

Christian M. M. Brady, DPhil (Oxon.)

16th President, Wittenberg University

Professor of Ancient Hebrew and Jewish Literature

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Education

University of Oxford, Faculty of Oriental Studies, Oxford, UK March 2000

Doctor of Philosophy: Oriental Studies, Rabbinic Literature

Wheaton College Graduate School, Wheaton, Illinois August 1994

Master of Arts: Biblical and Theological Studies

University of Oxford, Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies July 1994

Graduate Diploma in Jewish Studies: (now a Master of Studies)

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York January 1992

Artium Baccalaureus: Majors: Near Eastern Studies and History; Minor: Religious Studies

Administrative Experience

The 16th President of Wittenberg University 2025-present

- [Announcement Livestream](#)
- [Presidential Remarks](#)
- [Announcement Photo Gallery](#)

The TW Lewis Dean, Lewis Honors College — University of Kentucky 2017-2025

- Developed and built a brand-new Honors College upon the foundation of the University Honors Program.
- Lead all aspects of the College including faculty and student recruitment, philanthropic efforts, and strategic planning.
- Supervise and manage a budget of \$4.5M.
- Recruited and hired a faculty and staff of 32 full-time employees including 12 Lewis Lecturers, 5 academic advisors, and 5 personal counselors.
- Developed and integrated into the university curriculum and that of other academic colleges the 30-credit Honors College curriculum which culminates in an Honors Thesis.
- Developed strong communications and recruitment programs to increase awareness of the Lewis Honors College and yield a diverse and academically talented student body equaling 10% of the incoming first-year class, resulting in over 2,400 Honors students at UK.
- Leading a capital campaign with a goal of \$50 million; currently at \$48 million.

Interim Dean, College of Arts & Sciences — The University of Kentucky 2020-2022

- Appointed to manage the college through transition to the next dean. This required rebuilding trust in leadership and managing a \$7.5M budget shortfall through open dialogue and transparent decision-making.
- Supervise and manage a budget of \$81M.
- A college of 440 Faculty, 19 Departments, 29 Majors, 37 Minors, 980 graduate students and post-doctoral scholars, 6,400 undergraduate students, A&S is central to undergraduate and graduate education at UK, teaching 85% of general education credit hours and almost half of all undergraduate credit hours, and producing the most doctoral degrees at UK.

Dean, Schreyer Honors College — Penn State University 2006-2016

- Supervised a staff of 27 full-time employees, including an Associate Dean of Academic Affairs (selected from tenured faculty in the University), admissions, academic affairs, student affairs, information technology, and development operations.
- Nearly 300 Honors Faculty representing all disciplines and colleges at Penn State. Their “tenure homes” were in their respective departments, but also had Honors commitments in terms of teaching, advising, and leadership.
- Over 2,100 students across all disciplines and colleges.
- Managed a budget of \$8.5M, including a \$2.2 million operation budget and \$6.3 million in scholarships and grants.
- Led a capital campaign that resulted in nearly \$80 million for enhancing honors education at Penn State.
- Transformed strategic communication and admissions resulting in increased brand awareness, a tripling of applications, and an increase in selectivity and yield (from 52% offer rate to 18%). The Schreyer Honors College has been ranked as a model and one of the premier honors colleges in the nation.
- Developed and implemented the Presidential Leadership Academy, a unique three-year program focused upon developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Made accessibility and engagement with students a priority through programs such as “Donuts with the Dean” and a three-day orientation program.

Director of the Honors Program — Tulane University 2004-2006

Associate Director of the Honors Program — Tulane University 2003-2004

Director of Jewish Studies — Tulane University 1998-2003

Associate Director of Jewish Studies — Tulane University 1997-1998

Teaching Experience

Modern & Classical Languages, Literatures & Cultures, Jewish Studies

Professor 2017-Present

Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies, Jewish Studies, Penn State University

Associate Professor 2006-2017

Classical Studies Department and Jewish Studies Program, Tulane University

Assistant Professor 1997-2003; Associate Professor 2003-2006

Oriental Institute, Oxford. Targumic Aramaic and Midrashic Literature Tutor 1995-96

Wheaton College Graduate School

Teaching Assistant 1992-93

Professional Memberships and Service

Member

- Society of Biblical Literature
- International Organization for Targumic Study
- Anglican Association of Biblical Scholars
- National Collegiate Honors Council
- Council on Honors Education

Committee/Board Membership

- Vice President, International Organization for Targumic Studies 2024-present
- Editorial Board, *The Buechner Review* 2024-present
- Council for the Society of Biblical Literature 2019-2024
- Society of Biblical Literature Finance Committee 2017-2022
- Board of Trustees, University of the South (“Sewanee”) 2021-2024
- Editor, *Newsletter for Targumic and Cognate Studies* 2012-2024
- Aramaic Studies Section, Society of Biblical Literature. 2002-14
- Blogger and Online Publication, Society of Biblical Literature. 2012-2015
- Board of Trustees, University of the South (“Sewanee”) 2003-05

