

**Gene C. Fant, Jr.**  
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### ***Degrees / Advanced Study***

**Doctor of Philosophy**, English. **University of Southern Mississippi**, Hattiesburg, MS, 1995. (Emphasis: Renaissance English Literature: dissertation: hagiography in Wroth's sonnets; secondary emphases: Arthuriana & Beowulf).  
**Master of Education** (post-doctoral), Educational Supervision (Higher Education). **USM**, 1995.  
**Master of Divinity**, Biblical Languages. **New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**, 1991.  
**Master of Arts**, English. **Old Dominion University**, 1987.  
**Bachelor of Science**, Anthropology, minor in human biology. **James Madison University**, 1984.  
**Certificate in Educational Management** (post-doctoral). **Harvard University**, Graduate School of Education, 2011.  
--Additional Study: **Acton Institute** (2015), **LERN Institute** (On-line Instruction Certificate, 2001), **Christopher Newport University** (secondary English, 1989).

### ***Current and Past Positions***

#### ***North Greenville University***

**President**  
**Professor of English**  
**(2017-current)**

#### ***Palm Beach Atlantic University***

**Provost and Chief Academic Officer**  
**Professor of English (2014-2017)**

- *Academics*
  - Emphasized academic excellence and Christ-first mission, refining hiring practices and faculty development to emphasize the Christian Intellectual Tradition of liberal arts education, including chapel series on the importance of the university's Arts and Sciences foundations.
  - Managed enrollment and capacity challenges due to space-capped maximums (PBA is at or in excess of capacity in all of its traditional undergraduate and graduate programs; total enrollment c. 4,000 in all programs / all campuses), necessitating emphasis on efficiency and coordination of all academic units and functions.

- Restructured academic support units, interlinking related areas for efficiency and collaboration while developing new degree offerings to ease the capacity issues (because of capacity challenges, new degrees are targeting graduate programs and non-traditional offerings that leverage evening and regional campus space).
- Oversaw SACSCOC process for on-site review of substantive change related to implementation of Master of Divinity degree, producing zero recommendations and an accelerated affirmation by the Council.
- *Budgeting*
  - Collaborated with senior officers to prepare c. \$70M annual budget, including new prioritization of net tuition revenues, three-year planning cycles for finances, and refined scholarship allocation initiatives.
- *Fundraising*
  - Assigned to relationships with major donors in preparation for significant gifts for endowed chairs, research centers, scholarship funds, and other grants, including several successful solicitations.
  - Attended regional alumni association events to cultivate annual giving.
  - Assisted president and chief advancement officer with capital campaign preparations for a new academic building.
- *Church Relations*
  - Provided supply preaching to local churches, attended Florida Baptist Convention as university representative, provided counsel on multiple regional initiatives to provide training for bivocational pastors, church planting, and staff development.
  - Member in NAMB church plants in Jupiter, Palm Beach Gardens, and Jupiter Farms FL (plants of Family Church / FBC West Palm Beach)
- *Athletics*
  - Aligned registrar's office with NCAA regulation reviews, initiated pilot program to improve advising for athletes.
  - Member of athletic boosters.

### ***Impact 360 Institute of the LifeShape Foundation***

<http://impact360institute.org>

**Member, Board of Directors (uncompensated)**

**2014-current**

**Member, Board of Advisors (2005-2014)**

**Curriculum Designer (2004-current)**

- I 360 is a part of the foundations of the founding family of Chick-fil-A; this particular foundation is one established by John and Trudy Cathy White, targeting worldview and biblical foundation education for college and high school students, including international travel experiences and concentrated community service opportunities.
- Review budgets, personnel decisions, and operational priorities for the foundation's activities.
- Develop, monitor, and assist in refining curricula and operational activities.

