

**Lilan Laishley, PhD**  
**P.O. Box 4296**  
**Chattanooga, TN 37405**  
**423-503-5474**     [drililan@laishley.com](mailto:drililan@laishley.com)     [www.laishley.com](http://www.laishley.com)

## Curriculum Vitae

### EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy.

2004, Department of Religious Studies, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA  
Multi-disciplinary study of religion, history, art, anthropology, and sociology. Special emphasis on symbol, ritual, cosmology, and nature religion. Dissertation: "Labyrinths in American Contemporary Culture: Rituals that Engage a Sacred Cosmos.

Master of Science in Counseling

Department of Guidance and Counseling, Hunter College, NY, NY.  
Thesis titled "Symbolic Visualization" on the use of symbols in psychological counseling with a Jungian archetypal perspective.

Bachelor of Arts in Counseling

Marshall University, Department of Counseling, Huntington, WV

### COUNSELING AND CONSULTING EMPLOYMENT

- 2010-2004     Holistic Counselor, Life Coach and Astrological Consultant.
- Holistic approach with orientation to body, mind, spirit, and emotion
  - Strategic planning for life direction, and empowerment
  - Focus on women's wellness and psycho-spiritual health
  - Utilize dream analysis, visualization, past life regression
  - Specialist in symbol and ritual
  - Archetypal and energy approach to astrology
  - Private Practice in Chattanooga, TN
  - Contract therapist for Intuitive Therapy group at Focus Healthcare, treatment center for Eating Disorders
- 1996-2003     Holistic Counselor and Astrological Consultant
- Holistic-health approach with orientation to body, mind, spirit, and emotion
  - Facilitated women's groups in areas of divine feminine and empowerment
  - Private practice at Family Center East, Pittsburgh, PA
- 1995     Mental Health Supervisor
- Managed outpatient mental health facility
  - Supervised hiring and training of psychologists and support staff
  - Developed referral sources with community agencies
  - Allied Behavioral Services, Inc. Charleston, WV

- 1991-1995     Psychotherapist
- Psychotherapist for Inpatient and Outpatient: Individuals, families, and groups
  - Organized wellness community including directory and health fair
  - Privileges at *HCA Riverpark Hospital* (psychiatric) for adolescents and adults
  - Gave impressionable diagnoses from DSM-IV including depression, anxiety, bi-polar, adjustment disorder, chemical dependency, eating disorder, and ADHD
  - Provided continuum of care including intake, inpatient, outpatient, discharge planning, referrals, and follow-up
  - Wrote and implemented treatment plans and gained insurance approval
  - Area Psychiatric and Psychotherapy Group, Huntington, WV
- 1989-1990     Psychotherapist
- Primary Therapist: Individual, family, group therapy for adolescents and families
  - Administered treatment to youth for chemical dependency and dual diagnosis in short term in-patient facility
  - Coordinated case management including treatment and discharge plans
  - Supervised counselor aides
  - Created and implemented educational programs in chemical dependency, co-dependency, family communication, and wilderness experiences
  - Phoenix Adolescent and Recovery Center, Phoenix, Arizona
- 1991             Rio Salado Community College, Phoenix, Arizona
- Instructor “Special Needs of Chemically Dependent Adolescents”
  - Instructor “Applied Techniques in Counseling”
  - Instructor “Advanced Counseling in Chemical Dependency”

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2006-2009     University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Tennessee
- Adjunct Professor of Philosophy and Religion
  - “Western Humanities”
  - Fall 2005, Spring 2006, Fall 2006, Spring 2007, Fall 2007, Spring 2008, Fall 2008, Spring 2009, Fall 2010
- 2005             The Institute for Shipboard Education, Summer 2005
- Instructor on *Semester at Sea*, an international educational program housed at University of Virginia that combines academic courses with travel around the world on a floating university. I prepared two courses related to travel taken to Iceland, Norway, Russia, Poland, Belgium, France, Ireland, and Spain
  - “Varieties of Religious Tradition: Judaism, Christianity, Islam”
  - “Myth, Symbol, and Ritual: Early Viking and Celtic Religion”

