Dire Wolf Books.

**Interim Pastor, First Baptist Church, Piedmont, SC (2018-2020)**

During a transitional time, I provided leadership in teaching and ministry organization as the congregation looked for a new full-time minister.

**Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Lake View, SC (2009-2012)**

My wife and I co-pastored the church through its centennial celebration, revived educational programs for youth and adults, and reconnected the congregation with service to its community. I represented the church across the state, guided business meetings, maintained a newsletter and web page, & established a ministerial alliance.

**Pastor Intern, Earle Street Baptist Church, Greenville, SC (1990-1991)**

Under the supervision of Dr. Jim Wooten, I shared in coordinating various ministries in downtown Greenville.

**Chaplain Intern, Baptist Medical Center, Easley, SC (1989-1990)**

Rev. Paul Alley trained us to visit people in their hospital rooms and to counsel them when appropriate.

**Historical Collections Intern, Furman University Library, Greenville, SC (1988-1989)**

I worked with Glenn Clayton and provided support for the Baptist Historical Collection.

## COURSES TAUGHT

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Introduction to Religious Studies

Introduction to World Religions

Global Challenges & Religion

The Christian Tradition

Religion & Literature

Christian Theology

Theological Ethics

Paradise Never Lost and Other Retellings

The Grand Masters: Religion and Speculative Fiction

Heroic Quests: Character in Narrative Form

So You Want To Be a Hero?: Character & Comic Books

Introduction to the Bible

Old Testament/Hebrew Bible

New Testament

Philosophical Ethics

Hermeneutics & Phenomenology

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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### Books:

*Storied Bodies: Theological Ethics, Narrative Theory, and Multicultural Dialogue.* (In preparation.)

*Wolf Code: A Sheltering Wilderness.* (Pen Name: Chandler Brett.) Dire Wolf Books, 2016.  
(A near-future novel with ecological themes.)

*Narrative War, Narrative Peace: A Theological Vision for Multicultural America.*  
 Doctoral dissertation, The University of Virginia, 2003.

#### Short Stories:

“The Survivors of Égalité.” (In process. Plan to submit to *Writer’s of the Future*.)

“Anselmo.” (In process.)

#### Essays and Articles:

“Interconnected: The Karmapa Meets the Avatar.” *The Last Airbender and Philosophy*. (Forthcoming from Wiley-Blackwell, 2021.)

“The Real Reason Ender Can’t Go Home: Philotic Connections & Moral Responsibility.” *Ender’s Game and Philosophy*. Ed. Kevin Decker. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013. (References Leibniz & Levinas.)

“‘But It’s a Lie!’: Deception and Integrity in the Story of Daisy and William.” *Downton Abbey and Philosophy*. Ed. Mark D. White. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012.  
 (References Sissela Bok, Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer.)

“‘I Despise Messiness!’: The Plato-Aristotle Debate in the Troubled Friendship of Green Lantern and Green Arrow.” *Green Lantern and Philosophy*. Ed. Jane Dryden and Mark D. White. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011.

“The New Narnia: Myth and Redemption on the Island of Second Chances.” *Ultimate Lost and Philosophy: Think Together, Die Alone*. Ed. Sharon Kaye. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.  
 (References C. S. Lewis and H. Richard Niebuhr.)

“‘I Have a Good Life!’: Iron Man and the Avenger School of Virtue.” With Stephanie Patterson. *Iron Man and Philosophy: Facing the Stark Reality*. Ed. Mark D. White. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.  
 (References Aristotle and H. Richard Niebuhr.)

“George MacDonald,” “E. Y. Mullins,” “H. Richard Niebuhr,” “Charles Schulz,” “Charles Williams,” and “John Howard Yoder.” *Encyclopedia of Christian Literature*. Ed. George T. Kurian and James D. Smith. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2010.

“Dietrich Bonhoeffer” and “N. T. Wright.” With Ryan Neal. *Encyclopedia of Christian Literature*. Ed. George T. Kurian and James D. Smith. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2010.

“No Man’s Land: The Fight for Social Order in Gotham City and New Orleans.” *Batman and Philosophy: The Dark Knight of the Soul*. Ed. Mark D. White and Robert Arp. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2008.  
 (References Thomas Hobbes and John Howard Yoder.)

