

5 September 2018

TRUDIER HARRIS

University Distinguished Research Professor
Department of English, The University of Alabama

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EDUCATION:

1973—Ph.D., The Ohio State University, Columbus (American Literature and Folklore)
1972—M.A., The Ohio State University, Columbus (English)
1969—B.A., Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, Alabama; *Magna Cum Laude*. English major; Social Studies minor.

DISSERTATION:

“The Tie That Binds: The Function of Folklore in the Fiction of Charles Waddell Chesnutt, Jean Toomer and Ralph Ellison” (Directed by Professor Patrick B. Mullen)

EMPLOYMENT:

University Distinguished Research Professor, The University of Alabama (2015-);
Professor of English, The University of Alabama (2012-2015);
Visiting Professor of American Studies and English, The University of Alabama (2010-2011);
J. Carlyle Sitterson Distinguished Professor of English, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Spring 1997-2009);
Associate Chair of English and Comparative Literature (2005-2007);
William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Visiting Professor, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Fall 1996);
Augustus Baldwin Longstreet Professor of American Literature, Emory University (1993-1996);
J. Carlyle Sitterson Distinguished Professor of English, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1988-1993);
Visiting Distinguished Professor, The Ohio State University, Columbus (Fall, 1988);
Professor of English, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1985-88);
William Grant Cooper Visiting Distinguished Professor of English, The University of Arkansas, Little Rock (Spring, 1987);
Associate Professor of English, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1979-85);
Assistant Professor of English, The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia (1973-79);
Visiting Professor in the Poznan, Poland, Summer School of English in a program sponsored by the United States Information Agency (Summer, 1983 and Summer, 1981);

Lecturer, The Ohio State University, Columbus (Summer, 1973);
Teaching Associate, The Ohio State University, Columbus (1970-73).

AWARDS, HONORS, & LEAVES (2000-):

Distinguished Alumni Recognition by Stillman College, 2018 (program on 6 October 2018);
National Humanities Center Fellowship for 2018-2019; awarded 15 February 2018;
The Richard Beale Davis Award for Lifetime Achievement in Southern Literary Studies;
received 16 February 2018;
“The Trudier Harris Travel Award”—established by the Society for the Study of Southern
Literature in 2018 to support graduate student attendance at the biennial conferences;
The Clarence E. Cason Award in Nonfiction Writing, The University of Alabama, 2018;
Honorary Degree, The College of William and Mary—presented at the 325th Anniversary
Charter Day ceremonies, 9 February 2018;
Honored as the first tenured African American faculty member at the College of William and
Mary; ceremony held on 28 September 2017;
Selected by Graduate Students in the College of Arts and Sciences at UA to deliver the annual
Last Lecture. “Creative Watchfulness: A Literary Guide to Saving Yourself in an
Increasingly Non-Human World”—presented 18 April 2017;
Featured in *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*—26 March 2015;
Brackenridge Distinguished Visiting Professor, The University of Texas at San Antonio, 23-27
March 2015;
The “Trudier Harris Distinguished Professorship” created at UNC (2014);
May 2014—Selected as one of eight faculty members from the UA College of Arts and Sciences
to travel to Greece to interact with professors at Aristotle University in Thessaloniki.
Inducted into the Stillman College Educator Hall of Fame (10 October 2013);
Elizabeth Agee Award for Best Manuscript in American Literary Studies, University of Alabama
Press (April 2013) for *Martin Luther King Jr., Heroism and African American Literature*;
College Language Association Creative Scholarship Award (2010) for *The Scary Mason-Dixon
Line: African American Writers and the South*;
Inducted into the International Literary Hall of Fame for Writers of African Descent (2010);
Invited to join the Leadership Board, College of Arts and Sciences, The University of Alabama
(accepted 2010);
Honorary Degree from Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, Alabama (2010);
Choice Magazine Designation of *The Scary Mason-Dixon Line: African American Writers and
the South* as one of the “Outstanding Academic Titles” for 2009 in its “best of the best”
listings.
Fulbright Senior Distinguished Lectureship to Beijing, China; Fall 2009 (declined);
George H. Johnson Prize for Distinguished Achievement by an IAH (Institute for the Arts and
Humanities) Fellow, 2008 (\$7,500);
Faculty Director, Honors Study Abroad Program, Cape Town, South Africa, Fall Semester 2006;
John Hurt Fisher Award for “Career Achievement in Letters” from the South Atlantic
Association of Departments of English, 2005;
UNC Board of Governors’ Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2005 (\$7,500).
Research and Study Leave for Spring of 2005;
Selected by Senior Class of 2004 as one of six (6) faculty members to represent its Faculty
Excellence fundraising efforts;

Inducted into The Order of the Golden Fleece, UNC Chapel Hill, Spring 2004;
 Appointed Faculty Marshal, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2003 (through 2009);
 Education Award “for excellence in teaching and learning,” Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.’s
 Conference on North Carolina State Leadership, 4 October 2003;
 Institute for the Arts and Humanities (IAH) Fellowship (Fall, 2002);
 Eugene Current-Garcia Award—Alabama’s Distinguished Literary Scholar (Spring, 2002—
 \$5,000);
 Institute for the Arts and Humanities (IAH) Fellowship to participate in a Leadership Seminar
 (Spring, 2002);
 Presented “Divine December,” the Commencement Address for the University of North Carolina
 at Chapel Hill on 20 December 2001;
 William C. Friday/Class of 1986 Award for Excellence in Teaching (2000).

Prior to 2000, I received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, The
 National Humanities Center, The Rockefeller Center (Bellagio, Italy), The Center for Advanced
 Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University, The Bunting Institute, the Ford
 Foundation/National Research Council, and the University of North Carolina’s Pogue Research
 leave. I also received The Ohio State University’s Distinguished Alumni Award (1994), The
 Roscoe B. Tanner Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (UNC—Spring, 1988), the
 South Atlantic Modern Language Association Teaching Award (1987), the College Language
 Association Creative Scholarship Award (1987) for *Black Women in the Fiction of James
 Baldwin*, and the Thomas Jefferson Teaching Award from William and Mary (1978).

**MEMBERSHIPS IN SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS;
 EDITORIAL AND ADVISORY BOARDS: (1990-)**

The College Language Association;
 The Modern Language Association;
 The South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAML A);
 The Wintergreen Women Writers’ Collective;
 Board of Advisors, Black Periodical Literature Project (Project on the History of Black Writing),
 1990-2016;
 The St. George Tucker Society, 1994- (Executive Council, 1995-);
 Editorial Board, *Journal of American Folklore*, 1995-2000;
 Editorial Board, *South Atlantic Review*, 1997-2000;
 Founder and President, *The George Moses Horton Society for the Study of African American
 Poetry*, 1996-2009;
 Editorial Board, *The Arkansas Review*, 1997- ;
 Editorial Consultant to *The Encyclopedia of the Midwest*, 1999-2006;
 Editorial Board, Gale Literary Resource Series, 1999-
 Fiction Book Review Editor for *Callaloo*, 2000-2001
 Nominator, MacArthur Fellowships, 1999-2005
 Editorial Board, *Southern Cultures*, 1998-
 UNC Friends of the Library (2003-2009)
 Editorial Board, *Revista de Estudios Norteamericanos* (Seville, Spain) (2014-)

PUBLICATIONS—BOOKS:**Authored**

“Ungraspable?: Depictions of Home in African American Literature”—in progress; book manuscript to be completed during the 2018-2019 academic year.

“Unspeakable: Difficult Times and Difficult Topics” (non-fiction essays; manuscript under review).

