

Herman Beavers

Work Address:

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Present Position: Associate Professor of English.

Teaching and Scholarly Interests:

- 20<sup>th</sup> Century African American Literature
- Gender Studies (African American Masculinity in Literature and Cinema)
- African American Poetry and Poetics
- Chaos Theory and Literature
- Jazz Studies
- Poetry Writing

Education:

1990: Yale University, Ph.D.  
Field: American Studies  
1985: Yale University, M.A.  
Field: Afro-American Studies  
1983: Brown University, M.A.  
Field: English (Creative Writing)  
1981: Oberlin College, B.A.  
Major(s): Government, Sociology, and Creative Writing

Academic and Professional Positions

Summer, 2010: Faculty. Africana Studies Summer Institute, Center for Africana Studies. University of Pennsylvania.

Fall, Spring, 2009-10: Visiting Fellow. Center for African American Studies and the Carl A. Fields for Social Change. Princeton University. Princeton, N.J.

2009-2012: Delegate representing Ethnic Literatures. Modern Language Association Delegate Assembly. New York, NY.

Spring, 2008: Visiting Associate Professor. Princeton University. Princeton, N.J.

Summer 2007, Faculty, Africana Studies Summer Institute, Center for Africana Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Phila. PA.

Summer, 2007: Faculty, Jazz Studies Institute, NEH Teacher's Seminar, Washington University, St. Louis, MO.

Summer, 2005: Faculty, Slavery and Literacy: NEH Teacher's Institute. George Mason University. Fairfax, VA.

Summer, 2005: Faculty, NEH Jazz Institute: NEH Teacher's Institute. Washington University. St. Louis, MO.

Summer, 2005: Faculty, Language Matters II: NEH Teacher's Institute. Northern Kentucky University.

Summer 2001, Distinguished Visiting Scholar, Multicultural Institute, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.

1998-99: Visiting Associate Professor, Department of English. Swarthmore College. Swarthmore, PA.

1996-present: Associate Professor, Department of English, University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA.

1990-1996: Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Pennsylvania.

1988-89: Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of English, Trinity College, Hartford CT.

Spring, 1988: Guest Professor, Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, NY.

Fall, 1987: Teaching Fellow, Yale University.

Spring, 1987: Guest Professor, Sarah Lawrence College.

Fall, 1986: Visiting Fellow, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT.

1984-85: Teaching Fellow, Yale University.

Fall, 1982: Instructor, Brown University, Providence, R.I.

#### Related Academic Positions

2004-present: Editorial Board, *Journal of Modern Literature*, Temple University.

2002-present: Advisory Editor, *Modern Fiction Studies*. Johns Hopkins University Press. Purdue University.

1999-present: Associate Editor, *African American Review*. St. Louis University.

2001-02: Visiting Fellow in African American Studies, Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.

Summer 2002, Faculty, W.E.B. DuBois Accelerator Program, University of Pennsylvania.

1996-2001: Director, Afro-American Studies Program, University of Pennsylvania.

1997-1999: Editorial Board, African American Review, Indiana State University.

1997-1999: Editorial Board, American Literature, Duke University, Duke University Press.

1996-present: Lecturer in American Literature, the Lord Mountbatten Internship Program, New York, NY.

1989-2002: Advisory Board for the Center for the Study of Black Literature and Culture, University of Pennsylvania.

1990-Present: Advisory Board for The Companion to African-American Literature, Oxford University Press.

1989-present: Contributing Editor, Heath Anthology of American Literature.

1982-83: Editor-in-Chief and Poetry Editor, *Brown Review*, Providence, R.I.

#### Academic Service

Spring 2012-Spring 2013: Member, Subcommittee for College of Arts and Sciences, Middle States Reaccreditation; Office of the Provost. University of Pennsylvania, Phila, PA.

Fall, 2009-Present: Member, Faculty Council for Access and Academic Success, Office of the Provost, U of Pennsylvania.

Spring, 2007: Discussant, New Directions in African American Studies Symposium. Claflin University, Orangeburg, S.C.