“‘I Despise You for Making Me Do This!’: Evaluating Jack Bauer’s Use of Violence for the Greater Good.” *Jack Bauer for President: Terrorism and Politics in 24*. Ed. Richard Minitzer. Dallas, TX: BenBella, 2008.  
 (References Immanuel Kant, John Stuart Mill, and H. Richard Niebuhr.)

“Spider-Man No More: Moral Responsibility, the Morose Hero, and His Web of Relationships.” *Webslinger: Essays on Your Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man*. Ed. Gerry Conway. Dallas, TX: BenBella, 2006.  
 (References H. Richard Niebuhr, Stanley Hauerwas, & Martin Buber.)

“Joseph Conrad on the Limits of Language.” *Furman Humanities Review*. Greenville, SC: Furman University, 1992.

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

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“Graceful Fantasies: Narration, Theological Exploration, and the Imaginative Fiction of Gene Wolfe and Connie Willis.” SECSOR: Florida State University, March 2022.

“Inevitable Influence: The Postcolonial Problem of Cultural Contamination in the Religious Science Fiction of R. A. Lafferty, Gene Wolfe, and Orson Scott Card.” SECCL: Wingate University, October 2021.

“The Troubled Incarnation of Eugene O’Neill’s *Lazarus Laughed*.” Conference on Christianity and Literature. Southeastern meeting. Milligan College. March 2020 (canceled because of COVID-19 restrictions).

“Mystic Activists & the Ecological Crisis.” Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion (regional AAR session): Atlanta, March 2018.

A 10-session study of the Fiction of C. S. Lewis. First Baptist Church of Lake View, Summer 2011.

A 50-session study of the History of Christianity. First Baptist Church of Lake View, Fall-Winter 2010. Repeated at First Baptist Church of Piedmont, 2019.

“Mythopoeia in the Fiction of C. S. Lewis.” A C. S. Lewis Conference hosted by Southeastern Theological Seminary: October 2007. (Keynote speaker: Walter Hooper.)

“Orson Scott Card’s *Speaker for the Dead* as a Critique of Relativistic Multiculturalism.” Conference on Christianity and Literature: April 2006.

“Love in a Fragile World: A Theological Meditation on Terrorism.” Anderson University, September 11, 2003.

## GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND AWARDS

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University of Virginia Department of Religious Studies merit grants (1996-2000)

Duke University Duke Scholarship (full tuition)(1992-1995)

Phi Beta Kappa, Furman University (1991)

Furman English Department merit scholarship (1989-1992)

Phi Eta Sigma, Furman University (1989)

## ACADEMIC SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIP (SELECTED)

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Member, American Academy of Religion

Member, Conference on Christianity and Literature

Global Challenges Institute, Clemson University, summer 2022.

Humanities Hub Director Search Committee, Clemson University, 2021.

Attended the Wabash-sponsored workshop “Re-imagining Student Experiences in Introductory Courses,” Clemson University (2017), and then restructured (by themes) the introductory courses I teach at Clemson

Judge, Clemson University Ethics Bowl (2017)

Reviewer, *Science Fiction Research Association* (2006-2009)

Faculty Development Committee, Anderson University (2006-2009)

Honors Program Faculty, Anderson University (2004-2009)

Planning Committee for the Annual Meeting of the Conference on Christianity and Literature—I helped define the call for papers and then secured the keynote speaker (Wesley Kort)(2006)

## REFERENCES

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Dr. Ben White, Associate Professor of Religion, Clemson University: bwhite5@clemson.edu

Dr. Elizabeth Jemison, Associate Professor of Religion, Clemson University: ejemiso@clemson.edu

Dr. Mashal Saif, Associate Professor of Religion, Clemson University: msaif@clemson.edu

Dr. Charles Starkey, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Clemson University: cstarke@clemson.edu

Dr. William Lasser, Executive Director of the Honors College, Clemson University: lasser@clemson.edu

Ms. Susan Allen, Assoc. VP for Academic Affairs, Retired, Tri-County Technical College: allensusanp@gmail.com

Dr. Larry Bouchard, Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Religious Studies, University of Virginia: ldb4k@virginia.edu