

W. Matthew J. Simmons, PhD
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EDUCATION

PhD., Twentieth-Century American Literature (2015)
University of South Carolina, Columbia
Emphasis in Southern Literature
Minor in Composition and Rhetoric

M.A., American Literature (2008)
North Carolina State University

B.A., English, World Literature Concentration, and B.A., Anthropology (2005)
North Carolina State University
Minor in Russian Studies

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Project Coordinator, [Digital US South Initiative](#)
Institute for Southern Studies, USC-Columbia
July 2015-Present

Responsibilities:

- Manage day-to-day functions of DUSS, an initiative which helps faculty translate research about the US South into public-facing digital projects
- Build relationships with faculty and help them conceptualize projects
- Raise funds to support development of these projects
- Manage IT infrastructure, including desktop workstations and server space leased from University Technology Services
- Hire, train, and manage a six-seven person staff, including graphic designers, programmers, and data entry/content development staff
- Usability test in-development projects and promote/publicize finished projects

Achievements:

- Maintained and grew legacy projects that preexisted DUSS
- Raised over \$103k in grant funding for new projects
- Oversaw massive digitization/updating efforts for the 1800+ entry *South Carolina Encyclopedia*, published in 2006 by the University of South Carolina Press
- Began work on two major grant-funded projects—to be completed in the 2016-17 academic year
- Oversaw the creation of the DUSS Index, a tool for federating Southern Studies-related projects across the web—to be launched in the 2016-17 academic year

Assistant Director, [William Gilmore Simms Initiatives](#), a Watson-Brown Foundation Grant-Funded Digital Humanities Project

University of South Carolina Libraries

July 2012-June 2014

Worked to:

- Create, correct, and curate metadata for [digital editions of Simms's works](#), many of which have been out of print since the mid-19th century
- Write informative headnotes for many of these works
- Create database solutions for digitally presenting Simms's personal scrapbooks, none of which have ever been available outside of USC's South Caroliniana Library
- Train, lead, and manage a team of research associates
- Collaborate with the director to envision direction for the project and ways to overcome technical challenges

TEACHING/ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Courses Taught:

- First-Year English (ENGL101/102)
- Business Writing (ENGL463)/Professional Communication (MGMT250)
- Themes in American Literature (ENGL285)
- The Literary South (SOST101)

Administrative Experience:

Assistant Director, First Year English Program, University of South Carolina

Worked to:

- Train new Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs)
- Observe, evaluate, and encourage new GTAs
- Develop camaraderie amongst new and experienced GTAs
- Manage, coordinate access to, and provide pedagogical and technical assistance in using the program's only networked/smart classroom
- Schedule and staff courses taught in the networked/smart classroom
- Rebuild, overhaul, and maintain the First Year English Program's website
- Promote digital pedagogies and help new and experienced GTAs complement their teaching with digital and networked technologies
- Help in steering the evolution and constant redevelopment of the two First Year English courses, ENGL101 and ENGL102

Academic Professionalization/Workshop Participation:

Participant, Workshop in University Classroom Teaching
The Graduate School of the University of South Carolina

14 August 2008

Participant, Informational Panel on ESL Instruction
University of South Carolina
January 2009

Participant, Workshop on Using XML in the Digital Humanities
Center for Digital Humanities, University of South Carolina
May 2012

Attendee, [Digital Pedagogy Course](#)
[Digital Humanities Summer Institute](#)
University of Victoria, British Columbia
June 2012

Participant, Workshop on Using XSLT in the Digital Humanities
Center for Digital Humanities, University of South Carolina
May 2013

SCHOLARSHIP

Conference Presentations:

“James Dickey’s *Deliverance* and Reassertions of Masculinity in the Postmodern South”—2009 University of South Carolina Spring Literary Conference

“Understanding the Geography of the ‘Smart’ Classroom in the Composition Course”—2010 Carolina Rhetoric Conference, North Carolina State University, 19 February 2010

“Done the reqwryt: Noise-as-Critique in Russell Hoban’s *Ridley Walker*”—2011 University of Virginia Graduate English Student Association Conference, 1 April 2011

“Peter Taylor’s Notions of Past, Present, and Place”—2012 Conference of the Society for the Study of Southern Literature, Vanderbilt University, 29 March 2012

“Peter Taylor and Constructions of the Southern Urban Self”—2012 Converse College Conference on Southern Culture, 14 April 2012

“Attention, Technology, and the Geography of the Classroom”—2012 Computers and Writing Conference, North Carolina State University, 19 May 2012

“*Pelayo* and *Count Julian*: The Liberal Jeffersonianism of Simms’s Imagined Medieval Spain”—2014 William Gilmore Simms Society Conference, 27 September 2014

Publications:

Critical Introduction. *Count Julian; or, The Last Days of the Goth*. By William Gilmore Simms. 1845/46(?). Scholarly Reprint. Columbia, SC: U of South Carolina P, 2015. Print.

Critical Introduction. *Marie de Berniere: A Tale of the Crescent City, Etc. Etc. Etc.* By William Gilmore Simms. 1853. Scholarly Reprint. Columbia, SC: U of South Carolina P, 2015. Print.

Critical Introduction. *Pelayo: A Story of the Goth*. By William Gilmore Simms. 1838. Scholarly Reprint. Columbia, SC: U of South Carolina P, 2015. Print.