

# Michael R. Rackett, Ph.D.

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VCU ASPIRE  
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## Education

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Ph.D.	2002	(Religion)	Duke University
M.A.	2011	(English)	Virginia Commonwealth University
M.Div.	1990		Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
B.A.	1987	(Religion)	College of William and Mary

## Teaching Experience

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### Virginia Commonwealth University

Assistant Professor, VCU ASPIRE (2014-present)  
Instructor, University College (2011-2013)  
Instructor, Religious Studies Program (2011-2012)  
Teaching Assistant, University College (2010-2011)  
Teaching Assistant, Department of English (2009-2010)

### Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond

Adjunct Faculty (2012-2013)

### Meredith College

Assistant Professor (Adjunct), Department of Religion (2003-2006)  
Instructor, Department of Religion (1999-2002)

### Duke University

Instructor, Department of Religion (2000, 2006)  
Visiting Lecturer, Duke Divinity School (1997-2000)  
Instructor, Duke Divinity School, Course of Study for Ordained Ministry (1996, 1998-99, 2001)  
Teaching Assistant, Department of Religion (1998)  
Teaching Assistant, Duke Divinity School (1991-1998, 2003)

## Courses Taught

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Foundations of Community Engagement (VCU ASPIRE)  
Neighborhood Research Seminar (VCU ASPIRE)  
Community Engagement Seminar (VCU ASPIRE)  
Capstone Seminar (VCU ASPIRE)  
Capstone Seminar: Grant Writing (VCU ASPIRE)  
Capstone Seminar: Community Storytelling (VCU ASPIRE)  
Inquiry and the Craft of Argument (Writing and Rhetoric Workshop II) (VCU)  
Conflicts in the Catholic Church (Contemporary Catholic Ethics) (VCU)  
Contemporary Catholic Thought (VCU)  
Baptist Identity (graduate level) (BTSR)  
History of Christianity I & II (graduate level) (BTSR, Duke Div.)  
History of Christianity (undergraduate) (Duke, Meredith)  
Introduction to Biblical Literature & History (Meredith)  
Pauline Literature (Meredith)  
Introduction to Christian Theology (Meredith)  
Ethical Issues in Early Christianity (Duke)  
Exploring Our Theological Heritage: Early Church-Reformation (Duke Div. CSOM)  
Introduction to Literature (T.A.) (VCU)  
Medicine, Magic, and Miracle in the Greco-Roman World (T.A.) (Duke)  
The Black Church in America (T.A.) (Duke Div.)

## Community Service Experience

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VCU ASPIRE, Virginia Commonwealth University  
Co-leader, Global Service Trips, Belize, July, 2014-2017  
Co-leader, Alternate Break Service Trips, Sneedville, TN, March, 2014-2017.  
Co-leader, Alternate Break Service Trip, Sneedville, TN, May 2015.  
Co-leader, Alternate Break Service Trip, Seaside Heights, NJ, January 2014.  
Co-curricular Coordinator, Richmond, VA, 2013-2014.

Virginia Baptist Mission Board  
Advance Logistics Coordinator, Hurricane Ike Disaster Relief, Liberty, TX,  
September 2008.

## Publications

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Rackett, Michael R. "Pelagius and Pelagianism." *Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2nd ed. MacMillan (2005).

Rackett, Michael R. "What's Wrong with Pelagianism? Augustine and Jerome on the Dangers of Pelagius and his Followers." *Augustinian Studies* 33.2 (2002): 223-37.

Rackett, Michael R. "Anxious for Worldly Things: The Critique of Marriage in the Anonymous Pelagian Treatise *De Castitate*." *Studia Patristica* 33 (1997): 229-35.

Rackett, Michael R. "Anti-Pelagian Polemic in Augustine's *De Continentia*." *Augustinian Studies* 26.2 (1995): 25-50.

Rackett, Michael R. Review of Dominic Keech, *The Anti-Pelagian Christology of Augustine of Hippo, 396-430* in *Augustinian Studies* 46.1 (2015): 122-124.

Rackett, Michael R. Review of Maureen A. Tilley, *The Bible in Christian North Africa: The Donatist World* in *Religious Studies Review* 25.4 (Oct. 1999): 429.

### **Conference Papers and Presentations (Refereed)**

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Rackett, Michael. "Growing a Responsible Grassroots Global Service Partnership." Case Study on VCU ASPiRE's Global Service Partnership in Belize at 4<sup>th</sup> International Service Learning Summit, Kansas State University, October 2016.

Rackett, Michael, and Nerice Lochansky. "Designing and Promoting Responsible Global Service Experiences." Presentation at Community Engagement Administrators Conference, Elon University, June 2016.

Lochansky, Nerice, and Michael Rackett. "Utilizing Success Coaches: A Plan for Student Retention." Presentation at Community Engagement Administrators Conference, Elon University, June 2016.

Rackett, Michael, and Nerice Lochansky. "Grant Writing for Real: A Grant-Writing Course that Actually Funds a Community Project." Presentation at ADP/TDC/NASPA Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement (CLDE) Meeting, New Orleans, LA, June 2015.

Lochansky, Nerice, and Michael Rackett. "Welcoming Community Partners as Co-Educators in a Living-Learning Environment." Presentation accepted for ADP/TDC/NASPA Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement (CLDE) Meeting, New Orleans, LA, June 2015.

Slade, Mary, Nerice Lochansky, Michael Rackett et al. "Strategies for Understanding the Communities We Serve." Presentation at William & Mary Active Citizens Conference, Williamsburg, VA, February 2014.