Martin Luther King Jr., Heroism, and African American Literature (U of Alabama P, 2014).

The Scary Mason-Dixon Line: African American Writers and the South (LSU P, 2009). Selected by *Choice* magazine as one of its “Outstanding Academic Titles” of 2009.

Summer Snow: Reflections from a Black Daughter of the South (Memoir; Beacon Press, 2003). Excerpt reprinted in *The Chronicle Review*, 11 April 2003. Selected as the inaugural text for the “One-Book, One-Community” reading project in Orange County, North Carolina, 2003-2004. Paperback edition issued fall 2006.

South of Tradition: Essays on African American Literature (U of Georgia P, 2002; twelve authored, previously unpublished, essays).

Reprints: “Transformations of the Land in Randall Kenan’s ‘The Foundations of the Earth’” in *Black Literature Criticism*, Vol. 2, ed. Jelena O. Krstovic (Detroit: Cengage Learning, 2008), pp. 300-306; “Salting the Land but Not the Imagination: William Melvin Kelley’s *A Different Drummer*” in *Black Literature Criticism*, Vol. 2, ed. Jelena O. Krstovic (Detroit: Cengage Learning, 2008), pp. 278-82; “The Necessary Binding: Prison Experiences in Three August Wilson Plays” in *Drama Criticism*, Vol. 31, ed. Thomas J. Schoenberg and Lawrence J. Trudeau (Detroit: Cengage Learning, 2008), pp. 272-79.

Saints, Sinners, Saviors: Strong Black Women in African American Literature (Palgrave/St. Martin’s, 2001).

The Power of the Porch: The Storyteller’s Craft in Zora Neale Hurston, Gloria Naylor, and Randall Kenan (U of Georgia P, 1996). (Lamar Memorial Lectures)

Fiction and Folklore: The Novels of Toni Morrison (University of Tennessee Press, 1991). A section of Chapter Six, on *Beloved*, has been reprinted in “*Beloved, she’s mine*”: *Essays Sur Beloved de Toni Morrison*, edited Genevieve Fabre et Claudine Raynaud (Paris: Cetanla, 1993), pp. 91-100.

Black Women in the Fiction of James Baldwin (U of Tennessee P, 1985).

Exorcising Blackness: Historical and Literary Lynching and Burning Rituals (Indiana U P, 1984). Chapter 7 has been reprinted in *The New Cavalcade: African American Writing 1760 to the Present*, Volume II, ed. Arthur P. Davis, J. Saunders Redding, and Joyce Ann Joyce (Washington, D. C.: Howard University Press, 1992), pp. 831-844. Excerpt reprinted in *Black*

on White: Black Writers on What It Means to Be White, ed. David R. Roediger (New York: Schocken: 1998), pp. 299-304.

From Mammies to Militants: Domesticity in Black American Literature (Philadelphia: Temple U P, 1982). Chapter Three has been reprinted in *Black Southern Voices: An Anthology of Fiction, Poetry, Drama, Nonfiction, and Critical Essays*, ed. John Oliver Killens and Jerry W. Ward, Jr. (New York: Meridian, 1992), pp. 564-590.

Co-edited

Reading Contemporary African American Drama: Fragments of History, Fragments of Self (New York: Peter Lang Publishing, 2007—with Jennifer Larson).

The Concise Oxford Companion to African American Literature (New York: Oxford U P, 2001).

The Literature of the American South: A Norton Anthology (New York: W. W. Norton, 1998).

Call and Response: The Riverside Anthology of the African American Literary Tradition (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1998 [June 1997]).

The Oxford Companion to African American Literature (New York: Oxford U P, 1997).

The Oxford Companion to Women's Writing in the United States (New York: Oxford U P, 1995; November 1994). [Edited essays on African American women writers and topics related to the study of African American literature. Wrote eight essays.]

Afro-American Poets Since 1955 (Detroit: Gale Research Company, 1985).

Afro-American Writers After 1955: Dramatists and Prose Writers (Detroit: Gale Research Company, 1985).

Afro-American Fiction Writers After 1955 (Detroit: Gale Research Company, 1984).

Edited

New Essays on Baldwin's Go Tell It on the Mountain (New York: Cambridge U P, 1996)

Selected Works of Ida B. Wells-Barnett (New York: Oxford U P, 1991).

Afro-American Writers, 1940-1955 (Detroit: Gale Research Company, 1988).

Afro-American Writers from the Harlem Renaissance to 1940 (Detroit: Gale Research Company, 1987).

Afro-American Writers Before the Harlem Renaissance (Detroit: Gale Research Company, 1986).

CONTRIBUTIONS TO BOOKS:

“Re-Visiting the Unspeakable: Can Soaphead Church Be Redeemed?” Invited—and submitted—for a volume on Toni Morrison in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the publication of *The Bluest Eye*. Will be workshopped at Georgetown University 14-15 September 2018 and then revised for the volume that will appear in 2020.

“Poisonous Aberration: Mothering in Delores Phillips’ *The Darkest Child*”—submitted to *Mothers Who Kill/Infanticide*, edited by Charlotte Beyer (UK) and Josephine Savarese (Canada).

“African American Literature in the 1980s,” for *African American Literature in Transition: The 1980s* (Cambridge University Press), edited by Rich Blint and Courtney Thorsson; in process.

“Mediations on Horror, History, Black Lives, and Literature.” Forthcoming in *Towards a Black Woman’s Horror Aesthetic: Critical Frameworks*, eds. Kinitra Brooks and Susana Morris.

“Foreword” to *The Real Education of Sweet Papa T*, a memoir by Woodrow “Max” Parker memoir (Gainesville, FL: BookEnds Press, 2017), pp. ii-v.

“Mask-Wearing and Tightrope-Walking”; Preface to *Like One of the Family: Domestic Workers, Race, and In/Visibility in The Help*, ed. Fiona Mills (UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2016), pp. ix-xiii.

“African American Lives: Zora Neale Hurston, James Baldwin, Malcolm X, and Eldridge Cleaver.” In *Cambridge Companion to Autobiography*, eds. Emily Wittman and Maria DeBattista (New York: Cambridge UP, 2014), pp. 180-194.

“Untangling History, Dismantling Fear: Teaching Tayari Jones’s *Leaving Atlanta*,” *Contemporary African American Literature: The Living Canon*, ed. Lovalerie King and Shirley Turner-Moody (Bloomington: Indiana U P, 2013), pp. 269-284.

“Afterword: The Complexities of Home,” *Race and Displacement: Nation, Migration, and Identity in the 21st Century*, ed. Maha Marouan and Merinda Simmons (Tuscaloosa: The U of Alabama P, 2013), pp. 211-220.

“History as Fact and Fiction” for the *Cambridge History of African American Literature*, ed. Maryemma Graham and Jerry W. Ward, Jr. (New York: Cambridge U P, 2011), pp. 451-496.

“Celebrating Bigamy and Other Outlaw Behaviors: Hurston, Reputation, and the Problems Inherent in Labeling Janie a Feminist,” in *Approaches to Teaching Hurston’s Their Eyes Were Watching God and Other Works*, ed. John W. Lowe (New York: MLA Publications, 2009), 67-80.

“Cotton Pickin’ Authority,” in *Shaping Memories: Reflections of African American Women Writers*, ed. Joanne V. Gabbin (Jackson: U P of Mississippi, 2009), 155-162.

“Fear of Family, Fear of Self: Black Southern ‘Othering’ in Randall Kenan’s *A Visitation of Spirits*, in *Women & Others: Perspectives on Race, Gender, and Empire*, ed. Celia R. Daileader, Rhoda E. Johnson, and Amilcar Shabazz (New York: Palgrave/Macmillan, 2007), 45-65.

