

# CHRISTOPHER S. O'BRIEN

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Chris O'Brien is president of the faculty and chairs Faculty Senate. He has also been involved in campus leadership on issues as diverse as budgeting, enrollment management, academic strategy, judicial policy, information technology resources, university accreditation, and community college outreach. Previously the Coordinator of the History Department, he helped overhaul the curriculum, revise the capstone project, grow the number of majors and minors by approximately 15%, and launched a newsletter that helped students secure more than \$30,000 in research funding, along with internships and volunteer opportunities throughout the state and region. He serves on UMF's honors council, on the Franklin County Democratic Committee, and, by gubernatorial appointment, on the Maine Historical Records Advisory Board. He has been awarded research fellowships from Oregon State and Bowling Green State universities, and holds a Management Development certificate from Harvard.

## EDUCATION:

Harvard, Management Development Program, 2011

University of Kansas, United States History, Ph.D. September 2002.

University of Iowa, United States History, M.A. 1988.

University of Iowa, History and Political Science, B.A. 1987.

## TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Sept. 2011-present	<b>Associate Professor</b> , University of Maine, Farmington.
August 2007-Sept. 2011	<b>Assistant Professor</b> , University of Maine, Farmington. <b>Department Coordinator</b> , History.
.August 2005-August 2007	<b>Visiting Lecturer</b> , University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.
September 2001- May 2005	<b>Adjunct Assistant Professor</b> , Fairleigh Dickinson University, Florham-Madison Campus, Madison NJ.
July 2002-May 2005	<b>Acquisitions Editor</b> , The Lawbook Exchange, Clark, NJ.
January 2000- August 2001	<b>Assistant to the Executive Director</b> , Economic History Association, Lawrence, KS.
July 2000, July 2001	<b>Visiting Lecturer</b> , Rockhurst University, Kansas City, MO.

January 2000- August 2001	<b>Adjunct Associate Professor</b> , Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, KS.
January 2001-May 2001	<b>Visiting Lecturer</b> , Friends University, Topeka KS.
January 1999- May 2001	<b>Visiting Lecturer</b> , University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.
August 1994- December 1999	<b>Adjunct Instructor</b> , Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, KS.
August 1997- May 1998	<b>Graduate Teaching Assistant</b> , University of Kansas, Lawrence KS.
August 1993- May 1997	<b>Assistant Instructor of History</b> , University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.
January 1992- January 1994	<b>Executive Director</b> , Graduate and Professional Association, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.
April 1991- August 1991	<b>Research Assistant</b> , "Roger Williams and the Pursuit of Religious Freedom" Robert E. Shepherd, Jr., University of Richmond, Richmond, VA.
October 1989- June 1990	<b>Teacher</b> , South Texas Independent School District, High School for the Health Professions, Mercedes TX.
December 1986-April 1987	<b>Research Assistant</b> , The Heartland Poll, Arthur Miller, Director, Iowa Social Sciences Institute, Iowa City.

**SERVICE:**

January 2013-present	Chair, UMF Taking Stock Task Force on Governance
July 2011-present	President of Faculty and Chair, Faculty Senate
July 2011-present	Academic Leadership Council.
July 2011-present	President's Budget Advisory Committee, ex officio
July 2011-present	College Leadership Council.
May 2011-present	Co-Chair, Advisory Committee for Information Technology Services
February 2011-present	Enrollment Management Committee member.
January 2011-present	VPMM Community College Outreach project member.
December 2010-present	NEASC Accreditation Committee member, UMF. Standards 1 (Mission and Purpose), 2 (Planning and Evaluation), and 3 (Organization and Governance).
December 2010-present	Search Committee Member, Elementary Social Studies Education.
September 2010-Jan 2001	Co-Chair, Sociology Search. Search suspended.
September 2009-May 2010	Faculty Senate member. Vice President, 2010-2011.

September 2009-present	Student Behavior Review Committee, member.
September 2009-present	Ad-hoc groups on UMF Marketing Strategy.
May 2009-May 2010	Divisional and Provost's Committees on the S-Designation
September 2009-April 2010	Search Committee member, Vice President of Enrollment Management and Marketing.
September 2009-May 2010	Co-Chair, Europe, Africa and Global History Search Committee.
September 2008, September 2009	Convocation Discussion Group Leader
September 2009-May 2010	Ad-hoc Committee on Creating a Film Studies Minor.
September 2008-September 2009	Academic Standards Committee.
May 2008-May 2009	Summer Webpage Group.
January 2008-May 2008	Co-chair, One year leave replacement hiring committee.
October 2008-present	Editor, History News Notes, departmental newsletter.
September 2007-September 2008	Admissions and Marketing Task Force.
December 2008-present	Coordinator, History Department.
December 1993- December 1997	University Judiciary Committee.
April 1994- Nov. 1994	Ombudsman Review Committee.
August 1997-May 1999; August 1993- May 1994	US Standing Field Committee, Department of History.
January 1992- January 1994	University Academic and Administrative Committee.
April- August 1992	Academic Program Review, University Committee; Non-Instructional Program Review, University Committee.
February 1993- January 1994	University Council Planning and Resources Committee,.
January 1992- May 1996	Governance Advisory Committees Graduate Tuition and Fees Committee, 1996. Job Search Committees: Executive Vice Chancellor, 1992 Vice Chancellor of Research, Graduate Studies and Public Service, 1992.
January 1992- January 1994	Graduate Senate Executive Committee, 1992-1994 Budget Committee, 1992, 1993.