Chair

- Aramaic Studies Section, Society of Biblical Literature. 2005-11
- Scholarship & Technology Advisory Board, SBL 2011-16

University Service

University of Kentucky

- Member, University Press of Kentucky, Press Committee 2019-2021
- Member, Provost Council 2017-present
- Member, University Senate 2017 (alternating years)-present
- Member, Our Path Forward Initiative – First Time Freshman 2018-present

Penn State University

- Member, Council of Academic Deans 2006-16
- Member, Academic Leadership Council 2006-16
- Member, Faculty Senate Committee for Undergraduate Education 2006-16
- Member, Freeh Implementation Committee 2013-14
- Member, Faculty Rights and Responsibility Committee 2007-09, 2015-16

- Member, University Ethics Committee 2014-16
- Member, Advisory Committee for Continued Excellence 2012-16
- Member, Commission for Adult Learners 2015-16
- Member, selection committee for finalists, University Fellowship Office 2006-16
- Member, University Brand Steering Committee 2013
- Member, University Ethics Committee 2014-16
- Member, University Strategic Planning Task Force 2014-2015
- Member, University Campaign Case Statement Committee 2015-16
- Faculty Senator by Presidential Appointment 2011-16
- Academic Advisor, Innoblue Entrepreneurship Club 2011-2016
- Academic Advisor, Intervarsity Christian Fellowship 2012-2017
- Academic Advisor, Empower Orphans 2015-2017
- Chair of search, assistant vice president and associate dean for Undergraduate Education 2007
- Chair of search, dean, College of Information Sciences and Technology 2009
- Chair, Penn State Forum 2011-12
- Chair, Penn State United Way Campaign 2011-12
- Chair, Faculty Implementation Committee for Penn State's Global Engagement Network partnership with Freiburg University, Germany 2011-15

Honors Community Service

In 2013 I co-founded the “Honors Education at Research Universities” (HERU) bi-annual international conference to “share best practices and build collaborations that will strengthen the case, and the place, for honors education at research universities.”

- Member, review of the Miami University (OH) Honors Program 2007
- Chair, review of the Macaulay Honors College, CUNY 2008
- Member, review of the Purdue University Honors Program 2009
- Chair, review of the Hunter College CUNY Honors Program 2012
- Chair, review of the University of Minnesota Honors Program 2013
- Chair, review of the IUPUI Honors Program 2015
- Chair, review of the University of Maryland Honors College 2015
- Chair, review of Tulane University Honors Program 2017
- Member, review of The University of Arizona Honors College 2020
- Member, editorial board, peer-reviewed *Honors in Higher Education*. 2017-2022

Publications (in order of publication)

Books

- 1) *The Rabbinic Targum of Lamentations: Vindicating God*, Studies in the Aramaic Interpretation of Scripture, vol. 3, (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2003).
- 2) *The Proselyte and the Prophet: Character Development in Targum Ruth* in Supplements to Aramaic Studies, (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2017).
- 3) *Beautiful and Terrible Things: A Biblical Theology of Suffering and Grace*, (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2020).

Articles and Book Chapters

- 1) “The Date, Provenance, and *Sitz im Leben* of Targum Lamentations,” in *The Journal of the Aramaic Bible* 1, (1999), 5-29; (6,481 words).

The following entries in *The Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*, ed. David N. Freedman, (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000):

- 2) “Adino,” p. 20; (59 words).
- 3) “Chezib,” p. 234; (57 words).
- 4) “Dial of Ahaz,” p. 344; (91 words).
- 5) “Jashubi-Lehem,” p. 674; (54 words).
- 6) “Kiriathaim,” p. 744; (149 words).
- 7) “Lilith,” p. 810; (180 words).
- 8) “Maonites,” p. 855; (95 words).
- 9) “Pahath-Moab,” p. 997; (111 words).
- 10) “Rod,” p. 1134; (232 words).
- 11) “Sun,” p. 1257 (373 words).
- 12) “Zuzim,” p. 1425; (91 words).
- 13) “The Role of the *midat dinah* in the Targumim,” in *Studies in Scripture in Early Judaism and Christianity, The Interpretation of Scripture in Early Judaism and Christianity*, vol. 7, ed. Craig A. Evans, (Sheffield: Sheffield Press, 2000), pp. 364-74; (2,949 words).
- 14) “Vindicating God,” in *The Journal of the Aramaic Bible* 3.1/2 (2001), pp. 27-40; (5,845 words).

