

Ellen Butler Donovan
Professor
Middle Tennessee State University
Box 70
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
615/898-5981
Ellen.donovan@mtsu.edu

Employment

1991-present English Department, Middle Tennessee State University
1989-1991 Adjunct or full-time temporary status, English Department, Middle Tennessee State University
1988-1989 Adjunct, English Department, University of New Hampshire

Education

1988 Ph.D., English University of Wisconsin--Madison
1980 MA, English Portland State University, Portland, Oregon
1978 BA, English Portland State University, Portland, Oregon

Works in Progress

"Dooming Bright Childhood to Practical Pathos." And essay on the circus novels of James Otis.

Publications

"Annie Does Not Love the Monkeys': Hawthorne, Irony, and Childhood Innocence." *Nathaniel Hawthorne Review* 40.1 (2014): 41-60.
"The Circus in Nineteenth-Century Children's Literature." *The American Circus*. New York and New Haven: Bard Graduate Center: Decorative Arts, Design History and Material Culture and Yale UP, 2012. 330-57.
"Disorienting Reading." *Children's Literature Association Quarterly* 32 (2007): 29-46.
"Very capital reading for children': Reading as Play in Hawthorne's *A Wonder Book for Girls and Boys*." *Children's Literature* 30 (2002): 19-41.
"Shade's Children." *Beacham's Guide to Literature for Young Adults*, Vol. 14. New York: Gale Group, 2002.
"Smack." *Beacham's Guide to Literature for Young Adults*, Vol. 12. New York: Gale Group, 2001.
"Literature, Images of Family in Children's" *The Family in America: An Encyclopedia*. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2001.
Entries in *The Cambridge Guide to Children's Books in English* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2001): Brent and Melissa Ashabranner, Billy the Kid, Buffalo Bill, Calamity Jane, George Armstrong Custer, Davy Crockett, Deadwood Dick, The Leather-Stocking Tales, Bill Peet (William Bartlett), tall tales, trickster, westerns, Wild Bill Hickock, Wyatt Earp, Daniel Boone.
"The Primacy of Pictures: Reading George Dardess's *Foreign Exchange*." *Children's*

- Literature Association Quarterly* 23 (Winter 1998-99): 194-201.
- "Susanna Anthony." *Dictionary of Literary Biography: American Women Prose Writers to 1820*. Vol. 200. Detroit: Gale Research, 1999.
- "Reading for Profit and Pleasure: *Little Women* and *The Story of a Bad Boy*." *The Lion and the Unicorn* 18 (1994): 143-153.
- "Narrative Voices in Francis Parkman's *Montcalm and Wolfe*." *CLIO* 18 (1989): 275-290.

Book Reviews:

- Rev. of *How Picturebooks Work* by Maria Nikolajeva and Carole Scott.
Children's Literature Association Quarterly 27 (Summer 2002).
- Elizabeth Bacon Custer and the Making of a Myth* by Shirley A. Leckie. *Mid-America Folklore* 22 (1994): 105-6.
- Rev. of *Fairy Tale Romance* by James M McGlathery. *Tennessee Folklore Society Bulletin* 55 (1991): 72-73.

Conference Papers

- "Annie does not love the monkeys: Hawthorne, Irony, and Childhood Innocence."
Children's Literature Association. Ann Arbor, Michigan. 2010.
- "Circuses in Late Nineteenth-Century Children's Periodical Literature." Home, School, Play, Work: The Visual and Textual Worlds of Children. Sponsored by the American Antiquarian Society and The Cotsen Children's Library. Princeton University. 2009
- "Dooming Bright Childhood to Practical Pathos". Children's Literature Association. Normal, Illinois, 2008
- "Domestic Fiction and Definitions of Masculinity." Children's Literature Association. Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. 2005
- "Representing Difference." Children's Literature Association. El Paso, Texas, 2003.
- "Genre Conventions as Guidance." Southeast Modern Language Association. 2001
- "Narrative Structure and Interpretive Trust: Authors and Their Adolescent Readers."
History of Childhood Conference. 2000
- "Narrative Structure and Interpretive Trust: Drug Addition in Three Young Adult Novels." Children's Literature Association. 2000.
- "Women in the Deadwood Dick Novels: Frontier and Gender Ideologies in Late 19th-Century America." Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association. 1998.
- "Interpreting Graphic Novels: George Dardess's *Foreign Exchange*." Children's Literature Association. 1996
- "Calamity Jane and the Wild Woman Archetype in American Folklore and Popular Culture." With Patricia A. Wells. Middle Tennessee Women's Studies Association. 1994
- "Calamity Jane: The Role of Women in Frontier Culture." American Folklore Society. 1993
- "Native American Cultures in Children's Literature: Making the Other Familiar."
American Culture Association in the South. 1992

- “Naughty Girls and Boys: Childhood in America.” Kentucky-Tennessee American Studies Association. 1992
- “Dialogue and Narrative Voice in James Fenimore Cooper’s *The Last of the Mohicans*.” Tennessee Philological Association. 1991.
- “Metadiegesis in Historiography: Francis Parkman’s Different Narrative Strategies in *LaSalle and the Discovery of the West* and *Montcalm and Wolfe*.” International Narrative Conference. 1990.

Other professional activities

- 2007-present Director (joint), Middle Tennessee Writing Project
- 2006-2011 Book Award Committee of the Children’s Literature Association
- 2001-2006 Publications Committee of the Children’s Literature Association
- 2001-2006 Director, Lower Division English, Middle Tennessee State University
- 2001-2004 Article Award Committee of the Children’s Literature Association
- 1999-2004 Faculty Senate
- 1995-2009 Co-director of the biennial conference on Modern Critical Approaches to Children’s Literature.
- 1998-2013 Co-editor of *Border States*, a biennial journal of the Kentucky-Tennessee American Studies Association.
- 1999-2000 Tennesseana Editions Advisory Board, University of Tennessee Press
- 1994-1999 Director, The Leonardo Project, a cross-college interdisciplinary pilot program in training elementary teachers.

Grants and Awards

- 2001: Faculty Development Grant, MTSU
- 1997: Faculty Research Grant, MTSU
- 1993: Public Service Grant, MTSU
- 1992: Public Service Grant, MTSU

Professional Organizations

- Children’s Literature Association
- Modern Language Association
- American Studies Association
- National Council of Teachers of English