Spring, 2007: Tenure Review, Duke University.

Spring 2007-Spring 2008: Chair, Course Review Committee for U.S. Cultural Diversity Requirement, The College, University of Pennsylvania.

Fall, 2005: Tenure Review, candidates in Departments of English at Princeton University and University of Vermont

Fall 2004: Tenure Review, candidate in Department of English, Northwestern University. Evanston, IL.

June 2004-June 2005: Acting Director, Center for Africana Studies, University of Pennsylvania.

Fall, 2003-2005: Chair, President's Council for Affirmative Action. University of Pennsylvania.

Spring & Fall, 2004: Member, Dean's Search Committee. School of Arts and Sciences. University of Pennsylvania.

Summer, 2003: Tenure Review for Candidates at University of North Carolina, Charlotte and John Jay College.

Spring, 2003: Respondent on Literature Panel at Mellon Graduate Student Conference, University of Pennsylvania.

Fall 2002: Member, President's Council for Affirmative Action. University of Pennsylvania.

December, 2000: NEH On-Site Reviewer for Grant Application by the Schomburg Library. National Endowment of the Humanities, Washington, D.C.

Spring 2000-Fall 2005: Chair, Committee on Minority Student Retention and Success. University of Pennsylvania.

Fall 1999: Tenure Review for Candidates at Universities of Georgia and Tennessee, and Bowdoin College.

January, 2000: Panelist. Social Science Panel. National Endowment of the Humanities. Washington, D.C.

Fall, 1999: Chair, Search Committee, Department of English, for position in 19<sup>th</sup> Century African American Literature. U of Pennsylvania.

Fall, 1999-Spring, 2000: Chair. Affirmative Action Council. University of Pennsylvania. Phila. PA

Fall, 1998-present: Faculty Coordinator, Mellon Minority Scholars Program. University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA

Fall, 1998, Guest Editor, Narrative (Multiculturalism and Narrative) Vol. 7, no. 2. Ohio State University Press. Ohio State University. Columbus, OH.

Spring, 1998: Member, Provost Search Committee, University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA.

Fall, 1997: Addison Gayle Lecturer, Baruch College, CUNY, New York, NY

1995-1996, Acting Chair, University Pluralism Committee, University of Pennsylvania., Philadelphia, PA.

1996-99: Member, Executive Board, African American Resource Center, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

1996: Member, University Pluralism Committee, University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA.

1996-1999: Member, Executive Committee, Society for the Study of Narrative. (3-year term)

1996-2001: Director, Afro American Studies Program, University of Pennsylvania.

1996: Panelist. Ford Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowship. Humanities Panel. National Research Council. Washington, D.C.

1995: Member, Subcommittee on Access to Professional and Graduate Faculty, Provost's Committee on Undergraduate Education, University of Pennsylvania.

1994: Member, Penn Reading Project Planning Group. University of Pennsylvania.

1993: Member, Judicial Inquiry Officer Search Committee, Office of the Vice Provost for University Life, University of Pennsylvania.

1993: Member, Penn Reading Project Planning Group, University of Pennsylvania.

1992-93: Faculty Master (acting), Hill College House, Office of Residential Life, University of Pennsylvania,

1992-93: Member, Student Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate, University of Pennsylvania. (resigned)

1992-93: Member, Advisory Board, Aetna Minority Scholars Program, College of Arts and Sciences. University of Pennsylvania.

1991-92: Faculty Coordinator, Penn Reading Project on Frederick Douglass, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania.

1991-1993: Member, Grievance Review Panel, University of Pennsylvania.

1991-92: Director, English Department Honors Program, University of Pennsylvania.

1991-92; 93-94: Faculty Fellow, Hill College House, Programs in Academic Residence, University of Pennsylvania.

1990-91: Member, Graduate Executive Committee, Department of English, University of Pennsylvania.

1990-present: Faculty Mentor, Mellon Minority Scholars Program, University of Pennsylvania.

1990: Co-Originator and Co-Facilitator, Black Male Support Group, Student Support Services, University of Pennsylvania.