- 15) “Targum Lamentations 1.1-4: A Theological Prologue,” in *Targum and Scripture: Studies in Aramaic Translation and Interpretation in Memory of Ernest G. Clarke*. In *Studies in the Aramaic Interpretation of Scripture*, vol. 2, (Leiden: Brill, 2002), pp. 175-83; (4,039 words).

The following entries in *The Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of Scripture*. Eds., Kevin J. Vanhoozer, Craig G. Bartholomew, Daniel J. Treier, and N. T. Wright, (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic Press, 2005):

- 16) “Lamentations,” pp. 426-28; (1,500 words).

- 17) “Targum,” pp. 780-81; (694 words).

The following entries in *The Brill Encyclopaedia of Early Religious and Philosophical Writings*, eds., Jacob Neusner and Alan J. Avery-Peck, (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2007):

- 18) “Targum Canticles” (249 words)

- 19) “Targum Ruth” (249 words)

- 20) “Targum Lamentations” (243 words)

- 21) “Targum Kohelet” (248 words)

- 22) “Targum Esther” (252 words)

- 23) “Targum Psalms” (258 words)

- 24) “Targum Job” (254 words)

- 25) “Targum Proverbs” (252 words)

- 26) “Targumim to the Ketuvim” (512 words)

- 27) “Targum Chronicles” (243 words)

- 28) “The Use of Eschatological Lists in the Targumim to the Megillot,” *Journal For The Study Of Judaism*, 40 (2009), pp. 493-509; (7,406 words).

- 29) “Targum *Lamentations*” in *Great Is Thy Faithfulness?: Reading Lamentations As Sacred Scripture*. Ed., Parry, Robin A, and Heath Thomas. Eugene, Or.: Pickwick Publications, (2011), pp. 70-77; (3,276 words).

- 30) “Appendix 2: A Translation of Targum Lamentations” in *Great Is Thy Faithfulness?: Reading Lamentations As Sacred Scripture*. Ed., Parry, Robin A, and Heath Thomas. Eugene, Or.: Pickwick Publications, (2011), pp. 228-47; (6,313 words).

- 31) “‘God Is Not in This Classroom’ or Teaching the Bible in a Secular Context.” In *Teaching the Bible in the Liberal Arts Classroom*. Ed. Holland, Glenn S. and Jane S. Webster. Sheffield, UK: Sheffield Phoenix Press, (2012), pp. 73-79; (3,369 words).

- 32) "The Conversion of Ruth in Targum Ruth." In *Review of Rabbinic Judaism*, Vol. 16, No. 2 (2013), pp. 133-46; (6,481 words).
 - 33) "Exegetical Similarities and the Liturgical Use of the Targumim of the Megilloth," in *Aramaic Studies* Vol. 12 (2014), pp. 1-13; (4,413 words).
 - 34) "What Shall We Remember, The Deeds or The Faith of Our Ancestors? A Comparison of 1 Maccabees 2 and Hebrews 11." In *Earliest Christianity within the Boundaries of Judaism. Essays in Honor of Bruce Chilton*. Ed., Neusner, Jack and Craig Evans. Leiden: Brill, (2016), pp. 107-19; (5,341 words).
 - 35) "The Five Scrolls." In *The Textual History of the Bible*. Ed., Lange, Armin, and Emanuel Tov. Leiden: Brill, (2016), pp. 402-9; (4,881 words).
 - 36) "Jesus in the Talmud." In *The Reception of Jesus in the First Three Centuries*. Ed., Keith, Chris, Helen K. Bond, and Jens Schröter. New York: Bloomsbury, (2020), pp. 89-101; (5,754 words).
 - 37) "Months Names in the Bible." In *Linguistic and Philological Studies of the Hebrew Bible and its Manuscripts, Studia Semitica Neerlandica, Volume 75*. Ed., Beiler, Vincent, and Aaron D. Rubin. Leiden: Brill, (2023), pp. 156-66 (3,841 words).
 - 38) "The Relationship Between Lamentations 1.15, Isaiah 63.3, Joel 3.13, and Their Targumim." In *Mallephana Rabba: Aramaic Studies in Honor of Edward M. Cook*. Ed., Litke, Andrew W. New Jersey: Gorgias Press, (2023), pp. 225-35; (3,102 words).
- The following entries in *Ancient Literature for New Testament Studies, Volume 7: Targums and Rabbinic Literature*. Ed., Chilton, Bruce and Alan J. Avery-Peck. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, (2024).
- 39) "Targum Ruth" (3,377 words)
 - 40) "Targum Lamentations" (3,908 words)
 - 41) "Targum Esther" (4,012 words)
 - 42) "Buechner, Memory, and History." In *The Buechner Review* (December 2023); (3,070 words).

