Michael Kensak

Professor of English and German
Director of Integrative General Education

Educational Experience

2010- Professor of English, Northwestern College

2005 Visiting Professor of Linguistics, William Penn University (Project Impact)

2004-10 Associate Professor of English, Northwestern College

1999-04 Assistant Professor of English, Northwestern College

1998-99 Lecturer, Vanderbilt University

1994-98 Teaching Assistant, Vanderbilt University

Administrative Experience

2012- Director of Integrative General Education, Northwestern College

2010-12 Director of Assessment, Northwestern College

2009-13 Director of Church Music, American Reformed Church

2001-05 Director of the Honors Program, Northwestern College

Education

1998 Ph.D. in English with honors, Vanderbilt University

1994 M.A. in English, Vanderbilt University

1993 A.B. in Comparative Literature, Music Minor, *cum laude*, Princeton University

Publications

Grüβ Gott!: A Multimedia German Program. Funded by the Lilly Foundation. Used at Northwestern College in German 101, 102, 201, and 202. Self-published, 2011.

Northwestern College Distance Education Manual. 2009-10.

"'My first matere I wil yow telle': Losing (and Finding) Your Place in Chaucer's *Book of the Duchess*." In *'Seyd in forme and reverence': Chaucerian Essays in Memory of Emerson Brown, Jr*., eds. Tom Burton and John F. Plummer. Provo: Chaucer Studio: 2006.

"In Memoriam: Emerson Brown, Jr." *The Chaucer Review* 37 (2002): 190-194.

"What Ails Chaucer's Cook?: Spiritual Alchemy and the Ending of *The Canterbury Tales.*" *Philological Quarterly* 80 (2001): 213-231.

"Apollo *exterminans*: The God of Poetry in Chaucer's *Manciple's Tale*." *Studies in Philology* 98 (2001): 143-157.

"The Silences of Pilgrimage: *Manciple's Tale*, *Paradiso*, *Anticlaudianus*." *The Chaucer Review* 34 (1999): 190-206.

"The Semiotics of Inebriation: Margery Kempe, Felix Fabri, Alain de Lille, and Chaucer's Canterbury Pilgrimage." (Soon to be under consideration)

"Jack's Word." Regular etymology column in *Wordhord: The Northwestern College English Department Newsletter.*

Ongoing Projects

Form and Matter in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* (book project)

Medieval Wine and Drunkenness (book project)

Professional Activities

Peer-reviewer for *The Chaucer Review*

Peer-reviewer for *The University of Toronto Press*

Member, American Association of Colleges & Universities

AP Rater (AP English Language, ETS)

Presentations

"Grassroots General Education Assessment." 60-Minute Workshop Presentation. IUPUI Assessment Institute, October 2013.

"What Transpires in Marvell's 'To His Coy Mistress': A Pattern of Subversive Allusions." Northern Plains Conference on Early British Literature, April 2013, Dordt College.

"Marketing the New Liberal Arts." Lilly Scholar Presentation, Northwestern College, March 2010, September 2011, April 2012.

"Creating Community in the Online Classroom: Best Practices and Christian Perspectives." Northwestern College Faculty Development Seminar, March 2009.

"From Pixar to PowerPoint: Using 2D Animations in the Language Classroom." Northwestern College Faculty Development Seminar, February 2008.

"Chaucer's Canterbury Tales and Medieval Hylomorphic Theory." 2006 Southeastern Medieval Academy Meeting, Stetson University.

"Oh Come On—Is All That Really in There?: Chaucer, Intertextuality, and the Common Text Debate." Northwestern College Faculty Development Seminar, December 2006.

"'My first matere I wil yow telle': Losing (and Finding) Your Place in Chaucer's *Book of the Duchess*." 2004 Northern Plains Conference on Earlier British Literature, Augustana College.

"Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* and Varieties of Literary Context." Northwestern College Faculty Development Seminar, May 2003.

"Teaching With Your Eyes Shut: An Experiment in Student-Oriented Pedagogy." 2002 Iowa Council of Teachers of English / Iowa Writing Project Conference, Des Moines, IA

"Apollo *exterminans*: The God of Poetry in Chaucer's *Manciple's Tale*." 2000 Sewanee Mediaeval Colloquium, University of the South.

"Divine and Profane Silences: *Manciple's Tale*, *Paradiso*, *Anticlaudianus*." 1998 Southeastern Medieval Association Conference, Agnes Scott College.

"An Alchemical Link Between the *Canon's Yeoman's Tale* and the *Manciple's Prologue*. 1997 Southeastern Medieval Association Conference, Vanderbilt University.

"The Drunkenness of Chaucer's Cook." 1997 Sewanee Mediaeval Colloquium, University of the South.

"Gender and Power in the Trobairitz: The First Song of Castelloza." 1996 Desires: Medieval and Early Modern, Duke University.

"Tragedy as the Failure of Self-Creation in Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and *Coriolanus*." 1995 Novus et Antiquus Conference, Ball State University.

