
Mark W. Rittenour, J.D.
College Lecturer
The University of Akron
238 Kolbe Hall
Akron, OH 44325-1003

144 Highpoint Ave.
Akron, OH 44312

330.972.2459-o.
330.524.4853-c.

MRittenour@aol.com
mrritten@uakron.edu

Education:

Case Western Reserve School of Law

2003

Juris Doctorate

Litigation Concentration

Note: *Crossing the Divide: Provision of Employment Rights to All Orientation Classifications* (Fall 2002)

Case Western Reserve University

2000

Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies and English

Honors: *magna cum laude*

English Departmental Honors

Communication Departmental Honors

Employment:

The University of Akron

August 2008-

Associate College Lecturer and Instructor of Forensics Program, School of Communication

Duties & Accomplishments

- Teach eight sections of General Education Speech Classes (Effective Oral Communication/Introduction to Public Speaking) or upper-level courses in the Interpersonal and Public Communication track (Advanced Public Speaking, Argumentation and Business and Professional Speaking) per academic year
- Develop pedagogical methodology for teaching courses
- Participate in department assessment
- Committee member for textbook, examination and procedural issues with the General Education Speech Courses
- Direct Nationally-Ranked Forensics Program

The University of Akron

August 2002-August 2008

Associate Lecturer of Communication and Director of Forensics Program

Duties & Accomplishments:

- Teach courses in the School of Communication
- Develop pedagogical methodology for teaching of public speaking courses
- Develop rubrics for measuring student success in public speaking
- Coach University's nationally-competitive speech and debate team
- Student evaluations consistently and significantly outranking the department mean
- Seek and manage forensics program funding
- Coach students in individual event categories including: Impromptu Speaking, Extemporaneous Speaking, Prose Interpretation, Poetry Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, Program of Oral Interpretation, Informative Speaking, Persuasive Speaking, After Dinner Speaking, and Rhetorical Criticism (Communication Analysis)
- Coach students in Lincoln-Douglas Debate
- Coach students in experimental events including: Broadcast News, Public Relations Extemporaneous Speaking, International Multicultural Informative Speaking, Sales Speaking, Duo Cinematic Interpretation, Original Shakespeare, and Reader's Theater
- Have broad and up-to-date knowledge about all areas of literature for student interpretation events
- Read broad base of literature and teach students to find the literary merit and social significance of potential interpretation pieces
- Facilitate the research and writing of public address speeches for competition
- Grew team from fledgling program to a nationally-recognized competitive team in the intercollegiate speech and debate circuits of the National Forensic Association,

- American Forensic Association, and Ohio Forensic Association
- Coached team to four consecutive State Championships in the Varsity President's Division of the Ohio Forensic Association (2002, 2003, 2004, 2005)
- Coached team to 2007 State Championship in the Varsity President's Division of the Ohio Forensic Association
- Led 2005 team to overall placement in the top 15% of all teams competing at NFA and AFA National Tournaments in the same season, making The University of Akron one of 11 (out of more than 300) to do so during that competitive year
- Successfully planned, organized, and hosted 2005 NFA National Tournament on The University of Akron campus (six-day, 1,200-person event/conference)
- Successfully bid to host the 2009 AFA-NIET on The University of Akron campus (five-day, 1,000-person event/conference to be held April 2-6, 2009)

The University of Akron

August 2004-May 2005

Instructor of Composition in the Department of English

Duties & Accomplishments

- Teach English 112: Argumentation and Research
- Developed curriculum for a composition course that teaches a minimum of four different structures and methods of argumentation

The Eshelman Legal Group

Summer 2001, 2002, 2005

Legal Clerk

Duties:

- Wrote all briefs and memos regarding uninsured/underinsured motorists cases
- Legal research and writing on breaches of fiduciary duties

The University of Akron

Summer 2003 & 2004

Instructor for the Summer Honors Institute for Gifted High School Students

Duties & Accomplishments:

- Developed curriculum for an intensive Public Speaking enrichment course
- Taught students the basics of all speech genres: Limited Preparation Speaking, Public Address Speaking, Oral Interpretation of Literature, and Debate
- Developed teaching rubrics for offering of constructive criticism of student performances

Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy

August 1998-March 2003

Speech and Debate Coach

Duties & Accomplishments:

- Coached students grades 9-12 in speech and debate events
- Coached 50+ State Qualifiers to the Ohio High School Speech League State Tournament
- Coached the 2001 Ohio High School Speech League State Champion in Original Oratory

Carrollton Schools

June 2002-March 2003

Assistant Speech and Debate Coach (Carrollton High School)