- 2004 University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Tennessee  
Consultant for summer program “Journey to Sacred India.” Was one of three faculty accompanying twelve students to South India for six weeks. Facilitated planning, orientation, and course work.
- 1999-2002 Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Instructor “Introduction to Religion”  
Humanities and Social Sciences Fall 2002
- Instructor “Religion and Star Trek: Theory of Religion”  
Humanities and Social Sciences  
Summer 2002, 2001, 2000, 1999
- University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Instructor “Varieties of Early Christianity,”  
Religious Studies Department, Cross-listed with Classics and History  
Summer 2002, Spring 2001, Summer 2001, Spring 2000
- Instructor “Origins of Christianity”  
Religious Studies Department. Cross-listed with Classics and History  
Summer 2001
- Instructor “Myth, Symbol, and Ritual”  
Religious Studies Department, Cross-listed with Anthropology  
Fall 2000
- 1999-2000 University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Instructor “Approaches to the Study of Religion”  
Religious Studies Department  
Summer 2000, Spring 1999
- 1999-2000 Chatham College, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Instructor “Ethics and Women’s Issues”  
Philosophy Department  
Fall 2000, Fall 1999
- 1995-1998 University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Teaching Assistant in Religious Studies Department  
“Philosophy of Religion”  
“Religion in India I”  
“Introduction to Islamic Civilization”  
“Myth, Symbol, and Ritual”  
“Classics of Christian Thought”

## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- 2007        *Astrology as Religion: Theory and Practice*,  
Journal for the Study of Religion and Nature. (Vol 1. Num 2 (June 2007) pp. 172-188.
- 2001        *Harmony Society Labyrinths, Caerdroia*: vol. 32 (August 2001) pp. 8-20.

## ACADEMIC PAPERS PRESENTED

- Intersection of Alchemy, Christianity, and Labyrinths* (Christian Spirituality)  
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta GA- scheduled Nov 2010
- Labyrinths as Images of the Cosmos*  
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Washington DC- Nov 2006  
Poster Session. Poster can be seen at [www.laishley.com](http://www.laishley.com)
- Walking a Planetary Path: Honoring the Celestial Deities*  
The Labyrinth Society 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering: Minneapolis, MN- Oct 2004
- The Harrowing of Hell and other Medieval Labyrinth Rituals-* (History of Christianity)  
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta – November 2003
- Passing Religious Traditions to the Younger Generation* (panel respondent)  
International Society for the Sociology of Religion, Turin, Italy – July 2003
- One God, Many Paths: Religious Diversity on the Labyrinth*  
The Labyrinth Society 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering: Baltimore, MD- November 2003
- Walking the Labyrinth: Reflections on Ritual Action*  
University of Pittsburgh, Department of Religious Studies Colloquia – February 2003
- Walking the Cosmos: Rituals of Participation-* (Ritual Studies)  
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada – November 2002
- Early Roots of American Labyrinths*  
The Labyrinth Society International Symposium, Glastonbury, England – May 2002
- Emerging Ritual: The Labyrinth as an Arena for Change and Innovation*  
American Academy of Religion: Eastern Regional Meeting, Ithaca, NY – April 2001
- Cosmology of the Chartres Labyrinth*  
The Labyrinth Society International Conference, Fayetteville, Arkansas – November 2000
- Mystical 19<sup>th</sup> Century Harmonist Labyrinths*  
The Labyrinth Society International Conference, Denver, Colorado – November 1999

*Labyrinths of the Nineteenth Century Harmony Society*

Religion and Culture Symposium, University of Pittsburgh – March 1998

*Ritual and Biopsychology: The Effect of Walking the Labyrinth on the Brain*

American Academy of Religion: Eastern Regional Meeting, Toronto – March 1998

*The Labyrinth as Ritual Action: Examination of Intent, Ritualization, and Hermeneutic Pluralism*

American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, (Christian Spirituality)

San Francisco, California – November 1997

*The Labyrinth as Transformative Ritual*

Religion and Culture Symposium, University of Pittsburgh – March 1997

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION**

Memberships held in:

- American Academy of Religion
- The Labyrinth Society (former Board of Director)
- CHEO (Chattanooga Health Education Organization)
- National Council for Geocosmic Research
- Association for Astrological Networking
- Organization of Professional Astrologers
- International Society for Astrological Research

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND CERTIFICATIONS**

2009-2011 License as Professional Counselor (LPC)  
West Virginia Board of Examiners in Counseling (issued 1993)

2003-2006 Certification in Research and Practice Fundamentals for Exempt Research  
Institutional Review Board, University of Pittsburgh

2003-2006 Board of Directors: Chair of Research for The Labyrinth Society

2000 Chair, Sacred Space Committee  
United Religions Initiative Global Summit, Pittsburgh, PA  
Coordinated meditation, prayer, and ritual events for a three day international  
conference that involved representatives of over forty faith groups from fifty  
countries.

