

Richard Sévère



Education

- Doctor of Philosophy, Purdue University**, West Lafayette, Indiana. Aug. 2010
Primary area: Middle English Language and Literature
Secondary areas: Old English and Old French Language and Literature
Dissertation: “Medieval Bromance: The Impact of Sodomy on the Development of Male-Male Friendships in Medieval Literature.”
Committee Members: S. Dorsey Armstrong (Chair), Shaun F.D. Hughes, Paula Leverage, Tison Pugh (University of Central Florida), Ann Astell (University of Notre Dame)
- Master of Science, Florida A&M University**, Tallahassee, Florida. May 2004
English Literature Education
Thesis: “The Relationship Between Reading Selected Banned Books in Secondary Schools and Students’ Emotional Empathy.”
- Bachelor of Arts, Florida A&M University**, Tallahassee, Florida. August 2002
Major: English
Minor: French

Faculty Rank

- Professor** 2022-Present
 Department of English, Valparaiso University
- Associate Professor (Tenured)** 2016-2022
 Department of English, Valparaiso University
- Assistant Professor (Tenured)** 2010-2016
 Department of English and Foreign Languages, Centenary University

Administrative Positions and Leadership

Valparaiso University

- Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences** July 2022-Current
Arts and Sciences (A&S) 17 depts., 142 employees, 1,200 students
- Advise on College budget oversight (*\$25million*)
 - Oversee supplemental faculty research/travel funding budget (*approximately \$25,000*)
 - Oversee Senior Research Faculty (retired faculty) budget (*approximately \$20,000*)
 - Work with First-Year program Director to ensure full staffing of seminar classes (*45sections per year*)
 - Manage course enrollment (*analyze yearly College data trends to inform course and curriculum organization*)
 - Lead coordination of A&S marketing, including maintaining departmental webpages, Visit Day, Admitted Student Days, and other recruitment events (*over 200 student visitors yearly*)
 - Oversee College newsletter (*distribute two issues per academic year*)
 - Coordinate and review tenure and promotion cases (*25 pre-tenured faculty*)
 - Organize faculty hiring (*interview candidates, review offer letters, negotiate salaries*)

- Work with faculty in envisioning and executing new programs (*Game Design Minor, Center for Games and Interactive Entertainment and Fermentation Studies*)
- Develop and implement an original training program for new chairs in conjunction with the Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs and other College Deans (*topics include faculty mentoring, hiring practices, budget management, course management, department marketing*)
- Host community-building events for A&S faculty and staff (*build morale and faculty retention*)
- Lead tenure and promotion workshops for junior faculty (*4 training sessions a year*)
- Meet with Advancement to enhance fundraising efforts for A&S with a focus on Humanities and interdisciplinary programs (*current project—\$500,000 campaign for Greenhouse update*)
- Approve and hire adjunct faculty for the college (*75+ adjuncts*)

Chair, Department of English (17 faculty)

July 2020-July 2022

- Oversaw the general functions of the department
- Managed an annual budget of approximately \$50,000
- Supervised seventeen faculty
- Conducted department meetings
- Produced department course schedules
- Managed course enrollment
- Performed course observations and evaluations
- Mentored pre and post tenured faculty
- Managed research load credits
- Managed department service
- Supervised student staff
- Oversaw departmental recruiting and marketing

Acting Chair, Department of Kinesiology (8 faculty)

August 2019-Jan 2020

- Oversaw the general functions of the department
- Supervised eight faculty
- Conducted department meetings
- Produced department course schedules
- Managed course enrollment
- Performed course observations and evaluations
- Mentored pre and post tenured faculty
- Managed research load credits
- Managed department service

Centenary University

Founding Director, Centenary Writing Collaboratory

2011-2016

- Oversaw the general functions of the Lab
- Managed the annual budget of approximately \$20,000
- Supervised fifteen undergraduate Writing Consultants; supervise five front desk staff
- Selected and supervise one Peer-Tutor Coordinator
- Created, implement and revise Collaboratory policies and procedures
- Maintained Collaboratory website
- Recruited Writing Consultants
- Oversaw training of Writing Consultants
- Facilitated college-wide student, faculty and staff workshops
- Conducted and presented research at regional and international conferences

- Coordinated and supervised student-lead research and presentations
- Coordinated international conversation groups
- Conducted data research for program assessment
- Coordinated fundraising projects
- Engaged consultants in community service projects
- Led fundraising projects
- Collaborated with high school partners; serve as a liaison between the Collaboratory and college campus/community.