“Almost—But Not Quite—Bluesmen in Langston Hughes’s Poetry,” in *Montage of a Dream: The Art and Life of Langston Hughes*, ed. John Edgar Tidwell and Cheryl R. Ragar (Columbia: U of Missouri P, 2007), 32-38.

“Trapped in Lines and Language: Distorted Selves in Personal Ads,” Introduction to *Racialized Politics of Desire in Personal Ads*, ed. Neal A. Lester & Maureen Daly Goggin (New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007), 1-5.

“Watchers Watching Watchers: Positioning Characters and Readers in Baldwin’s ‘Sonny’s Blues’ and Morrison’s ‘Recitatif,’” in *James Baldwin and Toni Morrison: Comparative Critical and Theoretical Essays*, ed. Lovalerie King and Lynn Orilla Scott (New York: Palgrave/Macmillan, 2006), 103-120.

“Foreword” to *After the Pain: Critical Essays on Gayl Jones*, ed. Fiona Mills and Keith B. Mitchell (New York: Peter Lang, 2006), pp. x-xiv.

“Porch Sitters” and “The Yellow Rose of Texas” for *The Encyclopedia of African American Folklore*, ed. Anand Prahlad (Greenwood, 2005), 991-993; 1403-1404.

“Preface” to three-volume set on the Harlem Renaissance (Gale Research Company, 2003).

“The Second Teacher in the Classroom,” Preface to *A Student’s Guide to African American Literature, 1760 to the Present*, ed. Lovalerie King (New York: Peter Lang, 2003).

“Lynching and Burning Rituals in African-American Literature,” in *A Companion to African-American Philosophy*, ed. Tommy L. Lott and John P. Pittman (Blackwell Publishing, 2003), pp. 413-418.

“The Ball of a Lifetime,” in *Age Ain’t Nothing But a Number: Black Women Explore Midlife*, ed. Carleen Brice (Beacon Press, 2003), 38-44. Reprinted in British edition, Fall 2004.

“Genre,” in *Eight Words for the Study of Expressive Culture*, ed. Burt Feintuch (U of Illinois P, 2003), pp. 99-120.

“Conjuring,” “Lynching,” “Lynch-Law,” and “Voodoo” for *The Companion to Southern Literature*, ed. Joseph Flora and Lucinda Mackethan (LSU P, 2001).

“This Disease Called Strength: The Masculine Manifestation in Raymond Andrews’ *Appalachee Red*,” in *Contemporary Black Men’s Fiction and Drama*, ed. Keith S. Clark (U of Illinois P, 2001), pp. 37-53. Reprinted in *Black Literature Criticism*, Vol. 1, ed. Jelena O. Krstovic (Detroit: Cengage Learning, 2008), pp. 46-54.

“James Baldwin,” *Oxford United States History* (New York: Oxford U P, 2001).

“The Power of Martyrdom: The Incorporation of Martin Luther King Jr. and His Philosophy into African American Literature,” In *Media, Culture, and the Modern African American Freedom Struggle*, ed. Brian Ward (U P of Florida, 2001), pp. 273-291.

“Afterword: The Unbroken Circle of Assumptions,” afterword to *Body Politics and the Fictional Double*, ed. Debra Walker King (Bloomington, Indiana U P, 2000), pp. 178-185.

“Before the Strength, the Pain: Portraits of Elderly Black Women in Early 20th Century Anti-Lynching Plays,” in *Black Women Playwrights: Visions on the American Stage*, ed. Carol P. Marsh-Lockett (New York: Garland, 1999), pp. 25-42.

“The Overweight Angel,” in *Honey Hush: An Anthology of African American Women’s Humor*, ed. Daryl Cumber Dance (New York: W. W. Norton, 1998), pp. 162-168.

“Lying Through Our Teeth?: The Quagmire of Cultural Diversity,” in *Teaching African American Literature: Theory and Practice*, ed. Maryemma Graham, Sharon Pineault-Burke, and Marianna White Davis (New York and London: Routledge, 1998), pp. 210-222.

“What is Africa to African American Women Writers?,” in *Contemporary Literature of the African Diaspora*, ed. Olga Barrios and Bernard W. Bell (Leon, Spain: 1997), pp. 25-32.

“What Women? What Canon?: African American Women and the Canon,” in *Speaking the Other Self: American Women Writers*, ed. Jeanne Reesman (Athens: U of Georgia P, 1997).

“Before the Stigma of Race: Authority and Witchcraft in Ann Petry’s *Tituba of Salem Village*,” in *Recovered Writers/Recovered Texts*, ed. Dolan Hubbard (U of Tennessee P, 1997), pp. 105-115.

“The Yellow Rose of Texas: A Different Cultural View,” in *Juneteenth Texas: Essays in African-American Folklore*, ed., Francis E. Abernethy, Patrick B. Mullen, and Alan B. Govanar (Denton, Texas: U of Texas P, 1996), pp. 314-333. Reprinted in *Callaloo* 20:1 (Winter, 1997): 8-19.

“August Wilson’s Folk Traditions.” Essay on *Joe Turner’s Come and Gone* in *August Wilson: A Casebook*, ed. Marilyn Elkins (Garland, 1994), pp. 49-67.

“Escaping Slavery But Not Its Images”—essay on *Beloved* in *Toni Morrison: Critical Perspectives Past and Present*, ed. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and K. A. Appiah (Amistad, 1993), pp. 330-341.

Biographical Headnotes for “James Baldwin” and “Toni Morrison” for the *D. C. Heath Anthology of American Literature*, second rev. ed. (1993), pp. 2614-2615, 2872-2876.

“Our People, Our People,” in *Alice Walker and Zora Neale Hurston: The Common Bond*, ed. Lillie P. Howard (Greenwood P, 1993), pp. 31-42.

“Literature in Kenya” (with James Cornell), in *Kenya: The Land, The People, and The Nation*, ed. Mario Azevedo (Durham: Carolina Academic Press, 1993), pp. 103-118.

“African-American Literature: A Survey,” in *Africana Studies: A Survey of Africa and the African Diaspora*, ed. Mario Azevedo (Durham: Carolina Academic P, 1992), pp. 331-342.

“Introduction to Alice Childress’ ‘In the Laundry Room,’” in *Women’s Friendships*, ed. Susan Koppelman (Norman: U of Oklahoma P, 1991), pp. 170-73.

“Native Sons and Foreign Daughters,” in *New Essays on Wright’s Native Son*, ed. Kenneth Kinnamon (Cambridge U P, 1990), pp. 63-84.

“From Exile to Asylum: Religion and Community in the Writings of Contemporary Black Women,” in *Women’s Writing in Exile*, ed. Mary Lynn Broe and Angela Ingram (Chapel Hill: UNC P, 1989), pp. 151-169.

“Reconnecting Fragments: Afro-American Folk Tradition in *The Bluest Eye*,” in *Critical Essays on Toni Morrison*, ed. Nellie Y. McKay (Boston: G. K. Hall, 1988), pp. 68-76.

“Introduction” to Alice Childress’s *Like One of the Family* (Boston: Beacon, 1986), pp. xi-xxxviii.

“Charlotte Forten,” in *Afro-American Writers Before the Harlem Renaissance* (Detroit: Gale Research Company, 1986), pp. 130-139.

“Black Writers in a Changed Landscape, Since 1950,” *The History of Southern Literature*, edited by Louis Rubin, Jr., Blyden Jackson, et al. (Baton Rouge: LSU P, 1985), pp. 566-577.