Summer, 1988: Assistant Director, Minority Summer Research Program (MSREP), Yale University, New Haven, CT.

#### Courses Taught

English 570: They Walk the Way of the New World: African American Writers Under 40 English 570: Charles Johnson and Toni Morrison

English 773/285/80: A Love Supreme: The Literatures of Jazz

English 288: Nation and Imagination: 20th Century African American Poetry

English 800: Strategy and Instrumentation: Teaching African American Literature

English 570: Three African American Writers: Ralph Ellison, Ernest J. Gaines, and James Alan McPherson.

English 281: Dialogue and Revision in African-American Narrative

English 281: Exodus and Memory: African- and Jewish-American Literature

English 284/84: Intimacy and Distance: Four Southern Writers (Faulkner, Hurston, Welty, and Wright)

English 113: Introduction to Poetry Writing

English 103: Gender, Class, and Power in African American Short Fiction

English 84: Constructing Race

English 89: American Fiction Survey

English 81: Commentary and Persuasion in African American Literature

English 80: Trading Fours: The Literatures of Jazz (ABCS)

English 74: Enterprise and Structure: The African-American Short Story

English 63: The African American Short Story

English 16: The Literature of Arrivals and Departures (freshman seminar)

#### Dissertation Committees

Timothy Waples

Michael McGee

Shahara Kia Brookins (American Civilization, Brown University)

Michael Borshuk (English, Western Ontario University)

Crystal Lucky

Suzanne Cloud Tapper (American Civilization)

James Peterson (Director)

Erika Williams (Comparative Literature)

Amina Gautier

Adam Hotek (Director)

Nicole Brittingham Furlonge (Director)

Matthew Merlino

Brandon Woods (Director)

GerShun Avilez

Sarah Isabel Geathers

Sarah Mantilla

Mecca Sullivan

#### Invited Lectures/Conference Papers

March, 1999: "Romancing the Body Politic: DuBois's Propaganda of the Dark World."  
Annual DuBois Conference. University of the Sciences. Philadelphia, PA.

February, 1999: "Romancing the Body Politic: DuBois's Propaganda of the Dark World."  
DuBois Commemorative Conference. Department of Sociology and The Annals of the  
American Academy of Political Science. University of Pennsylvania.

"Jazz Must Be a (Wo)Man: Orchestration of the Masculine Self in the Literature of Jazz"

April, 1998: Society for the Study of Narrative Literatures, Annual Convention.  
Northwestern University. Evanston, IL.

November, 1996: American Studies Association Convention, Kansas City, MO.

January, 1996: Ohio State University, Columbus, OH.

December, 1995: Modern Language Association Convention,  
Chicago, IL.

“Flexible Bodies, Inflexible Acts: Untangling Race and Masculinity,”

January 1999, Department of English, University of Maryland,  
College Park, MD.

May, 1998: Afro-American Studies Program. Northwestern  
University, Evanston, IL.

November, 1997: Afro-American Studies Program  
Works-In-Progress Series., Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.

October, 1995: The University of Miami.  
Miami, Florida.

November, 1994: Sarah Lawrence College. Bronxville, NY.

October, 1994: Race in the Americas Conference, University of Pennsylvania.  
Philadelphia, PA.

“Images of African American Masculinity,” Pennsylvania Humanities Council Speakers’ Series.

April, 1995: Harrisburg Area Community College, Harrisburg, PA

March, 1995: LaSalle University. Philadelphia, PA.

February, 1995: Montgomery Community College. Montgomery County, PA.

January, 1994: Pennsylvania State University, Mont Alto Campus. Mont Alto,  
PA.

“Artistry and Politics: African American Short Fiction.” Pennsylvania Humanities Council  
Speakers Series

November 1994: Marywood College. Scranton, PA.

April, 1994: Pittsburgh Center for the Arts., Pittsburgh, PA.

February 1994: Harrisburg Public Library, Harrisburg, PA.

February, 1994: Alvernia College. Reading, PA.

