

Patricia Okker

Dean, College of Arts and Science
Professor of English
317 Lowry Hall, University of
Missouri Columbia, MO 65211

Education

Ph.D., University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 1990
M.A., with distinction, University of Georgia, 1985
B.A., with honors, Allegheny College, Meadville, Pennsylvania, 1982

Millennium Leadership Initiative, 2019-2020
HERS Denver Institute, 2010
President's Academic Leadership Institute, University of Missouri, 2006-2007

Academic Leadership Positions at the University of Missouri (MU). MU is an R1, land-grant public research university and a member of the Association of American Universities. With 30,000+ students, MU has received the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification.

Dean, College of Arts and Science, University of Missouri, 2017-present. Interim Dean, 2016-2017.

- 450 full-time faculty, 135 staff, 6500 students
- 26 departments/schools, representing arts and humanities; social and behavioral sciences; natural and mathematical sciences. Includes two ROTC units, two museums, and one literary magazine
- More than 90 degree programs, including 18 doctoral programs
- Operating budget of \$120 million; \$75 million endowment; \$20-\$25 million annual grants and contracts
- 73,000 living alumni and active Strategic Development Board

Key Accomplishments:

- **Student Success:** Implemented data-driven strategic plan for student success, leading to record highs in graduation rates and first-year retention rate. In two years, first-year retention rate increased from 83.9% to 87.8%. Created new undergraduate scholarship program focused on strategic priorities of global experiences and career development. Launched first college-wide internship program and career fair.
- **Inclusive Excellence:** Launched in fall 2020 the Michael A. Middleton Center for Race, Citizenship, and Justice (in partnership with School of Law). Implemented college-wide strategies for increasing the diversity of faculty, with focus on recruitment and retention.

In the past three years, almost 25% of new faculty in A&S are from underrepresented minorities. More than 45% of the new faculty have increased the diversity of their departments.

- **High-impact research:** Provide leadership and structure for three campus-wide research initiatives: MO-CARE (Missouri Center for Addiction Research and Engagement), MITC (Molecular Imaging and Theranostics Center), and Cognitive Neuroscience Systems Core. Successfully recruited multiple signature hires for these centers. All three are pursuing large external grants.
- **Online Education:** Launched four new fully online undergraduate degree programs: Psychology, Communication, Sociology, and English.
- **Fundraising:** Successfully completed capital campaign with a \$125M goal for the college. Increased endowment from \$50M to \$75M.
- **Community Engagement:** Created first college state-wide outreach program (Art on the Move). Dramatically increased presence of MU in key urban areas through faculty lecture series (Beyond Campus).
- **Facilities:** Oversaw building and opening of 47,000 sq. foot new School of Music building, featuring state-of-the-art performance spaces and recording studio.
- **Curricular development:** Led development of new degree programs and certificates focused on improving career opportunities and recruiting new students to MU. Examples include Digital Storytelling (one of the fastest growing majors at MU), Defense and Strategic Studies, Addiction Studies, Business Foundations, Sports Analytics, Data Science (in progress in partnership with other schools and colleges), Health Humanities (in progress, also in partnership with another school).
- **Leadership development:** Designed and implemented new program for developing chairs/directors.
- **Fiscal:** Manage complex fiscal environment, including four consecutive years of system-wide budget cuts. Began implementation of an RCM-based budget model.

Senior Associate Provost, University of Missouri, 2015-2016. Interim Deputy Provost, 2014-2015. Faculty Fellow in the Office of the Provost, 2011-2013.

- Responsible for academic program review for 280 degree programs across campus, accreditation, grievances, strategic planning, space utilization, academic personnel issues, chair development.
- Campus liaison and peer reviewer with the Higher Learning Commission.
- Member of Provost's Staff and Chancellor's Staff.

Key Accomplishments:

- Developed new model for academic program reviews (280 degree programs) at AAU institution with land-grant mission, emphasizing continuous improvement in research, teaching and learning, and service.
- Led successful ten-year campus accreditation team.

Chair, Department of English, MU, 2005-2011.

- Chief executive and academic officer of department with 70 full-time faculty (48 tenured and tenure track), 500+ undergraduate majors, and 100+ graduate students; annual budget \$5.5 million; \$2.2 million endowment.

Campus Committee Leadership

Co-chair, Search for Vice Chancellor for Inclusion, Diversity and Equity, 2019-2020.

Co-chair, Strategic Enrollment Management Committee, 2017-2019. Appointed by the Provost to develop the campus's first strategic enrollment plan, including efforts related to recruitment and retention.

Co-chair, MU's Strategy Workgroup, 2012-2014.