“Samm-Art Williams,” in *Afro-American Writers After 1955: Dramatists and Prose Writers* (Detroit: Gale Research Company, 1985), pp. 283-290.

“Alice Childress,” in *Afro-American Writers After 1955: Dramatists and Prose Writers* (Detroit: Gale Research Company, 1985), pp. 66-79.

“The South As Woman: Chimeric Images of Emasculation in *Just Above My Head*,” *Studies in Black American Literature*. Vol. 1, ed. Joe Weixlmann and Chester J. Fontenot (Greenwood, Florida: Penkevill Publishing Company, 1983), pp. 89-109.

“Three Black Women Writers and Humanism: A Folk Perspective” in *Black American Literature and Humanism*, ed. R. Baxter Miller (U of Kentucky P, 1981), pp. 50-74.

ARTICLES:

“Aun’ Peggy: Charles Chesnutt’s Vampire Slayer?” Invited—and submitted—for the forthcoming special issue of the *North Carolina Literary Review* on North Carolina Writers.

“‘Home is the place where, when you go there,’ You Find It Flooded Out”—an essay on Jesmyn Ward’s *Salvage the Bones* submitted for a special issue of the *Xavier Review*; edited by Robin Vander and Tom Bonner.

“The Limits of Lovemaking and Community: Infertility in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*”—forthcoming in *Revista de Estudios Norteamericanos*, Seville, Spain, 2017.

“Alice Walker’s ‘Roselily’: Mediations on Culture, Politics, and Chains.” *The Southern Quarterly* 54:2 (Winter 2017): 28-48.

“Romantic and Romanticized International Journeying: Marita Golden’s *Migrations of the Heart*.” *Obsidian II: Literature & Arts in the African Diaspora* 41: 1-2 (Fall 2015): 209-235.

“Trayvon Martin: His Historical and Literary Roots.” *CLA Journal* 58: 3 Special Issue—“Hands Up. Don’t Shoot: Critical and Creative Responses to Violence toward Black Bodies in the 21st Century” (2016): 154-158.

“Does Northern Travel Relieve Slavery?: ‘Vacations’ in Dolen Perkins-Valdez’s *Wench*.” *South Atlantic Review* 78:3-4 (Fall 2015): 90-109.

“Peace in the War of Desire: Richard Wright’s ‘Long Black Song.’” *CLA Journal* 2013 (actually published in March of 2015) 56:3; 188-208.

“State of African American Southern Literary Studies.” Society for the Study of Southern Literature *Newsletter*, 47.2 (2013).

“Nikki Giovanni: Literary Survivor Across Centuries,” *Appalachian Heritage* 40:2 (2012): 34-47.

“The Terrible Pangs of Compromise: Racial Reconciliation in African American Literature,” *The Cresset* LXXV, No. 4 (2012): 16-27.

“Protest Poetry,” for the National Humanities Center online resources for high school teachers—TeacherServe, Fall 2009.

“The Image of Africa in the Literature of the Harlem Renaissance,” for the National Humanities Center online resources for high school teachers—TeacherServe, Summer 2009.

“The Trickster in African American Literature,” for the National Humanities Center online resources for high school teachers—TeacherServe, Summer 2009.

“The ‘N-Word’ Versus ‘Nigger,’” for the National Humanities Center online courses in African American Literature, Spring 2009.

“Pigmentocracy,” for the National Humanities Center online courses for high school teachers, 2008.

C.S.A (Confederate States of America); article/review in *Southern Cultures*, Fall 2006.

“William Melvin Kelley’s Real Live, Invisible South,” *South Central Review*, 22:1 (Spring 2005): 26-47.

“Porch-Sitting as a Creative Southern Tradition,” in *Southern Cultures* 2:3-4 (1996): 441-460. Reprinted in *Voices From Home: The North Carolina Prose Anthology*, ed. Richard Krawiec (Greensboro, NC: Avisson Press, Inc., 1997), pp. 320-334.

“Greeting the New Century with a Different Kind of Magic,” Introduction to special issue of *Callaloo* (19:2) on Emerging Black Women Writers (Spring 1996): 232-238.

“The Worlds That Toni Morrison Made” for special issue of *The Georgia Review*, “The Nobel Laureates of Literature: An Olympic Gathering,” in connection with the Cultural Olympiad gathering of Nobel Prize winners in Atlanta in April 1995, XLIX (Spring 1995): 324-330.

“‘This Disease Called Strength’: Some Observations on the Compensating Construction of Black Female Character,” *Literature and Medicine* 14 (Spring 1995): 109-126.

“Adventures in a ‘Foreign Country’: African American Humor and the South.” Southern Humor Issue of *Southern Cultures* 1:4 (Summer 1995): 457-465. Reprinted in the Fifteenth Anniversary Issue of *Southern Cultures* (2008).

“Genre”—for “Keywords” special issue of the *Journal of American Folklore*, 108 (Fall 1995): 509-527.

“Toni Morrison: Solo Flight Through Literature and History,” *World Literature Today* 68:1 (Winter 1994): 9-14. Invited commentary on Toni Morrison’s works, which accompanied the publication of her Nobel Lecture.

“‘Africanizing the Audience’: Zora Neale Hurston’s Transformation of White Folks in *Mules and Men*,” *The Zora Neale Hurston Forum* 7:1 (Fall 1993): 43-58.

“Moms Mabley: A Study in Humor, Role Playing, and the Violation of Taboo,” in *The Southern Review*, 24 (Autumn, 1988): 765-776.

“From Victimization to Free Enterprise: Alice Walker’s *The Color Purple*,” *Studies in American Fiction*, 14 (Spring, 1986): 1-17.

“On *The Color Purple*, Stereotypes, and Silence” *Black American Literature Forum*, 18 (Winter 1984): 155-161. Reprinted in Gale Research’s Series, *Black Literature Criticism* (1991, 1994).

“*The Women of Brewster Place*, by Gloria Naylor,” review/article, *Southern Changes*, 6, ii (March/April, 1984): 12-13.

“No Outlet for the Blues: Silla Boyce’s Plight in *Brown Girl, Brownstones*,” *Callaloo*, 6, ii (Spring-Summer, 1983): 57-67.

“*Almost Family*, by Roy Hoffman,” review/article for *Southern Changes*, 5, ii (March/April, 1983): 21-23.

“A Different Image of the Black Woman,” review/article of Dorothy West’s *The Living is Easy*, *Callaloo*, 5, iii (October, 1982): 146-151.

“Tiptoeing Through Taboo: Incest in Alice Walker’s ‘The Child Who Favored Daughter,’” *Modern Fiction Studies*, 28, iii (Autumn, 1982): 495-505.

“A Spiritual Journey: Gayl Jones’s *Song for Anninho*,” *Callaloo*, 5, iii (October, 1982): 105-111.

“*From Mammies to Militants: Domesticity in Black American Literature*,” *Second Century Radcliffe News* (June, 1982), p. 9.

“‘I wish I was a poet’: The Character as Artist in Alice Childress’ *Like One of the Family*,” *Black American Literature Forum*, 14, i (Special issue on literary theory; Spring, 1980): 24-30.

“Chesnutt’s Frank Fowler: A Failure of Purpose?” *CLA Journal*, 22, iii (March, 1979): 215-228.

“The Barbershop in Black Literature,” *Black American Literature Forum*, 13, iii (Fall, 1979): 112-118.

“The Eye as Weapon in *If Beale Street Could Talk*,” *MELUS*, 5, iii (Fall, 1978): 54-66. Reprinted in *Critical Essays on James Baldwin*, ed. Fred L. Standley and Nancy V. Burt (Boston: G. K. Hall, 1988), pp. 204-216.

