

William Monroe

Dean, The Honors College

Dr. Monroe has been directly involved in honors administration at the University of Houston for over 20 years. Receiving his Ph.D. with Honors in English Language and Literature from the University of Chicago in 1982, Dr. Monroe came to The Honors College at the University of Houston in 1985 where he served as associate director, associate dean, and executive associate dean before being appointed dean of the Honors College, effective January 20, 2009.

He is currently a professor in the Department of English and the Nancy O'Connor Abendshein Professor in The Honors College. He teaches courses in Contemporary American Fiction and Poetry and the interdisciplinary courses Literature & Medicine and Literature & Alienation. Since 1994, he has directed the Common Ground Teachers Institute, a summer program for secondary school teachers focusing on multicultural literature. He is also the founding director of Medicine & Society Program at Houston, a new program that administers an interdisciplinary minor for students interested in the health professions and the importance of medicine and health care in society

His book, *Power to Hurt: The Virtues of Alienation*, was selected as an Outstanding Academic Book of the Year by *Choice* magazine and nominated for the Phi Beta Kappa Christian Gauss Award. Other publications include his play, *Primary Care*, which deals with end-of-life issues related to Alzheimer's disease; "Old School" (on Wayne C. Booth, his mentor at the University of Chicago); "Is There a Person in This Case?" which appeared in the journal *Literature and Medicine*; and numerous essays, articles, and book reviews on Willa Cather, T.S. Eliot, and Vladimir Nabokov among others. Dr. Monroe currently is working on a manuscript titled *The Vocation of Affliction: Flannery O'Connor and the Myth of Mastery*.

Bill Monroe began his post doctoral work at McMurry College in Abilene, Texas where he served as chair of the English Department and co-chaired a task force which created an honors program at that institution. Having worked so closely to establish The Honors College at the University of Houston as a flagship of its kind, Dr. Monroe now leads an annual workshop for directors of new honors programs or new directors of established programs in conjunction with the National Collegiate of Honors Council annual convention.