Chair, Strategic Planning and Resource Advisory Council, MU, 2010-2014. Appointed by the chancellor as chair of 33-member council of campus administrators and deans, faculty, staff, and students. Council advised chancellor and provost on campus-planning issues. Oversaw campus's new strategic plan with emphasis on transparency, increased accountability, and broad involvement of MU faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

Chair, Campus Planning Committee (Facilities), MU, 2010-2012. Appointed by the chancellor as chair of committee that advises the Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services on the facility needs of the campus. Worked closely with campus planner to integrate sustainability plan into the campus's master plan and to promote academic/facilities partnerships.

Faculty Appointment

Professor (2004-present), Associate Professor (1996-2004), and Assistant Professor (1990-1996), Department of English, MU.

Teaching and Research Areas

Nineteenth-century American literature
American women writers
American periodicals
Career preparation in the liberal arts
Writing and wellness

Awards

Faculty-Alumni Award, Mizzou Alumni Association, 2013.
William T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence, 2003 (\$10,000).
Phi Kappa Phi, 1985.

Selected Publications

Books

Editor, *Transnationalism and American Serial Fiction*, New York: Routledge, 2011. An edited collection featuring essays on serial fiction published in minority periodicals in the U.S. in ten languages (English, French, Spanish, German, Swedish, Italian, Polish, Norwegian, Yiddish, and Chinese).

Social Stories: The Magazine Novel in Nineteenth-Century America. Charlottesville and London: University of Virginia Press, 2003.

Our Sister Editors: Sarah J. Hale and the Tradition of Nineteenth-Century American Women Editors. Athens and London: University of Georgia Press, 1995. Translated into Japanese as *The Era of Women Editors* by Toshimi Suzuki and published by SeidoSha.

Edited Journal Work

Book Review Editor, *American Periodicals*, Volumes 14.2 (2004), 14.1 (2004), 13 (2003), 12 (2002), and 11 (2001).

Articles

“Periodicals and the Novel.” *The Oxford History of the Novel in English, Volume 5: The American Novel to 1870*. Edited by J. Gerald Kennedy and Leland S. Person. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.

“Serialization.” Co-authored with Nancy West. *The Encyclopedia of the Novel*. Edited by Peter Melville Logan. Wiley-Blackwell, 2011.

“1787: Le début des romans-feuilletons aux Etats-Unis.” Trans. Marie-Françoise Cachin. In *Au bonheur du feuilleton naissance et mutations d'un genre (Etats-Unis, France, Grande-Bretagne, XVIIIe-XXe siècle)*. Ed. Marie-Françoise Cachin, Diana Cooper-Richet, Jean-Yves Mollier, and Claire Parfait. Paris, Créaphis, 2007. 41-51.

“Teaching Illustrations and Periodicals: Three Scholars Share Their Ideas and Materials.” Co-authored with Leigh Dillard and Nancy West. *VPR: Victorian Periodicals Review* 39.4 (2006): 365-382. Special Issue on “Periodical Pedagogy” edited by Teresa Mangum.

“Fashion.” *American History Through Literature, 1820-1870*. Ed. Janet Gabler-Hover and Robert D. Sattelmeyer. New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2006. 404-409.

- "Editors." *American History Through Literature, 1820-1870*. Ed. Janet Gabler-Hover and Robert D. Sattelmeyer. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2006. 355-361.
- "*Godey's Lady's Book*." *American History Through Literature, 1820-1870*. Ed. Janet Gabler-Hover and Robert D. Sattelmeyer. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2006. 472-475.
- "Teaching American Periodicals." *American Periodicals* 12 (2002): 1-8.
- "Sarah Josepha Hale." *The American Renaissance in New England*. Ed. Wesley T. Mott. Volume 243, *Dictionary of Literary Biography*. Detroit: Brucoli Clark Layman, 2001. 170-177.
- (with Jeffrey R. Williams) "Reassuring Sounds: Minstrelsy and *The Hidden Hand*." *ATQ: Nineteenth Century American Literature and Culture* 12.2 (1998): 133-144.
- "Gender and Secession in Simms's *Katharine Walton*." *Southern Literary Journal* 29 (1997): 17-31.
- "Serial Politics in Simms's *Woodcraft*." In *Nineteenth-Century American Literature in Periodical Contexts*. Ed. Susan Belasco Smith and Kenneth M. Price. Charlottesville and London: University Press of Virginia, 1995. 150-165.
- "Native American Literatures and the Canon: The Case of Zitkala-Sa." *Realism and the Canon*. Ed. Tom Quirk and Gary Scharnhorst. Newark: University Press of Delaware, 1994. 87-101. Collection selected by *Choice* as one of the Outstanding Academic Books for 1995.
- "Sarah Josepha Hale, Lydia Sigourney, and the Poetic Tradition in Two Nineteenth Century Women's Magazines." *American Periodicals* 3 (1993): 32-42.
- "Thoreau: An American Taoist Sage." *The Comparatist* 11 (1987): 86-95.
- "Establishing a Residential Student Computing Program." *The Journal of College and University Student Housing* 19.1 (1989): 12-16.

