

# **Eric Lorentzen**

**Professor of English at University of Mary Washington**

Fredericksburg, VA, US

Dr. Lorentzen is an expert on Charles Dickens and 19th-century British literature.

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## **Biography**

Few scholars know Charles Dickens better than Associate Professor of English Eric G. Lorentzen. In teaching 19th-century British literature, he maintains that Dickens' works still have a powerful lesson today. "In 'Great Expectations,' Dickens questions the construction of gender identity, forcing us toward a revision of how we define masculinity, and what it takes to be a gentleman in a society that perpetuates male violence, possessiveness, and control as its distinguishing features," Dr. Lorentzen wrote in an op-ed in tribute to Dickens' 200th birthday. "In the same novel, and elsewhere in 'Oliver Twist' and 'Bleak House,' he cogently explores the pathology of domestic abuse, and the societal forces that enable violence against women." Dr. Lorentzen has published articles in numerous professional journals, including Dickens Studies Annual, The Review of Education, Pedagogy and Cultural Studies, Victorian Newsletter, and The Virginia Woolf Miscellany. He has presented scholarly papers at more than two dozen national and international conferences. His current research explores the rise of mass literacy in 19th century England and the ways in which pedagogical institutions often marginalized, rather than empowered, at-risk readers such as women, the working classes, and colonial subjects.

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## **Industry Expertise**

Education/Learning, Print Media, Research, Writing and Editing

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## **Areas of Expertise**

English Literature, Literacy and Education, Victorian Literature, British Literature Since 1800, University Teaching, Pedagogy, Novel/Fiction (British)

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## **Event Appearances**

**Is Teaching Sherlock Holmes as an Undergraduate Literature Course Too 'Elementary?'**  
Northeastern Modern Language Association

**'The Narrative of the Tombstone': Teaching English 251S ? British Victorian Detective and Sensation Novel**  
Victorians Institute conference

**The Victorian Psychological Novel and Memory: Wordsworthian Echoes, Freudian Anticipations**  
Northeastern Modern Language Association Conference

## **Education**

**Pennsylvania State University**  
Ph.D. English Literature

**Pennsylvania State University**  
M.A. English Literature

**Rowan University**  
B.A. English Literature

**Rowan University**  
B.A. Communications

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## **Accomplishments**

### **Graduate Assistant Teaching Award, English**

Awarded by Pennsylvania State University to recognize graduate student teaching assistants for superior instruction in the areas of physical science and engineering, life sciences, social and behavioral sciences, and the arts and humanities.

### **Harold F. Martin Graduate Assistant Outstanding Teaching Award**

The Harold F. Martin Graduate Assistant Outstanding Teaching Award recognizes graduate assistants for outstanding teaching performance. This award is jointly sponsored by the Pennsylvania State University Graduate School, through the Harold F. Martin Graduate Assistant Outstanding Teaching Award endowment, and the Office of the Vice President and Dean for Undergraduate Education.

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