

Houston A. Baker, Jr.  
Distinguished University Professor  
Vanderbilt University

**Curriculum Vita**

**Personal Data**

Born: Louisville, Kentucky March 22, 1943  
Married, Charlotte Pierce-Baker  
One son, Mark Frederick Baker

**Education**

Male High School, Louisville, Kentucky  
B.A., Howard University, Washington, DC, 1965 (magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa)  
M.A., University of California at Los Angeles, 1966  
One year of doctoral work, University of Edinburgh: Edinburgh, Scotland, 1967-1968  
Ph.D., University of California at Los Angeles 1968

**Employment**

Instructor in English, Howard University, summer 1966  
Instructor in English, Yale University, 1968-69  
Assistant Professor in English, appointed for four-year term, Yale University, 1969-1970  
Associate Professor and Member of Center for Advanced Studies, University of Virginia, 1970-1973  
Professor of English, University of Virginia, 1973-1974  
Director of Afro-American Studies Program and Professor of English, University of Pennsylvania, 1974-1977  
Professor of English, University of Pennsylvania, 1977-1999  
Member of the Graduate Group in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory, University of Pennsylvania, 1979-1982, and 1988  
Albert M. Greenfield Professor of Human Relations, University of Pennsylvania, 1982-1999  
Founder and Director, Center for the Study of Black Literature and Culture, University of Pennsylvania, 1987-1999  
Susan Fox and George D. Beischer Professor of English, Duke University, 1999-2006  
Editor *American Literature*, Duke University, 1999-2006  
Distinguished University Professor, Vanderbilt University, 2006-

**Honors**

Competitive Scholarship, Howard University, 1961-1965  
Phi Beta Kappa, Howard University, 1965  
Kappa Delta Pi, Howard University, 1965  
John Hay Whitney Foundation Fellow, 1965-1966  
NDEA Fellow, University of California at Los Angeles, 1965-1968  
Alfred Longueil Poetry Award, University of California at Los Angeles, 1966  
Legion of Honor, Chapel of the Four Chaplains (Philadelphia, Community Service Award), 1981  
The Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation Award for Distinguished Teaching (University of Pennsylvania), 1984  
Alumni Award for Distinguished Achievement in Literature and the Humanities, Howard University, 1985  
Outstanding Alumnus Award of Howard University, Alumni Club of Greater Philadelphia, 1985  
Distinguished Writer of the Year Award, Middle Atlantic Writers Association, 1986

Creative Scholarship Award, College Language Association of America for *Afro-American Poetics*, 1988  
Pennsylvania Governor's Award for Excellence in the Humanities, 1990  
Pennbook/Philadelphia Award, November 1990  
Special Issue of *Chung Wai* (literary journal of Taiwan) devoted to the "Work of Houston A. Baker, Jr."  
November, 1993  
George Washington Carver Distinguished Lecture Award, Simpson College, 2003  
Hubbell Medal for Lifetime Achievement, MLA, 2003  
Martin Millennial Writers Award for contribution to Southern Arts & Letters, 2004  
"Symposium on Houston A. Baker, Jr.," in *Mississippi Quarterly: The Journal of Southern Cultures*, 2004  
Lifetime Achievement Award, *Furious Flower Poetry Conference*, 2004  
Lifetime Achievement Award, 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Black Writing (Philadelphia), 2009  
American Book Award for *Betrayal: How Black Intellectuals Have Abandoned the Ideals of the Civil Rights Era*,  
2009  
Lifetime Achievement Award, MELUS, 2012  
The Houston A. Baker Lecture, African American and Diaspora Studies, Vanderbilt University, Inaugurated  
October 2018.  
Black Aesthetics and Blues Geographies: A Symposium in Honor of Houston A. Baker, Vanderbilt University,  
March 2019  
Distinguished Faculty Award from the Vanderbilt University Organization of Black Graduate and Professional  
Students (OBGAPS), May 2019.  
American Academy of Arts and Science Member, Elected April 2020.