“Telephone Pranks: A Thriving Pastime,” *Journal of Popular Culture*, 12, i (Summer, 1978): 138-145.

“Folklore in the Fiction of Alice Walker—A Perpetuation of Historical and Literary Traditions,” *Black American Literature Forum*, 11, i (Spring, 1977): 3-8.

“Ellison’s ‘Peter Wheatstraw’: His Basis in Black Folk Tradition,” *Mississippi Folklore Register*, 9, ii (Summer, 1975): 117-126.

“Ceremonial Fagots: Lynching and Burning Rituals in Black American Literature,” *Southern Humanities Review*, 10, iii (Summer, 1975): 235-247.

“Violence in *The Third Life of Grange Copeland*,” *CLA Journal*, 19, ii (December, 1975): 238-247.

BOOK REVIEWS (1996-):

“A Satisfactory Scholarly Meal.” Review of *Writing in the Kitchen: Essays on Southern Literature and Foodways*, ed. David A. Davis and Tara Powell; Foreword by Jessica B. Harris, *South Atlantic Review* 81:2 (Summer 2016): 232-233.

Review of *Visible Man: The Life of Henry Dumas* by Jeffrey B. Leak, *Arkansas Review* 45, 2014, 140-142.

Edward P. Jones, *The Known Word*, in *The New Crisis* 110:5 (September/October, 2003): 53.

Kathy A. Perkins and Judith L. Stephens, eds. *Strange Fruit: Plays on Lynching by American Women* (1998), in *African American Review* 34:3 (2000): 22-24.

Shay Youngblood, *Soul Kiss*, in *Emerge: Black America's Newsmagazine* 8: 7 (May 1997): 62-63.

Marsha Hunt, *Repossessing Ernestine*, in *Emerge: Black America's Newsmagazine*. 7:9 (August 1996): 76. Solicited.

Nikki Giovanni, *The Selected Poems of Nikki Giovanni and Giovanni*, ed., *Shimmy Like My Sister Kate: Looking at the Harlem Renaissance Through Poems*, in *Emerge: Black America's Newsmagazine* 7:5 (March 1996): 57-58.

Faith McDonald Smith, *Flight of the Blackbird*, in *Emerge: Black America's Newsmagazine* 8: 2 (November 1996): 104-105.

SELECTED PARTICIPATION IN PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES, INVITED LECTURES (2000-):

“Re-Visiting the Unspeakable: Can Soaphead Church Be Redeemed?” To be workshopped at the Toni Morrison conference at Georgetown University on 14-15 September 2018.

Presented on a panel at the “BlkGirls Write the Future” Symposium held at Hampton University on 27 June 2018.

“Walter Lee Younger: Lorraine Hansberry’s Native Son,” presented at the College Language Association Convention in Chicago on 6 April 2018.

“Image Shatterer: Delores Phillips’s *The Darkest Child*”—presented at the “Lost Southern Voices” conference at Georgia State University on 23 March 2018;

Presented “Interpreting and Composing: Choices and Consequences” and “Home: Too Slippery to Grasp, Too Precious to Share?” as part of the Clarence E. Cason Award activities on 1 and 2 March 2018.

Presented “Reflections on a Continuing Career” in response to the panel, “The Career and Legacy of Dr. Trudier Harris,” at the meeting of the Society for the Study of Southern Literature in Austin, Texas on 16 February 2018.

“The Limits of Lovemaking: Infertility in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*”—presented at the annual SAMLA convention in Atlanta on 4 November 2017 as part of the Great Books panel.

Presented the Sara and Jess Cloud Distinguished Lecture at The College of William and Mary; “Home in African American Literature: Difficult to Define, Impossible to Claim”; 28 September 2017.

Presented “Richard Wright’s Mississippi: A Site of Social, Familial, and Mental Horror” at the annual meeting of the St. George Tucker Society in Jackson, Mississippi, 29 July 2017.

Presented “Meditations on Horror, History, Black Lives, and Literature” at the biennial CAAR (Collegium for African American Research) Conference in Malaga, Spain; 15 June 2017.

Attended the Wintergreen Women Writers’ Collective annual meeting in Virginia, 25-28 May 2017.

Selected by graduate students and the Graduate School to present the Last Lecture at the University of Alabama on 18 April 2017.

Invited to present a Plenary Address, “Home in African American Literature: Difficult to Define, Impossible to Claim,” at the British Association of American Studies Conference at Canterbury Christ Church University, Kent, England on 7 April 2017.

Invited to present “Home in African American Literature: Difficult to Define, Impossible to Claim” as the “Ruthe T. Sheffey Lecture on African American Literature, Female Studies” at Morgan State University on 30 March 2017.

Invited to present “Meditations on Horror, History, Black Lives, and Literature” as the Charles Eaton Burch Lecture at Howard University on 23 March 2017.

Before an audience at Stillman College, I interviewed Dr. Nyasha Junior about her presentation on Woman Biblical Interpretation as part of a conference on “Women in the Bible,” 9 March 2017.

Reading from *Unspeakable: Difficult Times and Difficult Topics*—Pure Products Series, Northport, Alabama, 2 March 2017.

“Zora Neale Hurston: Phenomenal Woman” for OLLI at the University of Alabama, 26 October 2016.

Presented “Is There a Front-Porch Novel and How Does It Relate to the Back Porch of Fiction?” (on Gloria Naylor’s *The Women of Brewster Place*) for The Society for the Study of the American Short Story conference in Savannah, Georgia on 21 October 2016.

“Throw Your Head Back and Sing”—Tribute to Maya Angelou that was performed and filmed at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia, on 28 September 2016. I read “Still I Rise.”

Participated in a panel discussion in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the publication of Margaret Walker’s *Jubilee*. Held at Jackson State University on 16 September 2016.

I presented the Commencement speech for the inaugural Nyansapo Graduation sponsored by the Black Faculty Staff Association at the University of Alabama (Kente Robing Ceremony), 5 August 2016.

Presented Keynote Address, “‘My Story is Better than Yours’: The Changing Politics of and Motives for Composing Southern African American Life Narratives, at the Spanish Organization for Southern Studies, Santiago, Spain, 3 June 2016.

Invited and Presented “Daring, Delightful Departures” as the Commencement Speech at Lavender Graduation, University of Alabama, 18 April 2016.

“Playwright Turned Novelist: Suzan-Lori Parks’s *Getting Mother’s Body*”; presented at the College Language Association Convention, Dallas Texas, 10 April 2015.

“George Moses Horton: Poet, Forefather, Exemplar.” The Chapel Hill Historical Society, Chapel Hill North Carolina, 15 February 2015.

“Louis Rubin: Southern Heretic.” Presentation at the annual SAMLA conference in Atlanta on 8 November 2014.

“Before ‘Color TV,’ There was ‘Colored Television.’” Lecture before the performance of *Hairspray* at The Bean-Brown Theatre (Theatre Tuscaloosa), 24 July 2014.

“I Thought It Was MY Life: Boy, Was I Surprised!” Lecture for the North Carolina Governor’s School West, 1 July 2014.

Lectures on African American literature for classes at Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia, 10-11 April 2014.

“Trayvon Martin: His Historical and Literary Roots.” College Language Association Convention, New Orleans, LA, 27 March 2014.

“No Room for ‘messed up chicks’: Class in Alice Childress’ *Wine in the Wilderness*.” College Language Association Convention, Lexington, KY, 10 April 2013.

Invited to read from *Summer Snow: Reflections from a Black Daughter of the South* for the University of North Alabama’s Writers Series, 14 March 2013.