Founding Director, Centenary Scholars Program

2013-2016

- Collaborated with all academic departments to recruit talented and motivated scholars
- Recruited faculty mentors
- Created, integrated and revised program policies and procedures
- Managed the annual program budget of approximately \$25,000
- Managed designated research budget of approximately \$5,000
- Supervised two Program Assistants
- Coordinated yearly leadership retreat
- Coordinated scholarly events
- Designed programing for current and incoming scholars and faculty mentors
- Attended events for College Donors and Board of Trustee
- Collaborated regularly with institutional stakeholders, which include Dean of Students, Director of Housing, Director of Career Services Athletic Director, College Registrar, Director of Student Activities and Provost
- Supervised academic progress of all scholars
- Facilitated community outreach program for scholars
- Conducted research on best program practices
- Facilitated monthly meetings with scholars
- Facilitated monthly meetings with faculty mentors
- Served as a liaison between college campus/faculty and community.

Institutional Service

<i>Valparaiso University</i>	Fall 2016-Current
Member , Tenure and Promotion	2020-2022
Co-Chair , University Budget Review Committee	2020-Current
Member , Honors Council	2020-2022
Member , Valparaiso Bridge Program	2021-2023
Advisory Board , Ghozen Leadership Chair	2020-Current
Advisory Board , Philanthropy Chair	2020-Current
Chair , Assistant Vice President-Diversity Equity and Inclusion Search Committee	2021
Member , Provost Search Committee	2021
Advisor , Black Student Organization	2017-2021
Advisor , Sigma Lambda Gamma	2018-current
Advisor , Kappa Alpha Psi, Fraternity Incorporated	2018-current
Co-Advisor , Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society	2018-2021

Publications

Book

Out in the Center: Public Controversies and Private Struggles. Eds. Denny Harry C., Robert Mundy, Liliana M. Naydan, Richard Sévère, Anna Sicari, Utah State University Press: (February, 2019).

Book Chapters

Richard Sévère, “Resilience Inside and Out: Liberating Vocation for the Future,” in *“Vocation and the Future: Crises, Imagination, and Innovation in Higher Education”*. Ed. Erin VanLaningham, Oxford University Press. (Forthcoming 2025)

Richard Sévère, “Are you a Woman or a Blacksmith: Cross-Sex Friendship Bonds in *A Knight’s Tale*,” in *Cinema Medievalia: New Essays on the Reel Middle Ages*. Eds. Kevin Harty and Scott Manning, McFarland Press (2024): 307-324.

Richard Sévère, “Sipping from Your Cup ‘til It Runneth Over: Teaching Malory’s Holy Grail through Hip-Hop. *MLA* (Forthcoming, 2024): 347-358.

Richard Sévère and Maurice Wilson. “Voices from the Hill: HBCUs and the Graduate Student Experience,” in *Learning from the Lived Experiences of Graduate Student Writers*,” Edwards, Kirsten, Shannon Madden and Michele Eodice, Utah State University Press (2020):87-111.

Richard Sévère, “Black Male Bodies in the Center,” in *Out in the Center: Public Controversies and Private Struggles*. Eds. Denny Harry C., Robert Mundy, Liliana M. Naydan, Richard Sévère, Anna Sicari: Utah State University Press, (February, 2019): 54-63.

Articles

Richard Sévère, “Deviants and Dissenters: Theorizing Shame and Punishment in Malory’s Morte.” *Arthurian Literature* 38 (2023): 156-187.

Richard Sévère, Introduction. “Why Can’t Mermaids Be Ethnically Diverse: Legends and Legend Making in Arthurian Studies. *Arthuriana* 33.3. (2023): 1-7.

Richard Sévère, Introduction. “Arthur from the Margins: Race, Equity and Justice in Arthurian Studies.” *Arthuriana* 31.2. (2021): 3-7.

Richard Sévère, “Pandarus and Troilus’ Bromance: Male Bonding, Sodomy and Incest in Chaucer’s *Troilus and Criseyde*.” *Texas Studies in Literature and Language*, 60. 4 (Winter 2018): 423-442.

Richard Sévère, “Galahad, Percival and Bors: Grail Knights and the Quest for Spiritual Friendship.” *Arthuriana* 25.3. (2015): 49-65.

Richard Sévère, “Malory’s Chivalric Cliques: Public and Private felyshyp in the Arthurian Community.” *Arthurian Literature* 32 (2015): 105-122.

Conference Presentations

Literature

“Set Me Free Why Don’t You Babe: Sex, Love and Entrapment in Malory.”

International Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo, MI., May 2022.