### **Fellowships**

Fellow, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, 1977-1978  
National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow, 1977-1978  
John Simon Guggenheim Fellow, 1978-1979  
Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton), invited for 1980-1981 (declined)  
Fellow, National Humanities Center, 1982-1983  
Fellow, Rockefeller Research Fellowship Program for Minority Group Scholars, 1982-1983  
Council of the Humanities (Princeton), Whitney J. Oates Short-term Fellow, 1991-1992  
Fulbright 50th Anniversary Distinguished Fellow (Brazil), 1996  
Breckenridge Distinguished Fellow, University of Texas, 1999  
Fellow/Senior Fellow, School of Criticism and Theory, Cornell University, 1996-2006  
Humanities Visiting Fellow, Humanities Center, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2008

### **Honorary Doctorates**

Doctorate of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa, Berea College (Berea, Kentucky), 1988  
Literarium Doctorem (honoris causa), Williams College, 1989  
Doctorate of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa, Beaver College, 1990  
Doctoris Literarum, Ursinus College, 1990  
Doctor of Letters, State University of New York at Albany, 1991  
Doctorate of Humane Letters, Knox College, 1992  
Doctorate of Humane Letters, Marymount Manhattan College, 1993  
Doctorate of Humane Letters, The University of Louisville, 1994  
Honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree, Ball State University, 1995  
Doctorate of Humane Letters, *Honoris Causa*, Tulane University, 1998  
Doctorate of Humane Letters, North Carolina Central University, 1999  
Honorary Doctorate, Saint Louis University, 2005

### **Visiting Professorships**

National Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar, 1975-1976  
Distinguished Visiting Professor, J. Saunders Redding Seminar in Black World Literature, Cornell University, 1977  
Mellon Resident Scholar, Tougaloo College (February), 1980  
Visiting Professor of English, Haverford College, 1983-1985  
O'Connor Visiting Professor, Colgate University, 1991  
Bucknell Distinguished Scholar, The University of Vermont, 1992  
Berg Visiting Professor of English, New York University, 1994  
Visiting Professor of English and Guest Editor of *American Literature*, Duke University, 1998-1999  
Brackenridge Visiting Professorship, University of Texas at San Antonio, 1999  
Ida Cornelia Beam Distinguished Visiting Professorship, University of Iowa, 1999

### **Distinguished Lectures Presented**

Annual Heberle Lecture, University of Michigan, 1987  
First Annual W.E.B. DuBois Lecture, George Mason University, 1987  
The Messenger Lectures, Cornell University (Series of 6 devoted to Afro-American Women's Writing), 1988  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Lecture, Purdue University, 1992  
First Annual Addison Gayle Lecture, Baruch College, 1992  
Distinguished Visiting Lectures, Four Universities in Taiwan, 1992  
The Fourth Annual Summers Memorial Lecture, The University of Toledo (April), 1993  
John Brown Russwurm Lecture Series, Bowdoin College (February), 1994  
J. Shannon-Clarke Lecture, Washington and Lee University (October), 1994  
First Annual Ralph Ellison Lecture, Tuskegee University (March), 1995  
Honoring Etheridge Knight Lecture Series, Butler University, 1997  
Kentucky Distinguished Humanities Lecture, University of Kentucky, 1999  
President's Distinguished Lecturer, Norfolk State University, 1999  
K. Buckner Distinguished Lecturer, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, 1999  
Distinguished Lecturer in the Humanities, Union College, 1999  
Department of English Distinguished Lecturer, University of California at Berkeley, 2000  
The Beach Institute Distinguished Lecture Series, Savannah, GA 2000  
Weymouth Ragan Lecture, Weymouth Center for the Arts and Humanities, Southern Pines, NC 2002  
Distinguished Lecture, Arizona State University, 2002  
Honora Rankine-Galloway Address, University of Southern Denmark at Odense, 2002  
Keynote, West Virginia University's Twenty-Seventh Annual Colloquium on Literature and Film, Morgantown, 2002  
George Washington Carver Distinguished Lecture, Simpson College, 2003  
Keynote, Reading Today's Southern Writers Conference, Beaufort, SC 2003  
Huntington Library, Ridge Lecture, Pasadena, CA 2004  
Keynote, Unsettling Memories Conference, Jackson, MS 2004  
Keynote, Furious Flower II Poetry Conference, James Madison University, 2004  
DeLuca Lecture, University of Toronto, 2005  
Keynote, Modernisms Conference, University of Coimbra, Portugal, 2005  
St. Clair Drake Lecture, Stanford University, 2008.  
Plenary Speaker, Richard Wright Centenary Conference, American University of Paris, 2008  
Keynote Opening Lecture, Toni Morrison Society Fifth Biennial Conference, Charleston, 2008  
Mellon Mays Lecture, Cornell University, 2009.  
Inaugural Lecture, English Department Series, Dalhousie University, 2009  
Keynote, African American Novel Conference, Penn State University, 2009  
Keynote, Symposium on English and American Literature, University of Alabama, 2009  
Distinguished Lecturer, Lawrence Reddick Lecture Series, Alabama State University, 2009  
Beaver Brook Endowed Lecture, Connecticut College, 2010  
Charles Eaton Burch Lecture, Howard University, 2010  
Plenary Speaker, MELUS Conference, Pittsburgh, 2013  
American Lecture, University of Kansas, 2013  
Ralph Ellison Speaker, Tuskegee University, 2016  
Keynote, American Studies Association of Korea International Conference, Sogang University, Seoul, South Korea,