Lecture on the Harlem Renaissance for Theatre Tuscaloosa before the 9 February 2013 performance of *Ain’t Misbehavin’*.

As faculty member in residence, I presented a series of lectures at the Pennsylvania State University’s NEH Summer Institute, 8-14 July 2012.

“Is ‘The Necessary Knocking at the Door’ Still Necessary?: Ann Petry as Foremother” for the College Language Association Conference, 30 March 2012, Atlanta, Georgia.

Presented a talk on the short stories of Alice Walker at the annual AWP Conference in Chicago, 29 February- 3 March 2012.

Presented “The Terrible Pangs of Compromise: Racial Reconciliation in African American Literature” as a Keynote Address at the annual Lilly Conference, which was held at Samford University in Birmingham on 22 October 2011. Also met with an honors class to discuss my work on Martin Luther King, Jr.’s influence on African American literature.

Presented “Changing Times, Unchanging Creativity,” a lecture on the impact of technology on scholarly endeavors for the Association of Women Faculty and Professionals (AWFP) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 28 April 2011.

Presented “Re-Visiting Taboo: Richard Wright’s *Native Son* in the 21st Century” at the annual SAMLA conference in Atlanta as part of a panel on re-reading classic works in literature—5 November 2011.

Invited to lecture on *The Scary Mason-Dixon Line: African American Writers and the South* and discuss other of my scholarship at Virginia Tech University, 12-14 April 2011. Lecture entitled “African American Writers and the South”; also performed African American poetry by Lucille Clifton.

ACETA—24-25 February 2012, University of North Alabama, Florence, Alabama. Presented “A Renaissance in Reputation: Re-Assessing the Literary Martin Luther King, Jr.”

Chaired a session at the Penn State Conference on African American Literature, State College, PA, which was held 29 September – 2 October 2011. I sponsored four University of Alabama graduate students who all presented papers at the conference.

Chaired a panel, “Southern Women Writers,” at the St. George Tucker Society Conference held in Augusta, Georgia on 29 July 2011.

Presented “Jousting With History: African American Writers and the South” at Virginia Tech University, 14 April 2011.

Presented “The Scary Mason-Dixon Line: African American Writers and the South” at the Weaver Bolden Branch of the Tuscaloosa Public Library, 11 April 2011.

Presented “Imagining His Body Violated: James Baldwin’s Sexual Construction of the South” as one of the James A. Hutchins Lectures for the Center for the Study of the American South at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 13 April 2010.

Chaired a panel at the annual convention of the College Language Association in Brooklyn, New York on 9 April 2010.

Presented “African American Writers and the South” at the Delta Studies Symposium at Arkansas State University, 8 April 2010.

Scholar-in-Residence at the University of Alabama, March 2010. Taught classes in English, American Studies, Communication Studies, and Religious Studies. Presented a public lecture entitled “Nightmares of Fear: Edward P. Jones’s Representation in *The Known World* of Blacks Owning Blacks During Slavery.” Luncheon discussion session with graduate students. Met with faculty Americanist group on 16 April 2010.

Presented “Little Old Ladies and the Last Word: An Exploration of Sassiness and Risqué Behavior in African American Folklore” at the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration on 25 February 2009. Also presented at East Carolina University on 17 February 2010.

Lectured on *The Scary Mason-Dixon Line: African American Writers and the South* at the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, Charlottesville, Virginia, 6 November 2009.

Scholar-in-Residence for the University of Alabama’s “Race and Displacement” Conference, 1-3 October 2009.

Presented a keynote address, “Looking for an Ancestral Home: How African American Writers During the Harlem Renaissance Imagine Africa,” at the conference on DNA and Genealogy in La Coruna Spain, 28 July 2009.

“Misguided Liberalism: Another Reflection on *Summer Snow*,” for the Mary Church Terrell Literary Club Luncheon, Jackson, Mississippi, 11 April 2009.

“Life After Tenure,” for the Black Women in the Academy Conference at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 31 January 2009.

“‘They’ve Taken My Heroes and Gone’: 21st Century Manifestations of African American Heroes,” for the Folklore Conference at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 12 September 2008.

“Southern Horrors: How Tayari Jones Tames the Monster of the South in *Leaving Atlanta*” as the inaugural F. Wendell Miller Lecture in the Department of English at the University of Iowa, 1 May 2008.

Delivered “Black Women, Romance, and Nineteenth Century Folk Traditions” as the Joseph S. Schick Lecture at Indiana State University, 3 April 2008. Also presented “A Haunting Diary and A Slasher Quilt: Using Dynamic Folk Communities to Combat Terror in Phyllis Alesia Perry’s *Stigmata*” for the Hoosier Folklore Society, 4 April 2008.

“The Scary Mason-Dixon Line: African American Writers and the South,” The University of South Carolina, 15 November 2007.

“Telling the Tale of the South: James Baldwin’s Scary Moments,” Northwestern University, 15 October 2007.

“Failed, Forgotten, Forsaken: Christianity in Contemporary African American Literature” as the E. Maynard Adams Lecture, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 7 October 2007.

Presented “The Scary Mason-Dixon Line: African American Writers and the South” as the Shannon-Clark Lecture at Washington and Lee University, 20 September 2007. Also presented lectures on Ernest J. Gaines and Zora Neale Hurston.

“Beautiful Language, Ugly Actions: Toni Morrison’s *The Bluest Eye*” as The Fife Folklore Honor Lecture at the University of Utah, 29 March 2007.

Presented “Experiences That Never Die: Fear of Slavery in Phyllis Alesia Perry’s *Stigmata*” as The Carl Benson Memorial Lecture at Auburn University, 15 March 2007.

Presented several lectures on African American literature, film, and culture at the University of Houston, 5-7 March 2007.

Inaugural Distinguished Alumni Lecture (on the poetry of Yusef Komunyakaa) in the English Department at The Ohio State University, 28 February 2007.

“Autoerotic Creativity: How Raymond Andrews Pleasures Himself in *Baby Sweet’s*,” Keynote Address, Southern Writers Symposium, Methodist College, Fayetteville, NC, 23 February 2007.

Participated on MLA panel to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the *African American Review*, Philadelphia, 28 December 2006.

“Imagining A Future That You Can Achieve,” Honors Convocation Address, Tougaloo College, Jackson, Mississippi, 28 April 2006.

“African American Writers, the South, and Authentic Identity,” Lecture at Appalachian State University, 24 April 2006.

Presented on a panel entitled “The Poetry of the Civil Rights Movement: A Town Meeting,” College Language Association Convention, Birmingham, Alabama, 6 April 2006.

“Christianity’s Last Stand: Visions of Spirituality in Post-1970 African American Literature,” Winthrop University, 7 March 2006.

“A Haunting Diary and A Slasher Quilt: Phyllis Perry’s *Stigmata* as a Dynamic Folk Community,” Florida State University, 13 October 2005.

“Walking into the Furnace of the South and Living to Tell the Tale: Black Women Writers at Work,” Keynote Address for Southern Women Writers Symposium, Berry College, 22 September 2005.

“Sites of Memory for African American Writers,” Keynote Address for International Conference on Toni Morrison, Cincinnati, Ohio, 16 July 2005.

“Work and Leisure in the Twenty-First Century,” North Carolina Central University, Durham, NC, 23 April 2005.

“Young Turks Put in Their Place: Early Encounters With CLA,” College Language Association, Athens, GA, 8 April 2005.

“Why Are Black Male Writers Afraid of the South?,” University of Massachusetts, Amherst, 5 April 2005.