1992, 1993 Graduate Teaching Assistant Orientation  
Chair of Planning Committee; Opening Speaker

**HONORS AND AWARDS:**

Summer 2011 Resident Scholar, Oregon State University, Special Collections Library.

2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 University of Maine, Farmington, Faculty Development Fund Recipient.

Spring 2009 Runner-up, Faculty Member of the Year, One to Five Years Service, Campus Residence Council, UMF.

June-July 1996 Visiting Fellow, Bowling Green Center for Popular Culture Studies, Bowling Green, OH.

1995-1996 Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award, nominee.

Summer 1995 University of Kansas, Departmental Travel Grant.

May 1995 Phi Alpha Theta History Honors Society.

May 1995 University Paper Presenter Fund Recipient.

**PUBLICATIONS AND PAPERS:**

"Baby Boomers and the Family," in Rusty L. Monhollon, ed. *The Baby Boom*, Santa Barbara: ABC-Clio Press, (2010). Sidebar entries on Jon Provost and Dr. Benjamin Spock.

"The Children's Crusade, 1945-1961" paper presented at Atomic Culture/American Popular Culture Conference, Albuquerque, NM, February 2010.

"'Mommy, am I going to die?' America's Children and the Cuban Missile Crisis," in James Marten, ed., *Children and War*, New York University Press, 2002.

Review of Gregory Mitrovich, *Undermining the Kremlin: America's Strategy to Subvert the Soviet Bloc, 1947-1956*, *Journal of Conflict Studies*, 21:2 (Winter 2001) 164-166.

"It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's a... Bomb? Crime, Commies, and Comic Books, 1945-1960," *MidAtlantic Almanack*, 7 (1998), 89-100.

"The MAD Bomb: Comic Books, Criminal Youth, and the Cold War" paper presented at the Mid-America History Conference, September 1997.

"In the Hall of Twisted Mirrors: Theoretical Studies in the Psychology of Nuclear Consciousness, 1945-1963," in *Papers from the History Conference on "The End of the Second World War and its Aftermath"*, Los Alamos, NM, August 13-16, 1995. Available from the Los Alamos Historical Society.

"Bottling the Genie: The Bomb in Children's Scientific Literature, 1945-1963," paper presented at "The

Atomic Age Opens" Conference, Bowling Green, OH, July 13-15, 1995.

**PANELS, DISCUSSIONS, INVITED LECTURES**

"'Worlds Destroyed before Your Eyes': American Children and the Threat of the Atom," Oregon State University, July 27, 2011.

Faculty Forum: "A Survey for General Education Students: Pilot Program Results." With Peter Hardy, Mathematics and Dawn Nye, Art. February 16, 2011, UMF Faculty Forum Series.

"And the Wall Came Tumbling Down... 9 November 1989, Twenty Years On." Panel discussion by Daniel Becker (History), Chris O'Brien (History), Sabine Klein (English) and Scott Erb (Political Science), November 2009.

"Assessing the Presidential Candidates" UMF History and Political Science Clubs, faculty panel with Jim Melcher, Chris O'Brien, et. al., Oct. 2008.

"The Cold War Classroom in Hiawatha," invited speaker, Hiawatha KS Kiwanis, April 2004.

**ADDITIONAL CONFERENCES ATTENDED:**

Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges, [substituting for UMF Provost] (2010); American Association of Colleges and Universities, (2009); "New Scholarship in American Foreign Relations," (2009); "The International Cold War" (2007); Organization of American Historians, (1992-1997, 1999, 200-2002, 2004); American Historical Association, (1994-2002, 2004-2007, 2009-2010).

**CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS:**

*Children of the Mushroom Cloud: Bombs, Kids, and the Cold War in America, 1945-1963*, monograph currently being revised for publication.

*Between the Quick and Dead: The Cold War, an Introductory Survey*, initial research and drafting begun.

"Now That We Have Seen Each Other: Religious Expression in Modern America," documentary film on religious expression in modern America

**MENTORING WORK ON STUDENT PROJECTS:**

Directed 14 Senior Theses, 2010-2011.

Faculty Sponsor for 5 Wilson Scholars, 1 Wilson Fellow, and 1 Honors thesis, 2010-2011.

Directed 6 Senior Theses, 2009-2010.

Faculty Sponsor for 5 Wilson Scholars, 1 Wilson Fellow, and 1 Honors thesis, 2009-2010

Directed 5 Senior Theses, 2008-2009.

Faculty Sponsor for 2 Wilson Scholars and 1 Wilson Fellow, 2008-2009.

Directed 5 Senior Theses, 2007-2008.

**COURSES TAUGHT:**

- American Cultural History: 1877-present.
- America in Art, History and Literature.
- American Foreign Relations, 1898-Present.
- American History II: Reform and Reaction, 1945-Present.
- American History, American Film.
- Cold War America.
- CORE D: The American Experience.
- Historical Methods.
- History of the United States from 1865 to the Present.
- History of the United States to 1865.
- Introduction to Children's Literature.
- Senior Seminar: Thesis
- Social and Intellectual History: Death and Dying in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.
- The American Presidency.
- The Emergence of Modern America
- The Great Depression and New Deal.
- The Turbulent 1960s
- The United States, 1945-Present
- Undeclared Wars: The US in the World, 1898-present
- Western Civilizations, From the Ancient World to 1789.
- World History, 1776 to the Present.
- Children and Childhood in America.
- History vs. Hollywood: Cold War Films
- History vs. Hollywood: WWII Films
- "Truthiness" in American History: Honors Course