2018.

The Inaugural Houston A. Baker Lecture, Vanderbilt University, 2018

### **Seminars, Conferences, and Lectureships Abroad**

The Sorbonne (Paris, VII), (1972)

University of Edinburgh, (1972)

Sussex University, (1973)

University of West Indies, (1976)

Delegate for United States Delegation of Five to First Conference on "Literature and National Consciousness"  
(Moscow, sponsored by ACLS-Soviet Academy of Sciences Commission on Humanities and Social  
Sciences, 1976-1978)

University of Ibadan, (Plenary Session Lecture, Nigeria, 1990)

Catholic University of Leuven (Conference Lecturer, Belgium, 1991)

Academy Sinica (Taiwan, 1992)

Universite de Montreal (Montreal, 1994)

Canadian Association of American Studies (Plenary Session, Ottawa, 1994)

University of Brasilia (Brazil, 1996)

Brazilian Association of American Studies (ABEA) Conference (Porto Alegre, Brazil, 1996)

Association of Canadian College and University of Teachers of English (ACUTE) (Canadian Learned Society  
Conference, 1997)

Honora Rankine-Galloway / Center for American Studies Conference, University of Southern Denmark, 2002

Fifth International Meeting of Poets, Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal, 2004

DeLuca Lecture, University of Toronto, 2005

Modernisms Conference, Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal, 2005

Richard Wright Centenary Conference, American University of Paris, 2008

American Studies Association Annual Conference, Baltimore, 2011

MLA 2016, Panel Discussion at the Modern Language Association Convention (Austin, Texas, 2016) with five  
distinguished professors presenting; "Mapping Blackness: Reading Black Literature and Culture through  
the Works of Houston Baker"

### **Biographical Listings**

*Who's Who in America*, and others.

### **Professional Activities**

Modern Language Association Delegate Assembly (1970-1974)

African Literature Association (Original Steering Committee, 1973-1974)

American Literature Screening Committee, Fulbright-Hays (1973-1974)

Committee on Scholarly Worth, Howard University Press (1973-1977)

Modern Language Association Program Committee (1973-1975)

Modern Language Association Commission on Minority Groups and the Study of Language and Literature  
(1976-1977)

College Language Association

First World Foundation (One of the founding members of a group of Black American Scholars, artists, professionals,  
and business people dedicated to the establishment of an alternative voice in American arts and letters (1976-1978)

Association of African and African American Folklorists (1977-1980)

American Studies Association Council (1980-1982)

Modern Language Association Executive Council (1984-1987)

The English Institute, Board of Supervisors (1989-1991)

Modern Language Association, Second Vice-President (1990-1991)

Modern Language Association, First Vice-President (1991-1992)  
Modern Language Association, President (1992)  
School of Criticism and Theory, Cornell University, Fellow/Senior Fellow (1996-)  
PEN American Center, Professional Member (2015-)

## **Administrative Service**

### **Yale University**

Committee to Reorganize the Master of Arts in Teaching Degree; Faculty Coordinator of Branford College/Hill House Program; Afro-American Studies Program Organizing Committee; Resident Fellow, Branford College; English Department Committee to Revise Senior Comprehensive Examination; Hall Seminars Program Organizing Committee; Black Faculty Steering Committee for May Day, 1970.

### **University of Virginia**

Afro-American Studies Program Advisory Committee; Advisor to Minority Pre-Freshman Summer Programs; Steering Committee of Black Faculty and Graduate Students; Advisor and Consultant for the Consultative Resources Center of the School of Education.