“Fear of Family, Christianity, and the Self: Black Southern ‘Othering’ in Randall Kenan’s *A Visitation of Spirits*,” Keynote Address for a conference on the African American Novel, Penn State University, State College, 1 April 2005.

“Fear of Christianity, Fear of Self: Black Southern ‘Othering’ in Randall Kenan’s *A Visitation of Spirits*,” University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, 18 March 2005.

“‘Cultured Hell,’ Hellish Culture: Black Women Writers and the South,” Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa, 12 March 2005.

“Many Costumes, Many Roles: Making Zora Neale Hurston Work for the Stage of Reputation,” University of Kansas, Lawrence, 4 March 2005.

“Singing Words: What They Want From Authors and Readers,” Keynote Address for Southern Writers Symposium, Methodist College, Fayetteville, NC, 26 February 2005.

“The Scary Mason-Dixon Line: James Baldwin and the South,” International Conference in the Humanities, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, 15 January 2005.

“Alice Childress: The Art of Capturing the Voices of ‘the Little People’,” MLA, Philadelphia, PA, 29 December 2004.

“Nelson Mandela” for the Exemplary Lives Weekend Seminar sponsored by The Program in the Humanities and Human Values at UNC, 26 June 2004.

Keynote address for the Alabama Writers Symposium, Monroeville, Alabama, 1 May 2004.

Read at the Alabama Bound! Writers Conference in Birmingham, Alabama, 24 April 2004.

Presented “Early Questing After ‘The One’: John and Edward [W. E. B. Du Bois] as Leaders of Their People” at the annual College Language Association Convention, Nashville, TN, 16 April 2004.

Presented a two-day Distinguished Scholar Lecture Series for the Program in the Humanities and Human Values at UNC, 19-20 March 2004.

Participated in a program on African American Literature at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Maryland, 21 February 2004.

Delivered the keynote address for Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Banquet, Chapel Hill, 18 January 2004. Friday Center.

Lectured on Toni Morrison’s *Song of Solomon* and conducted a teaching workshop at St. Augustine’s College, Raleigh, North Carolina, 21 November 2003.

Taught a class on writing the personal essay at the annual meeting of the North Carolina Writers Network, Wilmington, North Carolina, 15 November 2003.

Chaired a panel at the International Conference on Caribbean Literature (I.C.C.L.) in Freeport, Bahamas, 6 November 2003.

“The Scary Mason-Dixon Line: African American Writers and the South”—keynote address for the conference on American Literature in La Coruna, Spain, 16 October 2003.

Panel participant on the state of the profession at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of American Women Writers, Fort Worth, Texas, 26 September 2003.

“Trudier, You always go for the balls’: Some of my adventures in Predominantly White Academia,” for the College Language Association annual convention in Washington, D. C., 25 April 2003.

Alice Dunbar-Nelson Eminent Scholar, Dillard University, 7-11 April 2003.

“With This Pen I Can Change the World: Enslaved African Americans and the Quest for Literacy,” for the Harriet Jacobs Symposium, Edenton, North Carolina, 5 April 2003.

Presented “The Copying Frenzy: Is It Something Only Undergraduates Do?: Or, How Your Friends Got Tenured and Promoted” as the keynote address for the annual meeting of the Alabama College English Teachers Association, 15 February 2003.

“10,000 Miles from Dixie and Still in the South: Yusef Komunyakaa’s Vietnam Poetry”; delivered as the W. E. B. and Shirley Graham Du Bois Lecture at Colgate University, 5 February 2003.

“The South in the African American Literary Imagination, Georgia State University, 28 January 2003.

“William Melvin Kelley’s Real Live, Invisible South,” presented at a conference on Southern Literature at Texas A&M University, 16 November 2002.

“New Invisible Man: Ralph Ellison’s Influence on Brent Wade’s *Company Man* (1992),” presented as the keynote address at a conference on Ralph Ellison at North Carolina Central University, 8 November 2002.

Attended the annual meeting of the Wintergreen Women Writers Conference, 17-18 May 2002.

“Would You Go Out With A White Boy for Five Dollars?,” presented at the annual meeting of the College Language Association in Memphis, Tennessee on 25 April 2002.

“Expectations Too Great: The Failure of Racial Calling in Ralph Ellison’s *Juneteenth*,” for a conference on “Tomming and Passing” held at UNC Chapel Hill, 23 April 2002.

Delivered the inaugural Phi Beta Kappa Lecture at Spelman College on 22 February 2002—on Zora Neale Hurston.

“Almost—But Not Quite—Blues Men in Langston Hughes’s Poetry,” for the 100th Birthday Celebration for Langston Hughes, Lawrence, Kansas, February 2002.

Presented “Roots in the Soil and Head in the Heavens” for the McNair Scholars Luncheon at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, 29 September 2001.

23 April 2001—Lectured on African American Literature for the English Department at Alamance Community College, North Carolina, in connection with Carolina Speakers.

Attended the annual conference of the North Carolina Humanities Council Advisory Board, Ferrington House, 6-7 April 2001.

Presented “No Escape from the Jungle: Sexual Stereotyping of Black Males in *Soul Food*” at the Film Conference at UNC, 6 April 2001; also presented the paper at the annual College Language Association Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, 18-22 April 2001.

“Demystifying the Classroom; Or, Reclaiming Your Own ‘Foreign Country’”—Keynote Address for the annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), Birmingham, Alabama, 29 March 2001.

Chaired the panel discussion of John Wideman’s works in connection with the Morgan Writer-in-Residence Program, 26 March 2001.

Presented “Adventures in a ‘Foreign Country’: African American Humor and the South” on a panel (organized by John Shelton Reed) at the annual meeting of the Conference of Southern University Presidents held in Miami, Florida, 10 March 2001.

After film discussion of “Two Dollars and a Dream” (the life of Madam C. J. Walker—Sarah Breedlove) for the Women's Studies Department at Appalachian State University, 21 February 2001.

As a member of the Toni Morrison Society, I attended her 70th birthday party at the New York Public Library on 17 February 2001.

Presented “Breaking Out of Boxes: A Century of African American Folklore and Literature” to the teachers who participated in the Thomas Day Education Project, Durham, North Carolina, 9 February 2001.

Keynote address—“An Open Letter to George Moses Horton” for the Chatham County Horton Celebration, 18 November 2000.

Introduced Sonia Sanchez at her reading at the SAMLA conference in Birmingham, Alabama, 11 November 2000.

Chaired a session at the International Conference on Caribbean Literature (ICCL) held in Ponce, Puerto Rico, 1-4 November 2000.

Presented “Slanting the Truth: Homosexuality, Manhood, and Race in James Baldwin’s *Giovanni’s Room*” at the “Looking Back With Pleasure” conference on African American Literature held at the University of Utah, 25-29 October 2000.

Presented “Expectations Too Great: The Failure of Racial Calling in *Juneteenth*” at the annual meeting of the St. George Tucker Society, Nashville, TN, 10-12 August 2000.

“Margaret Walker Alexander: A Twentieth Century Voice from the South”—Keynote Address for the conference on the opening of the Margaret Walker Papers, Jackson, Mississippi, 8 July 2000.

Participated in the annual conference of the Wintergreen Women Writers, Williamsburg, VA, 26-28 May 2000.

Participated in the Executive Seminar sponsored by the Program in the Humanities and Human Values, Pine Knoll Shores, North Carolina, 21-26 May 2000.

“Strength, Morality, Tyranny: The Nature of African American Literary Mothering”—presented in “Black Feminist Theorizing Across the Disciplines: A Distinguished Lecture Series” at Texas Woman's College, 20 April 2000.