Notes and Reviews

- "Foreword." *Nineteenth-Century Serial Narrative in Transnational Perspective, 1830s-1860s*. Ed. Daniel Stein and Lisanna Wiele. Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019.
- Review of Tim Lanzendörfer, *The Professionalization of the American Magazine: Periodicals, Biography, and Nationalism in the Early Republic* in *The New England Quarterly* 87 (2014): 368-371.

- Review of Alison Piepmeier, *Out in Public: The Construction of the Female Body in Nineteenth-Century America* and Amanda Frisken, *Victoria Woodhull's Sexual Revolution: Political Theater and the Popular Press in Nineteenth-Century America* in *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers* 22 (2005): 211-212.
- Review of Martha Banta, *Barbaric Intercourse: Caricature and the Culture of Conduct, 1841-1936* in *American Literary Realism* 38 (2005): 74-75.
- Review of Amy Beth Aronson, *Taking Liberties: Early American Women's Magazines and Their Readers* in *Journalism History* 29.2 (2003): 91.
- Review of Ezra Greenspan, *George Palmer Putnam: Representative American Publisher* in *American Periodicals* 12 (2002): 212-214.
- "What is 'Sentimentality' in Fiction? A Conversation Between Jean Braithwaite and Pat Okker." January 18, 2000. <http://missourireview.org/editorial/sentimentality.html>
- (with Lauren Onkey) "The All American Girls' Professional Baseball League." *Ready Reference: Women's Issues*. Pasadena: Salem Press, 1997.
- "Sarah Josepha Hale." In *Great Lives from History: American Women*. Ed. Frank N. Magill. Pasadena: Salem Press, 1995. 797-800.
- Review of G. M. Goshgarian, *To Kiss the Chastening Rod: Domestic Fiction and Sexual Ideology in the American Renaissance* and Ann Romines, *The Home Plot: Women, Writing & Domestic Ritual* in *Studies in American Fiction* 21 (1993): 248-250.
- Review of Patricia Marks, *Bicycles, Bangs, and Bloomers: The New Woman in the Popular Press* in *American Periodicals* 1 (1991): 114-116.
- Review of Susan Coultrap-McQuin, *Doing Literary Business: American Women Writers in the Nineteenth Century* in *The New England Quarterly* 64 (1991): 322-324.

Popular Media

- "The Madness of College Sports." *Inside Higher Ed*, April 10, 2015.
- "It's the Faculty's Job, Too." *Inside Higher Ed*, August 1, 2014.

Selected Conference Presentations and Invited Lectures

- “Reading and Writing at Sea.” C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists Conference, University of California-Berkeley, April 2012.
- “Circulating Stories: Serial Fiction and the Transnational Periodical.” C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists Conference, Pennsylvania State University, May 2010.
- “Peer Review of Digital Scholarship: A Chair’s Perspective.” Organized by the Digital Americanists. American Literature Association Conference. Boston, May 2009.
- “Magazines as a Vehicle for the Dissemination of Literature.” *The Book in America: Economic Aspects of the Material Text*. University of Pennsylvania. February 2006.
- “Periodicals and Access: A Roundtable Discussion.” Organizer and Chair. American Literature Association Conference. San Francisco, May 2006.
- “Roundtable Discussion on *American History Through Literature*.” American Literature Association Conference. San Francisco, May 2006.
- “American Periodical Research: The Means to an End or the End Itself? Roundtable Discussion 1.” American Literature Association Conference. Boston, May 2005.
- “The Serial Novel in the Minority Press.” Organizer and Chair. American Literature Association Conference. Boston, May 2005.
- “House or Home?: Re-visioning Domestic Space in Boardinghouse Literature by Women.” American Literature Association Conference. San Francisco, May 2004.
- “1787: The Beginning of Serial Fiction in the United States.” Conference on “Serialized Fiction in Europe and the United States (19th-20th Centuries): Birth and Evolution of a Genre.” Paris, December 2004.
- “Serializing a National/Racial Identity.” American Literature Association Conference. Long Beach, California, 2 June 2002.
- “Developing a WAC or WID Oversight Committee for Your Campus.” Workshop for the Sixth National WAC Conference. Houston, TX. March 2002. (With Marty Patton, Marty Townsend, and Jo Ann Vogt)
- “Building, Using, and Sustaining an Effective WAC/WID Oversight Committee.” Workshop for the Fifth National Writing Across the Curriculum Conference.