"'Cecil was mediaeval': The Deployment of History in E. M. Forster's *A Room with a View*." 1995 Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Conference: Reinventing the Middle Ages and Renaissance, Arizona State University.

Honors and Awards

2007 Finalist, Northwestern College Teaching Excellence Award

2005-6 Research Sabbatical, Northwestern College

2000 Colloquium Prize, Medieval Studies Colloquium, University of the South

1998 Dissertation with Honors, Vanderbilt University

1995 *Novus Prize*, Novus et Antiquus Conference, Ball State University

1993 Graduated *cum laude*, Princeton University

1992 Junior Paper Prize, Department of German, Princeton University

1991 Class of 1860 Prize for Old English, Princeton University

Grants

2013 Summer Research Grant: Grassroots General Education Assessment

2012 Summer Research Grant: Form and Meaning in Medieval Culture

2011 Summer Research Grant: "Allusion in Andrew Marvell's 'To His Coy Mistress.'"

2010 Lilly Fellow Grant ($2500) "Marketing the Liberal Arts Major"

2009 Summer Research Grant, Northwestern College

2009 Grant funding composition of the NWC Distance Education Manual

2008 Summer Research Grant, Northwestern College

2007 $10,000 Lilly Foundation Grant to develop a 4-semester German program

2006 Summer Research Grant, Northwestern College

2005 Summer Research Grant, Northwestern College

2003 Summer Research Grant, Northwestern College

2003 Cross-Cultural Course Development Grant, Eli Lilly Foundation

2002 Pedagogy Research Grant, Iowa Writing Project

2002 Summer Research Grant, Northwestern College

2001 Summer Research Grant, Northwestern College

2000 Summer Research Grant, Northwestern College

1997 Dissertation Enhancement Grant, Vanderbilt University

Language Study

Advanced: Middle English, Old English, German, Latin

Reading knowledge: French, Old French, Middle High German, Italian

Institutional Service

2012- Academic Affairs Committee (NOF)

2012- Integrative General Education Committee (NOF)

2012- Online Advisory Work Group

2011-	First Year Seminar Workgroup
2009-12	Assessment Committee (NOF)
2009-12	Faculty Sponsor, *Worhord* (English Department Newsletter)
2008-09	Dean's Council (Secretary)
2008-9	Admission Honors Retention Committee
2006-	Secretary, English Department
2004-05	Advising Task Force
2004-05	Chair, Staff Inspirational Award Committee
2003-05	Faculty Staff Welfare Committee (Chair, 2004-05)
2001-02	Mentor for New Faculty
2000-01	Diversity and International Programs Task Force
2000-01	Faculty Development Committee (Secretary)
1999-05	English Club Faculty Sponsor

Courses Taught

Northwestern College

ENG 480	Pilgrimage in Medieval English Literature
ENG 480	*The Canterbury Tales*
ENG 480	Milton's *Paradise Lost*
ENG 398	Special Topics in Linguistics
ENG 377	English Renaissance Literature
ENG 376	Medieval English Literature
ENG 345	History of the English Language
ENG 280	Shakespeare
ENG 220	Introduction to Literary Study
ENG 184	College Writing
GEN101	Introduction to the Christian Liberal Arts
GEN 205a	Honors Seminar: Our Changing World
GEN 205b	Honors Seminar: Technology and American Culture
GEN 205c	Honors Seminar: Humor
GER 499	Topics in German Culture: Munich
GER 202	Intermediate German Language and Culture

GER 201	Intermediate German Language and Culture
GER 102	Beginning German Language and Culture
GER 101	Beginning German Language and Culture

William Penn University / Project Impact

EASL 202	Theory of Language and Linguistics: Language Acquisition

Vanderbilt University

ENG 224	The Arthurian Tradition (Team-taught with Emerson Brown)
ENG 222	Dante's *Divine Comedy* (Team-taught with Emerson Brown)
ENG 220	Chaucer (Assistant to John Plummer)
ENG 120W	Classical Rhetoric
ENG 112W	Poetry
ENG 106W	Literary Theory
ENG 105W	Drama
ENG 104W	Prose Fiction: Childhood in Literature
ENG 104W	Prose Fiction: Heroism and the Individual
ENG 100W	Composition

Musical Activities

2009-2013	Director of Church Music, Choir Director, American Reformed Church
2008-	Trombone instructor
2005-2006	Choir Director, Trinity Reformed Church
1999-	Orange City, Iowa, Summer Band
1999-2002	Northwest Iowa Symphony
1996-1998	Vanderbilt University Wind Ensemble
1992-1993	Senior Recitals with Princeton Low Brass Ensemble
1991-1993	Princeton University Brass Quintet
1989-1993	Princeton University Orchestra
1989-1993	Princeton University Jazz Ensemble
1988-1989	Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra

Church Affiliation

My family and I are members of American Reformed Church in Orange City, Iowa.