“Ugly Legacies: The Harlem Renaissance, African American Literature, and *Soul Food*”—presented at Michigan State University, 12 April 2000.

“Re-Aligning the Planets: Where Sassy Black Female Characters Will be in the Twenty-First Century,” presented in the Black Lecture Series at Denison University, 16 February 2000.

“This Disease Called Strength: Legend, Literature, and Black Female Character”—for the Southern Humanities Council meeting in Macon, Georgia, 11 February 2000.

“The Virtues of Hearing As You Read: Gloria Naylor’s *Mama Day*”—presented at Hampton University, 3 February 2000.

I have lectured throughout the United States, as well as in Poland, Germany, France, Canada, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Spain, Italy, England, Northern Ireland, and South Africa. Brief named lecturing appointments have included: Woodrow Wilson Scholar-in-Residence at Spelman College (1989) and at Bennett College (1990); Martin Luther King, Jr./Cesar Chavez/Rosa Parks Visiting Distinguished Scholar in English at Wayne State University (1989); Eudora Welty Professor of Southern Studies at Millsaps College (1990); Mellon Scholar-in-Residence at Stillman College (1991); NEH Visiting Distinguished Scholar at the University of Nevada at Reno (1991); and Alice Dunbar-Nelson Eminent Scholar, Dillard University (2003). I have presented close to three hundred papers at professional conferences since 1972.

COMMITTEE WORK at ALABAMA:

English Department Symposium Committee (2016-2017), Paul R. Jones “Freedom?” Exhibit Committee (2015-2017), Chair, Strode Search Committee (2014-2015); English Department Executive Committee (2014-2015); English Department Retention and Review Committee (2014-2015; Chair, 2015-2016); English Department Search Committee for Position in Southern Literature (2012-2013); Robert Milton Young Memorial Lecture Committee—English Department (2010-2016); MA Comps Committee—English Department (2011-2014); College of Arts and Sciences Chaired Professor Selection Committee (2011); College of Arts and Sciences Hidden Humanities Lecture Committee (2014-2016); College of Arts and Sciences Diversity Committee (2011-2014); College of Arts and Sciences 2nd and 3rd Year Faculty Seminar Committee (2011-2013); College of Arts and Sciences Committee on incorporating art in the Paul R. Jones Collection into the classroom (2013-); University Planning Committee for a conference with Greek Professors in 2016 (2015-2016); Search Committee for Dean of the College of Commerce (2015-2016); Judge for “Letters About Literature” for the Alabama Center for the Book (2014-2018);

LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL SERVICE:

Sidney Lanier Prize Committee, Center for Southern Studies, Mercer University (2012-); Board of Directors, Theatre Tuscaloosa (2012-2015); Daryl Cumber Dance Award for Lifetime Achievement Selection Committee, The College Language Association (2012-); Creative Scholarship Award Committee, The College Language Association (2005-2017); Modern Language Association's Hubbell Award Selection Committee (2014-2018); Tuscaloosa City Schools Task Force (2014-2015). I review manuscripts and book proposals for university presses and articles for journals, both national and international (one in April of 2017, one in May of 2017, and one in October of 2017); I also review manuscripts on a one-on-one basis for colleagues around the country (a nearly 700-page one in May of 2017). In 2017, I read and commented on a chapter of a dissertation for a student enrolled at the University of Louisville. I visited a colleague's class in another department at UA in April of 2017 and wrote a letter for her tenure file. With two English Department colleagues, I helped to organize the Department's biennial symposium—on Black/White Intimacies from slavery to the present. I routinely write letters of recommendation for students as well as for colleagues (forty-six [46] in 2017) and still counting for 2018. Other service assignments I have completed recently include: tutoring an 11th grader in preparation for his ACT test in English (April 2017), reviewing a proposal for a conference on Zora Neale Hurston that was held at the University of Kansas (May 2017), participating in Oakdale Elementary School's Career Day (May 2017; I discussed what it means to be a writer with 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders), traveling to Lawrence, Kansas (August 2017) for the dissertation defense of a student who received his MA at UA, and meeting with the Women and Gender Resource Center Book Club to discuss *Summer Snow* (22 February 2018). I also participated on the "Tips for Publishing Books and Articles" panel for the Black Faculty Staff Association's "Professional Development Day & Author Spotlight" (27 March 2018), lectured on my current book project for the residents of Capstone Village (2 May 2018), and, as a distinguished alum of Martin Luther King Jr./Thirty-Second Elementary School, spoke with students at an assembly (14 May 2018) and presented to two classes (17 May 2018).

OTHER:

Graduated from the Tuscaloosa Police Department's Citizens Police Academy on 3 April 2017 after taking an eight-week course for three hours every Monday night.

COURSES TAUGHT (OR SCHEDULED) AT ALABAMA:**Undergraduate:**

The Promised Land: African American Literature and Urban Spaces; Modern Monsters and Monstrosities (Junior Honors Seminar); African American Literature of the 1980s; African American and Caribbean Women's Literature; Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston; 21st Century Slavery (Junior Honors Seminar); Migrations in African American Life and Culture (designed to use the Paul R. Jones Collection of American Art at the University of Alabama; Senior Seminar); Survey of African American Literature; African American Poetry and Drama: The Politics of Literary Expression; When I Was In A Book: African American Texts from Page to Film.

Graduate:

Known and Unknown Shadows: Transracial Thematics in American Literature, African American Literature (Directed Reading), African American Criticism and Theory (Directed Reading), African American Literature of the 1980s; African American Folklore (Directed Reading); African American Women Writers (Directed Reading), African American and Caribbean Women's Literature (Directed Reading); African American Life Writing; Seminar in African American Drama After 1950; The Neo-Slave/Freedom Narrative; Sexualities and Sexual Identities in African American Literature.

SUPERVISION OF/COMMITTEE WORK WITH STUDENTS**Undergraduate:**

Recently, I worked with a student who completed a comparative study of the religious philosophies of Martin Luther and Flannery O'Connor for her Honors Thesis. During 2014-2015, I directed three Senior Honors Theses, and I directed one during 2015-2016. During the spring semester of 2018, I directed a Senior Honors Thesis on the problematic rhetoric in international human trafficking laws.

Graduate:

I have served on several masters theses and dissertation committees at UA. Currently, I am directing three dissertations and have one student preparing for her doctoral examinations. My first UA student to complete a doctoral degree is in her second year on the faculty at the University of Florida in Gainesville. My second UA PhD joined the faculty at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in August of 2018.

Doctoral students whose dissertations I directed at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill serve on faculties at the following universities: Champlain University (former student served as Dean of the Core Division), the College of Charleston (Chaired Professor), DePaul University, Georgia Perimeter College, Georgia State University; Kentucky State University (served as Acting Provost and Vice President), Mercer University (2), Michigan State University (Chaired Professor), Middlebury College, North Carolina Central University, Penn State University, Temple University (Vice Provost), The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Northern Kentucky, the University of San Francisco, the University of Tennessee at Knoxville (Chaired Professor), and the University of Virginia. One of my UNC PhDs became a Reiki Master and founded her own business, Spirited Solutions, in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Two of UNC PhDs work at the high school level, one in the Winston-Salem, North Carolina Public School System and one at Proctor Academy in Andover, New Hampshire.

Some of the students on whose dissertation committees I served at UNC are now on the faculties of George Mason University, Mercer University, North Carolina Central University, Northern Illinois University, The Ohio State University, the University of Alabama, and the University of Oklahoma. University of Alabama students on whose masters committees I served are now at the University of Kansas, Clemson University, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.