- Bloomington, IN. May 2001. (With Marty Patton, Marty Townsend, and Jo Ann Vogt)
- "Assessing English Majors." Midwest Modern Language Association Conference. Kansas City, MO. November 2000.
- "Fashioning the Sister Editors." American Literature Association Conference. Long Beach, California, May 2000.
- "Fashion Magazines and the Nineteenth-Century American Novel: The Case of Ann Stephens." Midwest Modern Language Association. St. Louis, November 1998.
- "Teaching the Nineteenth-Century Serial Novel." American Literature Association Conference. Baltimore, May 1997.
- (with Jeffrey R. Williams) "Reassuring Sounds: Minstrelsy and *The Hidden Hand*." Midwest Modern Language Association conference. St. Louis, November 1995.
- Organizer and chair, "Literature of Migration and Immigration." Midwest Modern Language Association conference. St. Louis, November 1995.
- "Constructing, Celebrating, and Constraining Female Desire." Response essay for panel on American Literature after 1870. Midwest Modern Language Association conference. Chicago, November 1994.
- "The Voices of Our 'Sister Editors.'" American Literature Association conference. Baltimore, May 1993.
- "Scribblers or Professionals: The Idea of Authorship in *Godey's Lady's Book*." Modern Language Association. San Francisco, December 1991.
- (with Lauren Onkey) "Writing Women into Baseball: The All-American Girls' Professional Baseball League." Midwest Modern Language Association. Chicago, November 1991.
- Organizer and chair, "Gender and Late Eighteenth-Century American Literature, I and II." (2 sessions). Midwest American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. Kansas City, October 1991.
- "Feminizing the Age of Reason: The Rhetoric of Nineteenth-Century American Domestic Ideology." Midwest American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. Western Illinois University, October 1990.
- "Nineteenth-Century Women Editors and Gendered Notions of Work." Mid-America American Studies Association. University of Missouri, Columbia, April 1988.

"Computers in the Classroom and Writing Lab." Midwest Writing Centers Association Conference. Minneapolis, October 1987.

"Teaching Revision with Computers in the Advanced Composition Class." Illinois Association of Teachers of English Conference. Decatur, Illinois, October 1986.

Dissertations Directed

8 dissertations directed, from 2001-2014.

Academic Service at University of Missouri (select)

Career Readiness (campus committee), 2012-2013.

Steering Committee, Faculty Proposal for New Major in Digital Storytelling, 2011-2014.

Actions and Outcomes Task Force (charged with creating plan to implement the university's strategic plan), 2010.

Search Committees (campus): Provost (2018); Associate Director of Continuous Quality Improvement, 2011-2012; Director of Campus Writing Program, 2010-2011, 2007-2008; Vice Chancellor for Research, 2007-2008.

Advisory Committee for Presidential Award, 2011-2013 (2012 as chair).

Arts and Science, Strategic Development Board, 2006-2010.

Strategic Planning Committee, 2009 (charged with drafting the university's strategic plan).

Human Resource Development, MU Economic Development Council, 2006-2008.

Advisory Board, Focus on Faculty (mentoring program for tenured faculty), 2008-2009.

Revision of Student Records Committee, 2006-2009.

University of Missouri Press Board, 2005-2008.

Facilitator, Colleague Circles (campus-wide mentoring program), 2002-2003, 2004-2005.

Student Conduct Committee, 2001-2003.

Academic Integrity Assessment Committee, 2002-2004.

Campus Writing Board, 1996, 1998-2001. Chair, 2000-2001.

Faculty Awards Committee, College of Arts and Science, 1999-2000.

MU Research Council, 1996-1997.

Campus Admissions Review Committee, 1995-1998.

Arts & Science Committee on the Status of Women, 1991-1994.

Women Studies Committee, 1991-1993.

Professional Service

Higher Learning Commission, Peer Reviewer Trainer and Peer Reviewer, including team leader of site visit team, 2012-present.

Reviewer, Public Scholars Program, National Endowment for the Humanities, 2015.

Academic program reviews: University of Massachusetts-Boston, April 2011; University of New Mexico, 2010; University of Nebraska (team leader), 2009; University of Texas-Arlington, 2009; University of Arkansas, 2006.

Co-facilitator, full-day workshop for new chairs, Association of Departments of English, 2010.

President, Research Society for American Periodicals, 2007-2009; President Elect, 2005-2006; Past-President, 2009-2011.

Panelist, National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, 2004.

Reader for University of Illinois Press, Temple University Press, Vanderbilt University Press, State University of New York Press, University of Massachusetts Press, University of Toronto Press, Broadview Press, *MELUS*, *PMLA*, *M/MLA*, *American Periodicals*, *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*.

Evaluator for tenure and promotion at numerous public institutions.