***Union University, Jackson Tennessee (2002—2014)***

**Executive Vice President for Academic Administration  
& Dean of the Faculty (2012-2014)**

**Vice President for Academic Administration (2010-2012)**

**Dean, College of Arts & Sciences (2006-2011)**

**Chair, Department of English (2002-2007)**

**Professor of English awarded 2006.**

**Tenure awarded 2006.**

- *Academics*
  - Received numerous citations for academic quality, including U. S. News rankings, Kiplinger's, First Things, and many others.
  - Co-director of *Renewing Minds*, 2015 strategic planning plan.
  - Enhanced academic excellence in the context of a vibrant institutional mission, hiring new faculty from top graduate programs, completing overhaul of Honors Community to emphasize application of Great Books / Great Ideas, and establishing mandatory senior theses in several majors.
  - Assisted in successful accreditation reviews in art, music, business, social work, pharmacy, nursing, and engineering. SACSCOC decennial reaffirmation was achieved with zero recommendations.
  - As English chair, implemented a mandatory senior thesis project and significantly increased prominence of graduate school admissions from departmental alumni.
- *Budgeting*
  - Collaborated with senior officers to prepare c. \$90M annual budget, including multiple building projects, new program initiatives, and development of a regional campus in suburban Nashville.
- *Fundraising*
  - Assigned to relationships with major donors (individuals, churches, and foundations), including service on the Impact 360 Institute Board, which yielded partnerships producing almost \$500,000 in auxiliary revenues.
  - Assisted president and chief advancement officer with preparations for capital campaign for new library building.
  - Attended regional alumni association events to cultivate annual giving.
- *Church Relations*
  - Served frequently as a messenger to the Tennessee and Southern Baptist Convention meetings.
  - Represented university at TBC board and committee meetings.
  - Provided pulpit supply and Bible teaching for churches, associational meetings, pastor's conferences, and served as interim staff at large church.
  - Wrote columns for *Baptist Press* and for *The Baptist Reflector*.
  - Active in alumni meetings of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.
  - Deacon, Sunday school teacher, committee member, and evangelism volunteer for our family's churches.
- *Athletics*
  - Oversaw academic transition of institution from NAIA to NCAA Division II (Gulf South Conference).

- Provided devotionals for athletes and coaches.
- Connected academic programs (broadcasting, business, and others) with athletic activities (e.g., the COM department partnered with a local cable company to broadcast all home basketball games and other events).
- Member of booster club.
- *Community Engagement*
  - Served on local boards (local newspaper, public school committees, special event committees, etc.).
  - Contributed monthly columns to the *Jackson Sun* (everything from parenting to theology to politics, about 125 total columns).
  - Frequent speaker at events and community meetings.

***Mississippi College, Clinton Mississippi***

**Chair, Department of English (1998-2002)**

**Assistant Professor of English (1995-2002)**

**Tenure awarded 1998.**

- *Academics*
  - Oversaw curriculum enhancements that improved graduate program and training of graduate assistants (receiving a special commendation during SACSCOC reaffirmation process).
  - Increased enrollment in course offerings; at the end of service, about 1 in 9 undergraduates were English majors or minors.
- *Fundraising*
  - Worked with development to secure a \$300,000 estate gift for scholarships and about \$10,000 per year in auxiliary revenues.
  - Faculty captain for capital campaign.
  - Assisted in development of alumni phonathon program.
- *Church Relations*
  - Provided pulpit supply for churches throughout the state.
  - Attended most annual meetings of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, Southern Baptist Convention, Mississippi Evangelism Conference, and other denominational meetings.
  - Served as a deacon, Sunday school leader, and evangelism volunteer at our family's churches. At one time, our college ministry at FBC Jackson averaged over 300 per week for Bible study.

***University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg Mississippi***

**Assistant to the University President (1995)**

**Assistant Director of the Mississippi Institute for Law-Related Education (1994-1995)**

**Graduate Teaching Fellow (1992-1995)**

- As Assistant to President, conducted research, prepared speeches, attended meetings, and provided general support to the office, including serving as the liaison between the President and the Commissioner of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning.

- As Assistant Director of Institute for Law-Related Education, prepared continuing education opportunities for teacher and lawyers across the state under a \$3.1M U. S. Department of Education grant program housed in the Institute, as well as editing publications.

Additional experience in high school teaching & athletic coaching, retail sales, and food service management. Details available upon request.

### ***Selected Scholarship / Publications / Creative Works***

#### **Books**

- ***The Liberal Arts: A Students' Guide.*** Crossway Academic, 2012.
- ***God as Author: A Biblical Approach to Narrative.*** Broadman & Holman Academic, 2010.
- ***Expectant Moments: Devotions for Expectant Parents*** (with Lisa W. Fant). Zondervan, 1999. Paperback edition released 2002. Kindle edition released 2010.
- ***Petrarchan Hagiography, Gender, and Subjectivity in Lady Mary Wroth's Pamphilia to Amphilanthus.*** Published by the Graduate School, Univ. of Southern Mississippi, 1995.