Duties & Accomplishments:

- Coached students grades 9-12 in speech and debate events
- Coached numerous State Qualifiers to the Ohio High School Speech League State Tournament in the categories of Original Oratory, Extemporaneous Speaking (Domestic and International), Impromptu Speaking, and Interpretation of Literature Events
- Part of the coaching staff that coached the 2003 Team Sweepstakes Champions at the Ohio High School Speech League's 76th Annual State Tournament

Service:

The University of Akron School of Communication

2009-2011 **Elected Faculty Secretary**

The University of Akron Office of New Student Orientation

2008-2011 **Authored School of Communication Faculty Guide for First-Year Student Common Reading Assignment**

2008-2009: **A Long Way Gone**, by Ishmael Beah

2009-2010: **Run**, by Ann Patchett

2010-2011: **The Soloist**, by Steve Lopez

Collegiate **Speech and Debate Coaching** Statistics:

The University of Akron Speech and Debate Team

2010-2011

- **Hosted 8th Annual “A-K Rowdy Forensics Tournament” on The University of Akron campus**
- **Hosted 5th Annual ASTAA Forensics Tournament**
- **6th Place Team Sweepstakes Varsity Division I at the National Forensic Association National Tournament (April 2011)**
- **Coached 3rd Place Open Team Sweepstakes Team at the Ohio Forensic Association State Championships (1st Place Team in Interpretation of Literature Genre)—February 2011**
- **Coached Individual State Champions in Prose Interpretation and Program of Oral Interpretation**
- **Coached Individual State Runners-up in Poetry Interpretation and Program of Oral Interpretation**
- **Coached over 35 Individual Events that qualified to either NFA or AFA National Tournaments**

2009-2010

- **Hosted 7th Annual “A-K Rowdy Forensics Tournament” on The University of Akron campus**
- **Hosted 4th Annual ASTAA Forensics Tournament**
- **7th Place Team Sweepstakes Varsity Division I at the National Forensic Association National Tournament (April 2010)**
- **Coached 4th Place Poetry Interpretation Winner at NFA National Speech and Debate Tournament**
- **Coached 5th Place Prose Interpretation Winner at NFA National Speech and Debate Tournament**
- **Coached numerous interpretation of literature quarter-finalists and semi-finalists at AFA-NIET and NFA National Speech and Debate Tournament**
- **Coached 3rd Place Open Team Sweepstakes Team at the Ohio Forensic Association State Championships (1st Place Team in Interpretation of Literature Genre)**
- **Coached Individual State Champions in Poetry Interpretation and Prose Interpretation**
- **Coached over 50 Individual Events that qualified to either NFA or AFA National Tournaments**

2008-2009

- **Planned, organized, and hosted 32nd Annual American Forensic Association National Individual Events Tournament on The University of Akron campus**
- **Hosted Ohio Forensic Association’s State Championship Tournament on The**

University of Akron campus

- **Hosted 6th Annual “A-K Rowdy Forensics Tournament” on The University of Akron campus (AFA-NIET “warm-up” tournament)**
- **Hosted 3rd Annual ASTAA Forensics Tournament**
- **9th Place Team Sweepstakes Varsity Division I at the National Forensic Association National Tournament (April 2009)**
- **Coached over 60 Individual Events that qualified to either NFA or AFA National Tournaments**

2007-2008

- **Successfully bid to host the 2009 AFA-NIET on The University of Akron campus**
- **Hosted 5th Annual “A-K Rowdy Forensics Tournament” on The University of Akron campus**
- **Hosted 2nd Annual ASTAA Forensics Tournament**
- **Coached Individual Event State Champions in Poetry Interpretation, Multi-cultural Informative Speaking and Novice Poetry Interpretation**
- **Coached over 30 Individual Events that qualified to either NFA or AFA National Tournaments (during fall semester)**

2006-2007

- **10th Place Team Sweepstakes Varsity Division II at the National Forensic Association National Tournament (April 2007)**
- **Hosted 4th Annual “A-K Rowdy Forensics Tournament” on The University of Akron campus**
- **Developed “Akron Speech Team Alumni Association (ASTAA)”**
- **Hosted inaugural ASTAA Forensics Tournament**
- **1st Place Team Sweepstakes President’s Division at the Ohio Forensic Association Varsity State Tournament**
- **Coached Individual Event State Champions in Prose Interpretation, Programmed Oral Interpretation and Duo Cinematic Interpretation**
- **Coached Individual Event State Runner-up in Poetry Interpretation**
- **Coached over 40 Individual Events that qualified to either NFA or AFA National Tournaments**