“Reading Arthur While Black: Profiling and Policing the Arthurian Legends.”

International Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo, MI., May 2022.

“Malory’s Deviants and Dissenters: Social Identity Theory and the Modern Reader.”

International Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo, MI., May 2021.

“It’s Not Gay If It’s in a Threeway: The Bromance in Arthurian Literature.”

International Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo, MI., May 2019.

Papa Can You Hear Me: Malory’s Knights Who Hear, but Don’t Listen

International Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo, MI., May 2019.

“Understanding Chaucer’s Carnal Friendships: Exploring, Exploiting and Extolling Bodies in Troilus and Criseyde.”

New Chaucer Society International Conference, Toronto, Canada, July 2018.

“Teaching Chaucer While Black: Strategies for Pedagogically Inclusive classrooms and Curricula.”

New Chaucer Society International Conference, Toronto, Canada, July 2018.

“It’s Lonely at the Top: Friendship and Leadership in the Morte.”

International Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo, MI., May 2018.

Vocational Discernment

“Promoting Vocational Exploration among Minoritized Students”

NetVUE National Conference, Dallas, Texas, March 2022.

Rhetoric and Composition

“At the Core of Justice and Community: The Voices of Martin the Reformer and Martin the Revolutionary.”

MLA International Symposium, Lisbon, Portugal, July 2019.

“Debunking the Safe House Myth: Strategies for Addressing Bias.”

International Writing Center Association Conference, Chicago, Illinois, October 2017.

Keynote Addresses and Invited Talks

Resilience Inside and Out: Liberating Vocation for the Future—Loras College	2024
Assessing Vocation on Campus—Saint Mary of the Woods College	2023
Marshall Grossman Lecture—University of Maryland	2022
Literary, Interdisciplinary, Theory and Culture Organization (LITCO)-Purdue University	2021
New Jersey Teacher’s Association—Centenary University	2021
Medieval Academy of America	2020

Courses Taught

Department of English, Valparaiso University

ENGL 180: Gateways to Interpretation

ENGL 210: Business and Professional Writing

ENGL 300: Introduction to Professional Writing

ENGL 305: Writing for the Health Sciences
 ENGL 309: Literature of the Medieval Period
 ENGL 341: History of the English Language
 ENGL 360: Race and Identity in the Medieval World
 ENGL 409: Literature of the Medieval Period
 ENGL 493: Senior Seminar
 ENGL 490: Spiritual Friendship
 CC115: Men in Film: Medieval and Modern Masculinities
 CORE 115: Justice and Community

Department of English, Centenary University

2010-2016

GHA 500- Graduate Writing Across Academic Spaces
 English 3035-History of the English Language
 English 2091-Literature to Film
 English 1005-Literary Theory
 English 2099-The Medieval Bromance
 English 3036-Medieval Literature: The Medieval Bromance
 English 690- Thesis Supervision
 English 4020-Chaucer
 English 1001-Composition and Rhetoric
 English 2008-World Literature
 English 3027-Renaissance Literature
 English 3020- Writing Center Practicum
 English 4080- Senior Seminar, Literary Sexual Deviants: Medieval to Contemporary
 Liberal Art Studies-Academic Applications in Learning Theory
 Liberal Art Studies- The Rise of Europe
 Independent Study-Readings in Medieval Literature
 Independent Study- Malory
 Independent Study- Dante

Service to the Discipline

Associate Editor , <i>Arthuriana</i>	2021-Current
Editorial Board , <i>New Chaucer Society</i> Pedagogy and Professions Editorial Board	2020-Current

Grants & Awards

Valparaiso University

Creative Work and Research Expense Grants	2017-19
Virtues of Vocation Faculty Award	2021
Martin Luther King Jr. Service Award	2022

Centenary University

Advisor of the Year	May 2015
Distinguished Teaching Award	May 2012
Verizon Foundation's "Check into Literacy" Program Grant	July 2012
Independent College Fund of New Jersey \$5,000 Grant awarded to implement Writing Portfolio Placement	

Languages

Old English
 Middle English
 Old French

Old Norse
French (Writing and speaking fluency)
Haitian Creole (Speaking fluency)

Memberships in Academic Societies

International Arthurian Society
New Chaucer Society
Medieval Academy of America
Modern Language Association

Board Memberships (current)

Project Neighbors- Board President
Valparaiso YMCA- Board Secretary
Neighbors Educational Opportunities/ New Vistas High School and Adult Education-Board member

Current Affiliations

Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Band Fraternity, Incorporated
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated
Phi MU Alpha Sinfonia