#### **Selected Book Chapters**

- “How the Cooperative Program Put a Baptistery in my Garage: The Legacy of M. E. Dodd” in forthcoming volume edited by Ray Van Neste, exp. 2015.
- “Convictional Courage: The Leadership of David S. Dockery” in *Convictional Civility: Engaging the Culture in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, eds. C. Ben Mitchell, Carla D. Sanderson, and Gregory A. Thornbury, B & H Academic, 2015.
- “Give Me that Power: Secular Writers' Fascination with the King James Version of the Bible” in *KJV 400: Legacy and Impact*, edited by Ray Van Neste, BorderStone Press, 2012.
- “Core Curriculum in a Christian Context” *A Handbook for Christian Higher Education*, ed. David S. Dockery, B & H Academic, 2012.
- “A Blind Man, an Idiot, and a Prig: Faulkner's Disdain for the Reader” in *Literature and the Reader*, ed. by Michael J. Meyers. Amsterdam: Rodopi Press, 2005.

### Scholarship Awards

- **1994 Daub-Maher Prize for Outstanding Conference Paper: Southeastern Conference on Christianity and Literature**
- **1994 Linwood Orange Award, University of Southern Mississippi** (given to the outstanding doctoral student in the Department of English)

### Brief Biographies / Profiles

- “Dante” & “George Herbert” in *Encyclopedia of Christian Literature*, eds. G. T. Kurian & J. D. Smith III. Scarecrow Press; forthcoming.
- “George Strother Gaines,” “Mississippi College” & “Mississippi Baptist Convention” in *The Mississippi Encyclopedia*. Mississippi University Press / National Endowment for the Humanities; forthcoming.
- “George Strother Gaines: Servant of Two States, Servant of Two Peoples.” *Mississippi History Now*, August 2002.
- “Samuel M. Gore: Artist for the People.” *Mississippi Magazine*. July / Aug 2002.
- “John Stewart Bryan,” “Eugene S. Pulliam,” & “Theodore Lothrop Stoddard.” *American National Biography*. Oxford Univ. Press, 1999.
- “Peachwood Remembered: The Photography of Marion Stark Gaines.” *Mississippi Magazine*. May / June 1997.
- Other publications on William Faulkner, Virginia Woolf, Lady Mary Wroth, and Edith Wharton in a variety of academic journals; details available upon request.

### Conference Papers

- Twenty+ academic papers presented at several annual meetings of the Evangelical Theological Society, regional sessions of the Conference on Christianity and Literature, Sixteenth-Century Studies Association, and other academic conferences. Detailed list available upon request.

### Scholarly / Professional Societies

- **Evangelical Theological Society**: 2003-current
- Formerly held memberships in Modern Language Association, Conference on Christianity and Literature, International Arthurian Society, National Council Teachers of English, Sixteenth-Century Studies Association and others.

### Essays

- **Contributing blogger** (300+ posts since 2008) and frequent essayist (18 essays since 2001) at *The Chronicle of Higher Education*; search “Gene Fant” / “Gene C. Fant” at [www.chronicle.com](http://www.chronicle.com) for complete list.
- **Contributing blogger** at *First Things*’ “Evangel” (2009-2013) and “First Thoughts” (2013-current), 75+ posts.

- **Contributing editorial columnist**, *The Jackson (TN) Sun*, a Gannett newspaper. Approx. 60 monthly editorial columns, 2008-14.
- **Contributing parenting columnist**, *The Jackson (TN) Sun* and *West Tennessee Parent & Family Magazine* (formerly a specialty imprint). Approximately 70 monthly columns, 2003-08.
- Approx. twelve essays at *Baptist Press* (see <http://www.bpnews.net/BPSearch.asp?search=%22Fant%22&yr=&sortby=DESC&mo1=1&mo2=12&offset=0> for complete listing).
- 25+ other essay titles / placements in regional and national publications available by request.

### Essay Awards

- **2007 & 2003 Amy Foundation Awards** for excellence in newspaper editorial writing from a biblical perspective.
- **2006 Grand Prize, Feature Writing**, Council for Advancement and Support of Education (part of a team submission), *Madison Magazine*.
- **2006 Silver Medallion, Outstanding Reporting**, Parenting Publications of America (part of team submission), *West Tennessee Parent & Family Magazine*

### Creative Writing

- **Writer-in-Residence: Edgar Allan Poe Museum Young Authors Conference** (held at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond VA), 2004-2006.
- **Poetry and short fiction** published in creative writing journals.