2005-2006

- **Hosted 3rd Annual “A-K Rowdy Forensics Tournament” on The University of Akron campus**
- **Hosted 2nd Annual “Last Chance in Akron Tournament” on The University of Akron campus**
- **Coached Individual Event State Champions in Duo Interpretation, Poetry Interpretation and Public Relations Extemporaneous Speaking**
- **Coached over 40 Individual Events that qualified to either NFA or AFA National Tournaments**

2004-2005

- **Planned, organized, and hosted 35th Annual National Forensic Association National Speech and Debate Tournament on The University of Akron campus**
- **Hosted 2nd Annual “A-K Rowdy Forensics Tournament” on The University of Akron campus**
- **Hosted “Last Chance in Akron Tournament” on The University of Akron campus**
- **Coached 17th-ranked American Forensic Association National Individual Events Tournament (“AFA-NIET”) Team Sweepstakes winning Speech and Debate Team (over 100 participating colleges and universities)**
- **Coached 17th-ranked AFA-NIET Individual Sweepstakes winning student (814 eligible students)**
- **Coached 3rd Place Poetry Interpretation Winner at AFA-NIET**
- **Coached 6th Place Duo Interpretation Winners at NFA National Speech and Debate Tournament**
- **Coached numerous quarter-finalists and semi-finalists in Individual Events at 2005 AFA-NIET and NFA National Speech and Debate Tournament**
- **1st Place Team Sweepstakes President’s Division at the Ohio Forensic Association Varsity State Tournament**
- **Coached Individual Event State Champions in Duo Interpretation, Prose Interpretation, and Programmed Oral Interpretation**
- **Coached over 60 Individual Events that qualified to either NFA or AFA National Tournaments**

2003-2004

- **3rd Place Team Sweepstakes Varsity Division II at the National Forensic Association National Tournament (April 2004)**
- **Successfully bid to host 35th Annual NFA National Speech and Debate Tournament on The University of Akron campus**
- **1st Place Team Sweepstakes President’s Division at the Ohio Forensic Association Varsity State Tournament**
- **Coached Individual Event State Champions in Duo Interpretation and Poetry Interpretation**
- **Coached Individual Event State Runners-up in Duo Interpretation, Prose Interpretation, and Poetry Interpretation**
- **1st Place Team Sweepstakes 35th Annual Mad Hatter Forensics Tournament at Bloomsburg University**
- **Hosted inaugural “A-K Rowdy Forensics Tournament” on The University of Akron campus**
- **Hosted “Ohio Beginner” Forensics Tournament**
- **Hosted “Gettin’ Zippy With It” (High School Students) Forensics Tournament at The University of Akron**
- **Coached 44 Individual Events that qualified to either NFA or AFA National Tournaments**

2002-2003

- **Coached 3rd Place Team Reader's Theater at National Forensic Association National Tournament**
- **1st Place Team Sweepstakes President's Division at the Ohio Forensic Association Varsity State Tournament**
- **Coached Individual Event State Champion in Program of Oral Interpretation**
- **Coached Individual Event State Runner-up in After Dinner Speaking**
- **2nd Place Team Sweepstakes 34th Annual Mad Hatter Forensics Tournament at Bloomsburg University**
- **Coached 50+ Individual Events that qualified to either NFA or AFA National Tournaments**

2001-2002

- **Traveled team of 7 students to National Forensic Association National Tournament**
- **1st Place Team Sweepstakes President's Division at the Ohio Forensic Association Varsity State Tournament**

Written Works:

Fiction for Collegiate Forensic Competition (notarized or published):

Spring 2010:

"Pulled Left and Right" (poetry—State and NFA National Final Round Performance Piece)

Spring 2008:

"3 in 800" (poetry—State Final Round Performance Piece)

Spring 2007:

"Fivehead" (prose—State Championship Performance Piece)

"In Good Faith" (drama—State Final Round Performance Piece)

Fall 2006:

"The Truth in Name Calling" (drama)

"Crime-Ridden Neighborhood" (poetry)

Spring 2003

Poetic Letters of Gestalt (poetry)

Shared Spaces: A Collection of Poems Dedicated to Living...Alone (poetry)

Spring 2000

Anthropomorphosis of a Hero (poetry portfolio) in
Case Reserve Review, 2000.