Rackett, Michael R. "What's Wrong with Pelagianism? Augustine and Jerome on the Dangers of Pelagius and his Followers." Paper read at American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November 2001.

- Rackett, Michael R. "Baptism and the Roots of Sin in Julian of Eclanum and the Messalians." Paper read at Thirteenth International Conference on Patristic Studies, Oxford, England, August 1999.
- Rackett, Michael R. "Pelagian Interpretations of I Corinthians 7: Convergence and Divergence." Paper read at North American Patristics Society Conference, Chicago, IL, June 1997.
- Rackett, Michael R. "The Pelagians: Preachers of Sinlessness." Paper read at North American Patristics Society Conference, Chicago, IL, June 1996.
- Rackett, Michael R. "Anxious for Worldly Things: The Critique of Marriage in the Anonymous Pelagian Treatise *De Castitate*." Paper read at Twelfth International Conference on Patristic Studies, Oxford, England, August 1995.
- Rackett, Michael R. "Raising the Dead at Canterbury and St. Denis: How the Translation of Saints' Relics from Crypt to Choir Affected Their Accessibility to Pilgrims." Paper read at American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, November 1994.
- Rackett, Michael R. "Anti-Pelagian Polemic in Augustine's *De Continentia*." Paper read at American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, November 1993.

### **Community Seminars and Workshops (Invited)**

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- Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, MA, Presentation.  
 "More of Aunt Betty's Story: New Research on Bethany Veney and Her Narrative," (1 session), November 2016.
- Washington Elementary School, Raleigh, NC, Archaeology Elective Class  
 "A Day on the Dig at Bir Ftouha, Tunisia," (1 session), Spring 2004.
- First Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC, Adult Education Seminars  
 "How We Got Our Bible: Canons, Councils, and Scraps on the Cutting Room Floor" (3 sessions), Fall 2003.  
 "*Genesis: A Living Conversion*. A Study of the Bill Moyers' Video Series" (3 sessions), Spring 2003.  
 "*From Jesus to Christ*: A Study of the Frontline Video Series" (9 sessions), Spring 1999.  
 "Christianity and the Arts" (9 sessions), Spring 1997.  
 "A History of Christian Architecture" (9 sessions), Spring 1995.  
 "An Introduction to Christian History" (18 sessions), Fall 1993-Spring 1994.
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Cary, NC, Adult Education Seminar  
 "The Protestant Reformation of the Sixteenth Century," Adult Education Seminar (3 sessions), Spring 1999.

Kemps Landing Gifted & Talented Middle School, Virginia Beach, VA  
“An Introduction to Roman Archaeology” (1 session), Fall 1997, Spring 1998.

Duke Institute for Learning in Retirement, Durham, NC, Great Books Program  
“Augustine’s *City of God*”(1 session), October 1996.

### **Grants and Fellowships**

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Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Department of English, VCU, 2009-2011.  
Dissertation Semester Fellowship, Graduate School, Duke University, 2000.  
Center for Teaching, Learning, & Writing Fellowship, Duke University, 1998-99.  
Harvard Travelers Club Travel Grant, 1997.  
Graduate School Fellowship, Duke University, 1990-94.

### **University Service**

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Chair, Curriculum Workgroup, VCU ASPIRE, 2014-present.  
Co-chair, Alternate Break/Int’l Service Trips Workgroup, VCU ASPIRE, 2014-present.  
Member, RVA History and Culture Group, VCU, 2015-present.  
Member, Common Book Reading Group, VCU, 2016-present  
Member, Search Committee, Instructor Position, VCU LEAD, VCU, 2016.  
Fulbright Review Panel, National Scholarship Office, VCU, 2014, 2015, 2016.  
Boren Awards Review Panel, National Scholarship Office, VCU, 2017.  
Reviewer, Division of Student Affairs Awards, VCU, 2015.  
Reviewer, VCU Education Abroad Scholarships, Global Education Office, VCU, 2014.  
Survey Committee, Dept. of Focused Inquiry, University College, VCU, 2012-2013.  
Graduate Student Representative, Technology Committee, English Dept., VCU, 2011.

### **Certifications and Trainings**

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QPR Gatekeeper, University Counseling Services, VCU, 2017.  
At-Risk for University & College Faculty, Kognito, 2016.  
Service-Learning Institute, Division of Community Engagement, VCU, 2014.  
VCU Safe Zone, University Counseling Services, VCU, 2014.  
Campus Security Authority Annual Training, VCU, 2013-present.

### **Other Academic Experience**

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Writing Center Consultant, Virginia Commonwealth University, 2009-2010.

Research Assistant, Duke University, for Elizabeth A. Clark (1993-1994, 2000, 2003-2004), Susan A. Keefe (1995-2000), and David C. Steinmetz (1998-1999).  
Archaeological Field School at Carthage Excavation, Summer 1997.  
Late Ancient Studies Reading Group, Duke University, 1994-98.  
“Creating the Classroom: A Workshop on Teaching for Graduate Students,” AAR/SBL Southeast Regional Meeting, Atlanta, 1994.  
Staff Assistant, *Journal of Early Christian Studies*, 1997-1998.

## **Editorial and Copywriting Experience**

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*Blackbird: An Online Journal of Literature and the Arts*  
Lead Copy Editor, Spring 2011.  
Copy Editor, Fall 2010.  
Literary Intern and Photo Editor, Spring 2010.

Virginia Baptist Mission Board  
Copywriter and Public Relations Specialist, 2006-2009.

*Journal of Early Christian Studies*  
Editorial Assistant/Copy Editor, 2003-2005.

## **References**

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Available upon request.