### **University of Pennsylvania**

Chair, Conflict of Interest Committee of University Senate; Chair, University Senate Committee to Assess University Investment Policy in South Africa; Chair, Affirmative Action Committee Convened by the Office of the Provost; Steering Committee for Afro-American Studies Program; Special Advisor to the President and Provost (during tenures of Presidents Meyerson and Hackney); Member of Dean, Provost, and Presidential Search Committees (including the Presidential Search Committee, 1993, that selected Dr. Judith Rodin); Black Presence Steering Committee; Advisory Board of the Christian Association; Advisory Board of the Women's Studies Program; Evaluation Committee on Residential Living and Learning Programs; Advisor to Tutoring Center and the LEAD Program in Business; Founder of the Afro-American Studies Program's Annual Spring Symposium Series; Elected to Serve as Chair of the English Department (1991), declined due to MLA Presidency and Directorship of the Center for the Study of Black Literature and Culture; University Cost Containment Committee Appointed by President Judith Rodin.

### **Duke University**

English Department Executive Committee; English Department Graduate Advisory Committee; President's Council on Black Affairs; Interdisciplinary Working Group on Arts and Humanities Across the University; English Department Chair's Advisory Committee; University Appointment, Promotion, & Tenure Committee; Executive Committee of African and African-American Studies Program (AAASP), responsible for securing new Director; Advisory Board of John Hope Franklin Institute for International and Interdisciplinary Studies; Executive Council Representative (English) for School of Arts and Sciences; School Distinguished Professors Nominating Committee; Academic Council Trustee Nominating Committee; Arts and Sciences Council; Academic Council.

### **Vanderbilt University**

Arts and Science Faculty Council; Graduate Faculty Council; English Department Speaker's Committee; Faculty Senate

## **Seminar Leaderships**

Coordinator, English Institute Panel (English as A World Language for Literature), 1979  
Director, National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for Teachers, (Afro-American

Literature and the Anthropology of Art), 1981  
Director, National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for College Teachers (Modernism and Afro-American Literature), 1985  
Coordinator, English Institute Panel (Modernism and Afro-American Literature), 1985  
Seminar Director, School of Criticism and Theory, 1987  
Section Director, First Conference in Literary Theory and Criticism. National Council of Teachers of English, 1987  
The Oxford University Centre for African Studies Summer School (Instructor and Conference Organizer), 1989, 1990  
Seminar Director, The Pennsylvania State University (Multiculturalism in the United States: Putting Theory Into Practice), 1993  
Seminar Director, The Pennsylvania State University (African American Voices: Language, Literature, and Criticism in Vernacular Theory and Pedagogy), 1994  
Seminar Presenter, Summer Institute for Teachers of Literature, Albany State College, 1996

### **Consultations and Evaluations**

Evaluation Committee, Afro-American Studies Program, Vassar College (1975)  
Evaluation Committee, English Department, Haverford College (1978)  
Panelist/Consultant, National Endowment for the Humanities (1978 -)  
National Consultant, Center for the Study of Southern Culture (1979 -)  
Evaluation Committee, English Department, Colgate University (1996)  
Evaluation Committee, English Department, University of California at Santa Barbara (1998)

### **Advisory Boards**

Advisory Board, *Maji Magazine* (1974- 1976)  
Advisory Board, *Minority Voices* (1977-1981)  
Board of Editors, *Classic Afro-American Fiction: Texts in Periodicals, 1827-1919,*” (A Cornell University Project, 1981-, now based at Harvard University)  
Advisory Editor, *Obsidian* (1981-)  
Advisory Board, *The American Novel* (NEH Media Project from Learning in Focus, NY) (1983-1984)  
Advisory Board, *College English* (1990 - )  
Advisory Board, *Yale Journal of Law and the Humanities*  
Advisory Board, *Transition*  
Advisory Board, *The American Poetry Recovery Series* (University of Illinois Press)  
Associate Editor, *African American Review*  
Advisory Board, *Columbia Literary History of the United States*  
Period Editor for “1960-1970” section of the *Norton Anthology of Afro-American Literature*, General Editor, Henry Louis Gates, Jr.  
Duke University Press Editorial Advisory Board (1999-)  
Advisory Board, John Hope Franklin Center for Interdisciplinary and International Studies (1999-)  
Advisory Board, Students, Administrators and Faculty for Equity (SAFE) (2000-)  
Advisory Board, *Amistad, HarperCollins, and BET.com*, an internet resource and supplier of Black Books and Ideas (2000-)  
Advisory Board, University of California Humanities Research Institute (2000-)  
Editorial Board, *Mississippi Quarterly* (2001-)  
Chicago Humanities Festival Advisory Committee (2003-)  
Advisory Board, *African American Review* (1992- )  
Editorial Board, *Palimpsest* (2012- )  
Editorial Board, *James Baldwin Review* (2013-)  
Editorial Board, *Twentieth Century Literature* (2014-)  
Advisory Board - *Op.Cit.: A Journal of Anglo-American Studies* (2014 - )