“The Rocks Cried Out: The Aural Impulse in African American Literature, 1845 to the Present”

November, 1990: Center for Literary and Cultural Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

February, 1990: Sarah Lawrence College: Martin Luther King Lecture . (inaugural lecture), Bronxville, NY.

February, 1990: Trinity College Black History Month Lecture Series. (inaugural lecture) Hartford, CT.

Lectures on Autobiography of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave

January 1993: “Aural Reconfigurations of Frederick Douglass.” Duke University. Durham, N.C.

December, 1990: “The Body is Customer to the Ear: Aural (Re)configurations of Narratives by Frederick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs.” Modern Language Association Conference, Chicago, IL

September, 1990: “Listening and Distrust: Aural Reconfigurations of Frederick Douglass’s Narrative of 1845.” Talk at the Graduate English Association Collation, University of Pennsylvania. Phila. PA.

May, 1990: “Aural Reconfigurations: Frederick Douglass’s Narrative of 1845,” paper delivered at the American Literature Association Conference, San Diego, Calif.

Invited Lectures, Readings, and Conference Presentations

June, 2012: Organizer and Seminar Leader, “Forms of African American Experience: The Making of African American Poetries, The Poetics of Making.” West Chester Poetry Conference. West Chester State University, West Chester, PA.

May, 2012, Chair, “Innovative Nostalgia in 21<sup>st</sup> Century African American Poetry” American Literature Association Conference. San Francisco, CA.

March, 2012: “The Noisy Lostness: Oppositionality and the Acousmatic Subject in *Invisible Man*.” Ellison Symposium: 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *Invisible Man*. Washington & Lee University. Lexington, VA.

February, 2011: Panel Chair/Panel Organizer. “Changing Chords: the African American Poet-Critic”; Associated Writing Programs Conference; Washington, D.C.

December, 2010: "Pedagogies of Recovery: Speculation in August Wilson's 'Gem of the Ocean' and 'Radio Golf' invited panelist, Representations of Cultural Trauma in African American Literature. Modern Language Association Convention. Los Angeles, CA. Dec. 2010.



October, 2010: "Reading *\_A Lesson Before Dying\_* in the Age of Obama". One-City, One Book Program. Allegheny County Community College. Pittsburgh, PA. Oct. 2010. Invited keynote address.

April, 2010: Invited Panelist. "Where There is No History, There is No Music: Collaborative Performance in Michael S. Harper's *Doubletake*." American Comparative Literature Association. Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA.

Summer, 2010: Invited Participant. Colrain Poetry Manuscript Conference. The Round House. Colrain, MA.

October, 2009: Invited Panelist. "Noises in the Hallway: Recursion and Iteration in Lorraine Hansberry's *The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window*." Conference on Lorraine Hansberry. Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.

September, 2009: Invited Lecture, "Bigger Goes to the Movies: Turbulence and Spectatorship in *Native Son*". College of William & Mary. Williamsburg, VA.

April, 2007: Invited Respondent at The Jonathan Jasper Wright Symposium. Claflin University, Orangeburg, S.C.

February, 2007: Panelist on The Legacy of Martin Luther King. Black Student League. University of Pennsylvania.

April 2006: "Taking it Like a Man: Trauma and Violence in "Boyz N the Hood and The Caine Mutiny. African American Studies Program. University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Knoxville, TN.

November, 2005: "Knowing History/Finding Routes: *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* as [Post]modern Geography Book." *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman: Cross Cultural Perspectives*. Conference at Bibliotheque de l'Universite Francois-Rabelais. Tours, France. (invited participant)

April, 2005: Lecture on African American Poetry. Penn Black Alumni. Washington, DC.

April 2005: "Bondage and Discipline: Charles Johnson's Pedagogy of Discomfort." The African American Novel. Conference at Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA.

April, 2005: Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*. Book Talk at School of Education, North Carolina A&T. Greensboro, N.C.

February, 2005: Pre-Screen Talk. "Spike Lee's 'Clockers'". Annenberg Center, University of Pennsylvania.

February, 2005: Pre-Concert Talk on Blues Poetry. Annenberg Center, University of Pennsylvania.