1998-2000 Board of Directors, The Labyrinth Society

1998 Organizing Committee for the Visit of the Dalai Lama to Pittsburgh, PA  
Part of an inter-faith alliance that engaged in fund raising, promotion,  
and security for six-thousand participants at three city-wide events.

- 1998 Co-Chair, Religion and Culture Symposium at University of Pittsburgh  
A monthly presentation of multi-disciplinary graduate research.
- 1997 Managing Co-Editor  
*Religious Studies Newsletter*, University of Pittsburgh
- 1997 Program Committee for PhD Professional Development Seminar  
Department of Religious Studies, University of Pittsburgh.  
Event directed toward job options and search strategies for graduate students.
- 1996-97 Editorial Assistant  
Journal of Ritual Studies

### **POPULAR PRESS PUBLICATIONS**

- Coaching a Dream*  
Natural Awakenings Magazine, February 2009
- Creative Expression in Everyday Life*  
Natural Awakenings Magazine, September 2008
- Heart for the Holidays: Focus on What Really Matters*  
Natural Awakening Magazine, December 2007
- Astrologically Speaking: Sacred Sites of Astrology*  
New Life Health and Wellness, September/October 2005
- Astrologically Speaking: The Water Element*  
New Life Health and Wellness, July/August 2005
- Astrologically Speaking: The Elements of Life*  
New Life Health and Wellness, May/June 2005
- Astrologically Speaking: The Rhythm of Life*  
New Life Health and Wellness, March/April 2005
- Seeing with the Mind: How I used Visualization to Heal my Body*  
New Life Health and Wellness, February 2005
- Healing the Soul: Or How I learned to Phone Home*  
New Life Health and Wellness, January 2005
- Walking into the Future Through a Labyrinth Path*  
New Life Health and Wellness, December 2004

### **PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC SPEAKING**

Below is a selected list of programs that I have designed and implemented for a variety of settings including hospital, treatment center, wellness facility, churches and retreat center.

Liturgical Rituals with the Labyrinth  
Dreams as a Way to Inner Wisdom  
The Illuminated Journey: The Astrologer's Guide to the Universe  
As Above/So Below: Heart and Soul of Astrology  
Astrology: Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced  
Positive Psychology and the Empowerment Model  
Creating Your Vision: A Five Week Training  
Reducing Stress and Balancing Your Life  
The Labyrinth: Walking a Sacred Path  
Wise Women Series: An exploration of feminine strength including topics of  
Warrior, Mother, High Priestess, Crone, Seductress  
Gatherings at the Well Series: Reclaiming women's spiritual strengths including topics of  
Ancestral Wisdom, Persephone and the Underworld, Everyday Ritual  
Visualization for Health and Healing  
Planetary Psychology: An examination of psychological archetypes  
Chemical Dependency  
Family Communication  
Co-Dependency

#### **TRAININGS TAKEN FOR LICENSE CEU'S**

2009	Using Metaphor to Treat Body Image and Eating; Energy Psychology
2007	Carl Jung's psychology, including Myers Briggs
2005	Ethics; Coaching & Change; Positive Psychology; The Feminine in Film
2003	Clinical Hypnosis with Children and Adolescents; Internet Addiction; Teaching Skills; Substance Abuse and Trauma; Ethics; Writing Patient Educational Guides;
2002	Integrating Spirituality and Counseling; Spirituality and Healing, Reduce Relapse
2001	Ethics in Health and Human Services; Menopause; Psychopharmacology in Eating Disorders; Creating Mandalas; Hypnosis in treating PTSD; Ritual
1999	Psychology of Mind; The Healing Voice; Women and Religion

1997      Body Image and Healing; Shamanic Techniques and the Therapist; Sharpening  
your Clinical Assessment Skills; Use of Hypnosis with Children