

## **Kurt Ritter Vita**

### **Education**

Ph.D. Indiana University, 1974

M.A. Indiana University, 1966

B.A. Claremont McKenna College (Claremont Colleges, CA), 1965

### **Professional Experience**

Texas A&M University at College Station, 1982 - Present

University of Missouri at Columbia, 1979-1982

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1973-1979

U.S. Air Force, 1967-1971

### **Research Interests**

Political Rhetoric, Presidential Campaign Communication, and American Civil Religion.

### **Books**

Kurt Ritter & Martin J. Medhurst, eds. *Presidential Speechwriting: From the New Deal to the Reagan Revolution and Beyond*. Texas A&M University Press, 2003. Paperback printed in 2004.

Kurt Ritter & David Henry. *Ronald Reagan: The Great Communicator*. Greenwood Press, 1992.

Kurt Ritter & James R. Andrews. *The American Ideology: Reflections of the Revolution in American Rhetoric*. National Communication Association, 1978.

### **Other Selected Publications**

“Election 2004 Concession and Victory Speeches: The Influence of Genre, Context, and Speaker on Addresses by Presidential and Vice Presidential Candidates.” *American Behavioral Scientist* 49 (2005):488-509 (with Jennifer Willyard).

“Ending the 2000 Presidential Election: Gore’s Concession Speech and Bush’s Victory Speech.” *American Behavioral Scientist* 44 (2001): 2314-2330 (with B. Wayne Howell).

“Robert Gray Gunderson: Historian as Civic Rhetorician” in Andrew King and Jim A. Kuypers, eds. *Twentieth-Century Roots of Rhetorical Studies* (pp. 175-209). Westport, CT: Praeger Publishers, 2001.

“Lyndon B. Johnson’s Voting Rights Address of March 15, 1965: Civil Rights Rhetoric in the Jeremiad Tradition,” in Lloyd E. Rohler and Roger Cook, eds. *Great Speeches for Criticism and Analysis*, 4th edition (pp. 198-219). Greenwood, IN: Alistair Press, 2001 (with William Forrest Harlow).

“Ronald Reagan’s 1960s Southern Rhetoric: Courting Conservatives for the GOP.” *Southern Communication Journal*, 64 (1999): 333-345.

“Gingrich Versus Gephardt: A Generic Analysis of the First Rhetorical Battle in the New Republican Congress,” in Lloyd E. Rohler and Roger Cook, eds. *Great Speeches for Criticism and Analysis*, 3rd edition (pp. 340-349). Greenwood, IN: Alistair Press, 1998, (with John Tindell).

“John Robert Lewis: Minister, Civil Rights Activist, U.S. Representative,” in Richard W. Leeman, ed. *African American Orators: A Bio-Critical Sourcebook* (pp. 226-238). Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1996 (with Garth Pauley).

“Inaugurating the Clinton Presidency: Regenerative Rhetoric and the American Community,” in Robert E. Denton, Jr. and Rachel L. Holloway, eds. *The Clinton Presidency: Images, Issues, and Communication Strategies* (pp. 1-16). New York: Praeger, 1996 (with David Procter).

“Lyndon B. Johnson’s Crisis Rhetoric after the Assassination of John F. Kennedy: Securing Legitimacy and Leadership,” in Amos Kiewe, ed. *The Modern Presidency and Crisis Rhetoric* (pp. 73-89). New York: Praeger, 1994.

“Reagan’s 1964 TV Speech for Goldwater: Millennial Themes in American Political Rhetoric,” in Martin J. Medhurst and Thomas W. Benson, eds. *Rhetorical Dimensions in Media: A Critical Casebook*, 2nd edition (pp. 58-72). Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt, 1991.

“Whither the Evil Empire? Reagan and the Presidential Candidates Debating Foreign Policy in the 1988 Campaign.” *American Behavioral Scientist* 32 (1989): 436-450 (with Robert Ivie).

“Drama and Legal Rhetoric: The Perjury Trials of Alger Hiss.” *Western Journal of Communication* 49 (1985): 83-102.

“American Political Rhetoric and the Jeremiad Tradition: Presidential Nomination Acceptance Addresses, 1960-1976.” *Central States Speech Journal* 31 (1980): 153-171.

### **Selected Honors**

Phi Kappa Phi (honor society), 2005.

Distinguished Achievement Award in Teaching (university-wide award, Association of Former Students of Texas A&M University), 2004.

Outstanding Scholar in Rhetoric (Texas Speech Communication Association), 2004.

Wells Fargo Honors Advisor Award (Honors Student Council, Texas A&M University), 2004.

Fish Camp Namesake (student-generated recognition at Texas A&M University), 2001.

Big 12 Faculty Fellowship (faculty exchange with University of Kansas), 1999.

Faculty Development Leave (sabbatical leave to support research on presidential rhetoric), 1996-1997.

Teacher/Scholar Award (University Honors Program, Texas A&M University), 1994.

AMOCO Foundation Award for Distinguished Teaching, 1993 .

National Endowment for the Humanities Grant (grant to support research at the Hoover Institution for War, Revolution and Peace, Stanford University), 1991.

Faculty Research Leave (College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University; leave for a research project on the political oratory of Ronald Reagan), 1990.

Aubrey Fisher Research Award (Western States Communication Association for the best article published in 1985 in the *Western Journal of Communication*), 1986.

Karl R. Wallace Award (grant for research at presidential libraries on political rhetoric), 1979.

Winans-Wichelns Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Rhetoric and Public Address [with James R. Andrews] (book award for *The American Ideology: Reflections of the Revolution in American Rhetoric*), 1978.