November, 2004: Lecture. Penn Black Alumni Group. Atlanta, GA.

November, 2004: Guest Lecture on "Nothing But a Man". DuBois College House Film Series. University of Pennsylvania.

November, 2004: Poetry Reading, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA.

November, 2004: Invited lecture. Graduate Seminar in African American Literature. George Washington University. Washington, DC

September, 2004: Guest Speaker. Furious Flower Conference. James Madison Conference. Harrisonburg, VA.

April, 2004: Panelist. Persuance: A Conference on the Jazz Avant-Garde. DePaul University. Chicago, IL.

December, 2003: "Form Matters: Historiography and Self-Referentiality in *But Beautiful* and *Coming Through Slaughter*." Modern Language Association Convention. San Diego, CA.

December, 2002: "Facing the Music: Blacks, Jews, and the Rhetoric of the Keyboard." Presented as part of an MLA Panel on Blacks, Jews, and Jazz. Modern Language Association Convention, New York City.

November, 2002: "double consciousness" presented as part of "Keywords in African American Studies" roundtable discussion at American Studies Association Convention, Houston, TX.

November 2002: Poetry reading. *Kelly Writer's House in New York*. Louis K. Meisel Gallery. New York, NY.

October, 2002: Lecture and Discussion on Ernest J. Gaines' *A Lesson Before Dying*. City of Greensboro, N.C./North Carolina A & T *One City/One Book* Program. Greensboro, N.C.

October, 2002: Panelist, Literary Studies Panel, *Back to the Future of Civilization* symposium, part of 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Center for Africana Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Phila. PA.

September, 2002: Poetry reading as representative of the Kelly Writer's House. Philadelphia Poetry Festival. Free Library of Philadelphia. Phila. PA.

February, 2002: "Documenting Turbulence: the Dialectics of Chaos in Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*." *Invisible Man Turns Fifty*. Conference at Washington and Lee University. Lexington, VA.

December, 2002: "Indebted to you for doing our work...": Negotiation and Negation in Thomas Nelson Page's *The Negro: The Southerner's Problem* and Booker T. Washington's *Up From Slavery*. Modern Language Association Convention. New Orleans, LA.

July 2001: "Taking it Like a Man: Incompetence and Family Politics in *The Caine Mutiny* and *Boyz N the Hood*." University of Kansas, Multicultural Institute, Lawrence, KS.

March 2000: Keynote Address, Fontaine Society Dinner, University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA.

February, 2000: "Prodigal Agency: Allegory and Voice in Ernest J. Gaines's *A Lesson Before Dying*." Lecture presented for the Afro-American Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Madison, WI.

September, 1999, "Asleep in the Enemy's Country: Contingency and Affect in High Cotton." Paper delivered at "The Endlessly Beckoning Horizon: African American Literature at the end of the Century" Conference sponsored by the Center for the Study of Black Literature and Culture. University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA.

June 1999, Discussant, Gender and Work Conference, American University Washington School of Law. Washington, D.C.

April 1999, "Paper delivered at the Society for the Study of Narrative Conference. Dartmouth University. Hanover, N.H.

April 1999: "Cleaving the Body Politic: The Rhetoric of Mediation and Meditation in Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*." Keynote address delivered at The Ralph Ellison Conference. Department of English. Bard College. Ossining, NY.

September, 1998: "The Politics of Space: Southernness and Manhood in the Novels of Toni Morrison." First Biennial Conference of the Toni Morrison Society. Georgia State University. Atlanta, GA.

May 1998, "Mediation and Meditation in Sherley Anne Williams's *Dessa Rose*" paper delivered at the Black Women Writer's Conference. Department of Language and Literature, University of California, San Diego, CA.

May, 1998: Co-Discussant on Toni Morrison's *Paradise*. Panel sponsored by the Toni Morrison Society. American Literature Associate Conference. San Diego, CA.

November, 1997: "This Ain't a Battle, It's a Rout(e): Postmodern Travel and Translation in Fictions by James Alan McPherson and Toni Morrison." Annual Addison Gayle Lecture. Baruch College, CUNY. New York, NY.