### Songwriting

- **Affiliated songwriter** with Broadcast Music Incorporated.
- **Finalist, 2008 Song of the Year** (“Remember the Sacrifice,” co-written with Mona Faith Fant), U. S. Association of Gospel Entertainers and Musicians.
- **Winner, 1985 Lyric Contest**, Music City Song Festival.

### Other

### Board / External Committee Service

- **Board of Directors, Impact 360 Institute**, a residential worldview academy sponsored by the LifeShape Foundation, a Chick-fil-A charity: 2014-current. See description above.

- **Planning Committee of the Bible as Literature Subgroup, Evangelical Theological Society:** 2003-2017.
- **Member, Jackson Arts Coalition of the Jackson Arts Council** (literary representative): 2009-2014.
- **Member of Advisory Board, Media Ethics Magazine:** 2008-2014.  
[www.mediaethicsmagazine.com](http://www.mediaethicsmagazine.com) .
- **Member of Advisory Board, Jackson (TN) Sun** specialty publications board: 2005-2009.
- **Member, Conclave on the Future of Baptist Higher Education:** 2004.
- **Member, Planning Committee for the National College Forum of the Splendors of Versailles** Exhibition:1997-1998.

### Consulting

- **Faculty Development:** College of the Ozarks, Oklahoma Baptist University, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Belhaven University, Poltava (Ukraine) College Consortium, and ten+ high schools, both Christian and public.
- **Pedagogy, text reviews, and testing consulting** with Crossway, InterVarsity Press, U. S. Department of Education / Mississippi Institute for Law-Related Education, W. W. Norton Publishers, A. B. Longman Publishers, College Board, Advanced Placement Testing Services, Prentice-Hall Publishers, Summit Ministries, and Jackson-Madison County Public Schools. Detailed list available upon request.

### *Media Commentary*

- **Print:** *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 2001 *Writer's Market*, Baptist Press, Dallas (TX) *Morning News*, Washington (DC) *Times*, Memphis (TN) *Commercial-Appeal*, New Orleans (LA) *Times-Picayune*, Nashville (TN) *Tennessean*, Newport News (VA) *Daily-Press*, Hattiesburg (MS) *American*, and Jackson (TN) *Sun*.
- **Broadcast:** BBC 5 Radio, FamilyNet Radio, American Family Association of West Tennessee, local television, and other outlets in AZ, MS, and TN. Monthly "Dad's Dish" segment aired on JEA-6 in Jackson, TN, 2005-2009.

### *Church Involvement*

- **Member, Family Church – Gardens** (A NAMB church plant of Family Church / First Baptist Church, West Palm Beach), since 2014.
- **Supply Preacher:** churches in FL, LA, MS, TN, TX, & VA.
- **Interim Minister to College Students, West Jackson (TN) Baptist Church** (2003-2004).



- **Deacon:** ordained 1995.
- **Led mission trip to Ukraine,** 2010.
- Taught Sunday school, worked in community missions, coached sports teams, and served on committees at churches where we held membership. Complete listing available upon request.

### ***Personal***

- ***Married to Lisa Williams Fant since 1989***, teaches AP and 10<sup>th</sup> grade English at Jupiter Christian High School (B.S.Ed. from Carson-Newman College, M.A. from Univ. of Southern Mississippi). Son of the Rev. Gene C. Fant, Sr., retired pastor and evangelist and Mona Faith, syndicated radio show host and singer / songwriter (native of Smackover, Arkansas). Grandson of the Rev. Thomas Edison Fant, retired pastor and evangelist. Brother is Stephen Lee Fant (named for R. G. Lee), who is the Director of Health and Safety for the U.S. Army, based at Ft. Sam Houston TX (served in Afghanistan 2013-2014).
- ***Twin children Ethan and Emily*** are 17-year-old seniors at Jupiter Community High School. Ethan is a varsity tennis player and Emily is an advanced ballet dancer; both are honors students and very active in our church.
- ***Hobbies:*** reading, hiking, pop culture, and sports.

***Personal, Professional, and Theological References available upon request.***