Educational Guides:

Fall 2010

School of Communication Faculty Guide for First-Year Student Common Reading Assignment—*The Soloist*, by Steve Lopez

Fall 2009

School of Communication Faculty Guide for First-Year Student Common Reading Assignment—*Run*, by Ann Patchett

Fall 2008

School of Communication Faculty Guide for First-Year Student Common Reading Assignment—*A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*, by Ishmael Beah

Addresses:

Fall 2005

Oral Interpretation Seminar
OFA and SCAO Conference
Muskingum College

Fall 2001

Legal Closing Argument for The Landskroner Foundation for Children
3rd Place: Ohio Law Schools Closing Argument Competition
The Landskroner Law Firm, Cleveland, OH

Chaired Judging Panels:

Spring 2010

Final Round: National Association of Insurance Women Speak-Off, Fairlawn, OH, March 2010

Spring 2009

National Duo Interpretation Final: National Forensic Association National Speech and Debate Championships, Springfield, MO, April 2009

Spring 2008

National Poetry Interpretation Final: National Forensic Association National Speech and Debate Championships, Nashville, TN, April 2008

Research:

Spring 2011

STUDY ON CULTURAL CHANGE IN THE PROTAGONIST OF THE HERO GENRE

Rhetorical Study of shifts in trends of heroic portrayals in literature and drama

Spring 2006

STUDY ON MERIT AS BIOGRAPHICAL TRUTH

Rhetorical Study of Binjamin Wilkomirski's *Fragments: Memories of a Wartime Childhood*

Spring 2004

RELIGIOUS IMAGERY IN *THE ROAD TO PERDITION* AT 30:32

Rhetorical Study of Religious Imagery in Gangster Film

Fall 1999

THE CHANGING NATURE OF HUMOR IN THE 20TH CENTURY: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY

Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center

Case Western Reserve University

Facilitators: Ripich, Danielle, and Routman, F. Joseph

Reviews:

Review of **Forensics Series Volume 4: Duo Practice and Competition**, by Lhota, Barbara and Brodsky, Ira. (Hanover, NH: Smith and Kraus, Inc.), 2005. (Review on cover)

Articles:

Fall 2007

“The Importance of Place: Linking Perception of Success with Tourism”

Article posing the research question: How does the location of a tournament affect a student's perception of success at that tournament?

In preparation for publication submission to *National Forensic Journal*

Professional Affiliations:

American Forensic Association

National Forensic Association

Ohio Forensic Association

Ohio High School Speech League

Eastern Ohio District of the National Forensic League

The Greater Akron Speech League

Aphasiology Association of Ohio

Ohio High School Athletic Association: Certified Basketball Official

Teaching Effectiveness Portfolio & Courses:

Fall 2002

- Forensics

Spring 2003

- Forensics
- Facilitated Independent Studies in Special Communication Topics

Summer 2003

- Public Speaking (Summer Honors Institute for Gifted High School Students)

Fall 2003

- Introduction to Public Speaking
- Forensics

Spring 2004

- Introduction to Public Speaking
- Forensics
- Facilitated Independent Studies in Rhetoric

Summer 2004

- Public Speaking (Summer Honors Institute for Gifted High School Students)

Fall 2004

- Introduction to Public Speaking
- Honors Introduction to Public Speaking
- English Composition II: Argumentation and Research
- Forensics

Spring 2005

- Introduction to Public Speaking (2 sections)
- Forensics

Summer 2005

- Effective Oral Communication

Fall 2005

- Introduction to Public Speaking (2 sections)
- Effective Oral Communication
- Forensics

Spring 2006

- Business and Professional Speaking
- Effective Oral Communication
- Forensics

Summer 2006

- Advanced Public Speaking

Fall 2006

- Introduction to Public Speaking
- Honors Introduction to Public Speaking
- Effective Oral Communication (2 sections)
- Forensics

Spring 2007

- Effective Oral Communication (2 sections)
- Forensics

Summer 2007

- Argumentation

Fall 2007

- Argumentation
- Effective Oral Communication (3 sections)
- Forensics

Spring 2008

- Business and Professional Speaking
- Introduction to Public Speaking (2 sections)
- Forensics

Summer 2008

- Argumentation

Fall 2008

- Effective Oral Communication (4 sections)
- Forensics

Spring 2009

- Effective Oral Communication (4 sections)
- Forensics

Summer 2009

- Argumentation
- Effective Oral Communication

Fall 2009

- Effective Oral Communication (4 sections)
- Forensics

Spring 2010

- Effective Oral Communication (4 Sections)
- Forensics

Summer 2010

- Effective Oral Communication (2 Sections)
- Argumentation

Fall 2010

- Effective Oral Communication (4 Sections)
- Forensics

Spring 2011

- Advanced Public Speaking
- Effective Oral Communication (3 Sections)
- Forensics

Summer 2011

- Advanced Public Speaking
- Argumentation (2 Sections)
- Effective Oral Communication