October, 1996: "Trauma and Revision: Rewriting the Masculine in Michael Harper's *Debridement*." Paper delivered at the Michael S. Harper Conference/Festival. Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME.

October, 1996: Panelist, "The Future of African American Studies and Higher Education." The Future of African American Studies: Theory, Pedagogy, and Research." Conference sponsored by the Institute for Research in African American Studies, Columbia University. New York, NY.

May-June, 1996: African American Science Fiction. Camden County Library Discussion Series. Voorhees, N.J. (four discussions)

March, 1996: Panelist, Affirmative Action Panel. Workforce 2000. Wharton School. University of Pennsylvania. Phila., PA.

March, 1996: Talking About the Tenure Process: What is Tenure?" talk delivered to the Ronald McNair Program, Temple University. Philadelphia, PA.

February, 1996: "Where There is no Metaphor, There Is No History." Black History Month Keynote Address, Allegheny College Black History Month Banquet. Meadville, PA.

November-December 1995: "The Color of Mystery: Walter Mosley's Detective Fiction." Camden County Library Discussion Series. Voorhees, N.J. (four discussions)

November, 1995: Facilitator, Opening remarks. "O. J. Simpson: Issues of Race, Gender, and Class," session at the American Studies Association Convention. Pittsburgh, PA.

August, 1995: Discussant on Alice Walker's "The Abortion." Storyline, WHYY, Philadelphia, PA.

July, 1995: Reading, Wrestling Angels into Song. Moonstone Lecture Series, Robin's Bookstore. Philadelphia, PA.

April, 1995: "Pedagogical Dialogue," lecture to Ronald McNair Program, Temple University, Phila. PA.

December, 1994: "He Who Grasps the Pivot...: Charles Johnson's Fiction as Multicultural Path." Paper presented at Modern Language Association Convention. San Diego, CA.

November, December 1994: *Memory, Myth, and Race: The Fiction of Toni Morrison and John Wideman*. Camden County Library Discussion Series. Camden County Library, Voorhees, N.J. (4 discussions)

November, 1994: "Dancing with the Devil in a Two Story House: Hierarchy, Narrative, and Resistance in the Fictions of Toni Morrison." paper delivered at *Toni Morrison and the Politics of Wordwork*, symposium sponsored by George Mason University. Fairfax, VA.

October, 1994: "Is There Reason to be Discouraged: the African American Literature Course in Multicultural Perspective." Frederick Douglass Centennial Conference. West Chester State University.

July, 1994: "Reflections of a Relevant Scholar," presentation for the Ronald McNair Scholars Program, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA.

February, 1994: "African American Masculinity and American Education." Ethnography Forum. Graduate School of Education. University of Pennsylvania.

February 1994: "Exodus and Memory: The African-/Jewish-American Literature Course." American Studies Seminar, Trinity (CT) College. Hartford, CT.

February, 1994: "A Credit to His Race: Shame and Identity Politics in the Construction of African American Masculinity." lecture at Trinity (CT) College. Hartford, CT.

February, 1994: Guest Lecturer, English 139: Black American Literature, Pennsylvania State University, Ogontz Campus. Ogontz, PA.

December, 1993: "The Cartography of Nightmare: Canonicity, Identity Politics, and Realism in the African American Literature Course." Modern Language Association Convention. Toronto, Canada.

May, 1993: "Reflections of a Pre-Law Student Turned Scholar," Keynote Address, Annual Awards Banquet. Student Support Services. Oberlin College. Oberlin, Ohio.

May, 1993: Keynote Address. Awards Ceremony. African American Association. University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA.

February, 1993: Co-lecturer (with Michael S. Weaver), "An Afternoon with Malcolm X," Villanova University, Black History Month Speaker Series. Villanova, PA.

Jan-Mar., 1993: Voices and Visions: The African American Short Story, Camden County Library Discussion Series. Voorhees, N.J. (4 discussions)

Jan. 1993: Co-Facilitator, "Black Male/Female Relationships: Healing A Growing Rift." Whitney M. Young Conference. Wharton School of Business. University of Pennsylvania. Phila. PA.