Papers Read

- 1) "Targum Lamentations 1.1-4: A Theological Prologue." XVth Conference of the International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament, 14 July 1995, Cambridge University.
- 2) "The Exegetical Intent of Targum Lamentations." The 1995 Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, 19 November 1995, Philadelphia.
- 3) "Synagogue or *Beit haSefer*? The Origin and Use of Targum Lamentations." The Royal Irish Academy International Conference, 18 March 1997, Dublin.

- 4) "The Role of the *midat dinah* in the Targumim." The 1998 Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, 14 November 1998, Orlando.
- 5) "The use of 'Dramatic Heightening' as a Translation Technique in the Targumim." The 2000 Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, 19 November 2000, Nashville.
- 6) "Translational Technique in Targum Lamentations." The Third International Organization for Targumic Studies Meeting, 2-3 August 2001, Basel, Switzerland.
- 7) "The Theology of Targum Lamentations." The 2002 Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, 24 November 2002, Toronto.
- 8) "'God is not in this classroom' or Reading the Bible in a Secular School." The 2006 Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, 18 November 2006, Washington, D.C.
- 9) "The Use of 'Eschatological Lists' within the Targumim to the Megillot." The Vth Congress of the International Organization for Targumic Studies, 12-13 July 2007, Ljubljana, Slovenia.
- 10) "The Rabbinic Reception of Lamentations." The Annual Meeting of the Catholic Biblical Association, 4 August 2008, Fordham University.
- 11) "Proselytization in Targum Ruth." The 2008 Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, 24 November 2008 Boston, MA.
- 12) "Recovery and Restoration Through Scripture." The 2009 Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, 23 November 2009, New Orleans, LA.
- 13) "Boaz: Centrally Marginalized." The 2010 Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, 12 March 2010, New Brunswick, NJ.
- 14) "The Figure of Boaz in Targum Ruth." The VIth Congress of the International Organization for Targumic Studies, 4-6 August 2010, Helsinki, Finland.
- 15) "The Character of Ruth in her Targum." The 2012 International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, 22-26 July 2012, Amsterdam.
- 16) "On Exegetical Similarities Between the Targumim of the Megilloth." The VIIth Congress of the International Organization for Targumic Studies, 3-9 August 2013, Munich.
- 17) "The Liturgical Use of the Megilloth in Early Judaism and Its Effect on the Targumim." The 2013 Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. 23 November 2013, Baltimore, MD.
- 18) "What Shall We Remember, The Deeds or The Faith of Our Ancestors? A Comparison of 1 Maccabees 2 and Hebrews 11." The 2014 International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, 6-10 July 2014, Vienna, Austria.

- 19) “The Life of a Blog from Cradle to Maturity(?)” The 2015 Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. 22 November 2015, Atlanta, GA.
- 20) “The LORD has trodden as in a wine press” A note regarding TgLam 1:15 and Isa. 63:3.” The 2018 meeting of the International Organization for Targumic Studies, 9-12 July 2018, London.
- 21) “The Relationship Between Lamentations 1:15, Isaiah 63:3, Joel 3:13 and Their Targumim.” The 2018 Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. 17-21 November 2018, Denver, Colorado.
- 22) “Why Mahlon and Chilion Died, According to the Targum.” The 2019 Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. 24 November 2019, San Diego, CA.
- 23) “‘When the King Messiah Comes,’ Messianism in the Targumim to Genesis.” The 2024 International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. 30 July 2024, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
- 24) “The Messiah(s) in the Targumim of the Megilloth.” The Targums: The Light on the Biblical Traditions, 20-21 May 2025, Uniwersytet Kardynala Stefana Wyszynskiego W Warszawie.

Reviews

- Review of *Targumic and Cognate Studies*, eds. K. J. Cathcart and M. Maher, in *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*, July, 1998.
- Review of *The Pesharim and Qumran History: Chaos or Consensus?*, James H. Charlesworth, in *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 67/4 (2005) 678-679.

Doctoral Committees

- Member, doctoral committee, Andrew Litke, Ancient Near Eastern Languages and Literatures, Catholic University of America “Targum Song of Songs: Language and Lexicon.” 2014-16
- Member, doctoral committee, Robert Reimer, Psychology, Penn State University, “It’s just good leadership: Rethinking adaptive leadership.” 2015-16
- Member, doctoral committee, Keith Parkinson, Philosophy, University of Kentucky, “On the Principles and Ends of Education.” 2022-2024

Fellowships, Honors, and Awards

- CORE Summer Research Grant, Tulane University 1999
- Mortar Board Award for Outstanding Teaching 1999-2000, 2004-05
- LAS Representative to the School of Criticism and Theory, Cornell University 2003
- Distinguished Member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars 2005-present

- Golden Key Honorary Member 2010-present
- \$200,000 “Schreyer Honors College Scholarship in Honor of Dean Christian Brady’s 10th Anniversary as Dean” est. 2016