1992-93: Lecturer on Cinematic Representations of African American Masculinity in *Challenge for Change* Lecture Series. Academic Programs in Residence, University of Pennsylvania.

February, 1992: "Multiculturalism and Contemporary Education," Albright College; Reading, PA.

February, 1992: "Aurality in African American Narrative," lecture in "Signifyin' in African American Literature," lecture series. Villanova University. Villanova, PA.

December, 1991: "Denotating the Rising Sun: Modulations of East and West in the Fiction of Charles Johnson," Modern Language Association Conference, San Francisco, CA.

December, 1991: "Charles Johnson and Contemporary Black Fiction" Panel organizer and chair; Modern Language Association Conference, San Francisco, CA.

March, 1991: "The Veil Within the Veil: African American Responses to Trauma in Vietnam Narratives." Popular Culture Association Conference. San Antonio, TX.

March, 1991: Lecture on "Race and Class in African American Literature." Souls of DuBois Conference. DuBois College House. University of Pennsylvania.

December, 1990: "Dead Rocks and Sleeping Men: Langston Hughes's Aural Aesthetic." Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago, IL.

October, 1990: "Putting Aside the Armor That is Not Proved: The African American [Male] Struggle With Womanist Theory" lecture at the Yale University Law School, New Haven, CT.

September, 1990: "Interviewing for Academic Jobs," Academic Career Conference, Career Planning and Placement Service, University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA.

May, 1990: "Lift Every Voice and Sing": Black Poets and the American University (poetry reading). University of Pennsylvania.

March, 1990: Lecture and Discussion on "W.E.B. DuBois and the Talented Tenth," Souls of DuBois Conference, DuBois College House, University of Pennsylvania.

November, 1989: Lecture on James Alan McPherson's "A Solo Song: For Doc." Graduate Student Lecture Series, Department of Comparative Literature. University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA.

#### Awards

July, 2010: Finalist, 42 Miles Press Poetry Award. Indiana University, South Bend. South Bend, IN.

May, 2009: Finalist. Katherine A. Morton Poetry Prize. Sarabande Books. Louisville, KY.

January 2007, Finalist, Honicksman Prize, American Poetry Review, Philadelphia, PA.

March 2007: Finalist, Lena Miles Wever Poetry Prize. *Pleiades*. South Missouri State University.

February, 2005: Pathfinder Alumni Award for Academic Achievement. Maple Heights City Schools. Maple Heights, OH.

March 2004: Award of Recognition. Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program. Mellon Foundation and the Social Science Research Council. New York, NY.

June, 2003: Bench by the Road Award, Toni Morrison Society.

April, 2003: Gloria Twine Chisum Faculty of Color Award, James F. Brister Society, University of Pennsylvania.

April, 1996: Annenberg-DuBois Policy Post-Doctoral Fellowship. Annenberg School of Communications. University of Pennsylvania.

May, 1995: Honorable Mention, Whiskey Island Poetry Contest.

February, 1994: Award for Community Service and Scholarship, Mortar Board National Senior Honor Society, University of Pennsylvania.

May, 1993: Community Service Award, African American Association, University of Pennsylvania.

May, 1993: Honorary Member, Onxy, African American Student Honor Society, University of Pennsylvania.

Sept, 1990- Feb, 1991: W. W. Smith Post-Doctoral Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania.

1990-91: Lilly Teaching Fellowship. Lilly Endowment Inc. & The University of Pennsylvania.

1988-89: Yale University: Edward Alexander Bouchet Prize Fellowship (inaugural recipient)

1986: Smithsonian Institution: Graduate Internship

1986: Doris Publications: First prize, Poetry Competition

1986: Wesleyan University: Visiting Fellowship

1985: Yale University: Graduate and Professional Opportunity Fellowship

1985: Yale University: Afro-American Cultural Center. Award for Academic Excellence.

1981: Brown University: Graduate Fellowship

#### Professional Affiliations

Modern Language Association (MLA)

American Studies Association (ASA)

The Toni Morrison Society (member, Advisory Board)

#### References:

Professor Robert. O'Meally, Columbia University

Professor Carolyn Denard, Emory University

Professor Maryemma Graham, University of Kansas

Professor John Edgar Tidwell, University of Kansas

Professor Cheryl F. Wall, Rutgers University

Professor Thadious Davis, University of Pennsylvania

#### Publications

##### Books

*Wrestling Angels into Song: The Fictions of James Alan McPherson and Ernest J. Gaines*, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania. 1995

*A Neighborhood of Feeling* (poetry chapbook). Louisville, KY.: Doris Publications, 1986.

Articles and Book Chapters

"'There is the Power,' he thought, 'Right There': Dramatizing Entropy in the Fictions of Toni Morrison" Invited essay for Festschrift in honor of Toni Morrison's 80th Birthday. ed. Adrienne Seward. Toni Morrison Society. 25 manuscript pages. (forthcoming, Press TBD 2013)

"The Power in 'Yes': Pleasure, Dominion, and Conceptual Doubling in *Love*". Toni Morrison: Paradise, Love, and A Mercy. Lucille Fultz, ed. London: Continuum: 2011. 26 manuscript pages. (forthcoming, late 2012)

Fall, 2011: "Cleaving the Body Politic: Meditation and Mediation in Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* and Toni Morrison's *Beloved*". *Foreign Literature Studies*. Vol. 1, no. 1. Winter, 2011. 25 manuscript pages.

"You Can't Make Life Happen without a Woman: Paternity and the Pitfalls of Structural Design in King Hedley II and *Seven Guitars*." *August Wilson: Completing the Twentieth Century Cycle*. Alan Nadel, ed. University of Iowa Press. 2010. pp. 97-109.

"Black Women's Popular Fiction." *Cambridge Companion to African American Women's Literature*. Angelyn Mitchell and Danille Taylor, eds. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2008.

2008: "Vortical Blues: Turbulence in Richard Wright's *Native Son*." *Boundary2*: Ana M. Fraile, ed. Amsterdam: Rodopi Press.

"Bondage and Discipline: The Pedagogy of Discomfort in Charles Johnson's *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*." *Charles Johnson: The Philosophy of Fiction*. Marc Conner and William Nash, eds. Jackson, MI: U of Mississippi Press, 2007. pp. 40-56.

"The Archival Impulse in African American Poetry." *Rainbow Darkness: Poems and Essays from the Diversity in African American Poetry Conference*. Miami UP. pp. 173-184.

June, 2004. "Documenting Turbulence: the Dialectics of Chaos in Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*." Conference Paper. *A Raft of Hope: Essays on Invisible Man*. University of Kentucky Press. pp. 193-216.

May, 2004. "A Space We're All Immigrants From: Othering and the Politics of Communitas in Nathaniel Mackey's *Bedouin Hornbook*." *Uptown Conversation: The New Jazz Studies*. Columbia University Press. pp. 364-392.

"Divergent Paths: The Novels of James Baldwin and Ralph Ellison." *The Oxford Companion to the African American Novel*. In production at Oxford University Press. (22 manuscript pages).

October, 2001: "Prodigal Agency: Allegory and Voice in Ernest J. Gaines's *A Lesson Before Dying*." *Contemporary Black Men's Fiction and Drama*. ed. by Keith Clark. University of Illinois Press. pp. 135-54.

July 2001: "John A. Williams." *African American Writers*. The Scribner's Writers Series. Charles Scribner's. The Gale Group. New York, NY. Pp. 813-28.



July 2001: "James Alan McPherson." *Dictionary of Literary Biography: American Short Story Writers Since WW II*. Volume 244. The Gale Group. Farmington, MI. pp. 246-53.

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### Works in Progress

*The Geography of Risk: Representing Jazz, Policing Conduct, 1947-2005.*

*Loud Canons: African American Literature and the Politics of Racial Uncertainty, 1940-2007*  
(completed draft of manuscript, in revision)

*tundra of yes* (collection of poems; under consideration)