### **Board of Directorships**

Beaver College (Glenside, Pennsylvania)  
Florida Endowment Council on the Humanities (Council of Elders)

### **Grants Received**

Minority Permanence Oversight Development Committee (permanent committee: responsible for the oversight of \$35 million dollar endowment for the University of Pennsylvania minority Program initiatives), (1987 -)  
Mellon Minority Undergraduate Fellowship Program (co-author of original \$200,000 grant, 1989)  
Center for the Study of Black Literature and Culture: Xerox Corporation, \$60,000 (1987)  
The William Penn Foundation, \$396,300 (1987)  
The Rockefeller Foundation, \$219,100 (1988)  
The William Penn Foundation \$10,000 (1991)  
Office of Cultural Affairs, Governor's Office, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania \$10,000 (1991)  
The Rockefeller Foundation, \$156,000 (1992)  
The Ford Foundation, \$250,000 (1995)

### **Publications: Books and Monographs**

ed., *Black Literature in America*, New York: McGraw-Hill, 1971. An anthology of Black American literature from folklore to the present.

*Long Black Song: Essays in Black American Literature and Culture*, Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1972. Paper edition from University Press of Virginia, 1990.

ed., *Twentieth-Century Interpretations of Native Son*, Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1972.

*Singers of Daybreak: Studies in Black American Literature*, Washington: Howard University Press, 1974; paper edition from Howard University Press, 1983.

*A Many-Colored Coat of Dreams: The Poetry of Countee Cullen*, Detroit: Broadside Press, 1974.

ed., *Reading Black: Essays in the Criticism of African, Caribbean, and Black American Literature*, Ithaca, NY: Cornell University (Africana Studies and Research Center Monograph Series, no. 4), 1976.

Co-ed. (with Charlotte Pierce-Baker), *Renewal: A Volume of Black Poems*, Philadelphia: Afro-American Studies Program, University of Pennsylvania, 1977.

ed., *A Dark and Sudden Beauty: Two Essays in Black American Poetry by George Kent and Stephen Henderson*, Philadelphia: Afro-American Studies Program, University of Pennsylvania, 1977.

*No Matter Where You Travel, You Still Be Black (Poems)*, Detroit: Lotus Press, 1979.

*The Journey Back: Issues in Black Literature and Criticism*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980; paper edition from University of Chicago Press, 1983; Ebook 2013.

co-ed., *English Literature: Opening Up the Canon*, Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1981.  
(With Leslie Fiedler)

*Spirit Run* (poems), Detroit: Lotus Press, 1982.

ed., *Three American Literatures: Essays in Chicano, Native American, and Asian American Literature for Teachers of American Literature*, New York: Modern Language Association of American, 1982; paper edition from MLA, 1983.

ed., *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An Americana Slave*, New York: Penguin, 1982; Ebook 2013.

*Blues, Ideology, and Afro-American Literature: A Vernacular Theory*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1984; paper edition, 1986; Ebook 2013.

*Blues Journeys Home* (poems), Detroit: Lotus Press, 1985.

*Modernism and Harlem Renaissance*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987; paper edition, 1989; Ebook 2013.

*Afro-American Poetics: Revisions of Harlem and the Black Aesthetic*, Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1988.

co-ed., *Afro-American Literary Study in the 1990s*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1989; paper edition, 1991. (With Patricia Redmond)

*Workings of the Spirit: A Poetics of Afro-American Women's Writing*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1991; paper edition, 1993; Ebook 2013.

Foreword, *There Ain't No Black in the Union Jack*, Paul Gilroy, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1991.

*Black Studies, Rap, and the Academy*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1993; Ebook 2013.

*Black British Cultural Studies: A Reader* (co-editor with Manthia Diawara and Ruth Lindeborg), Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996.

*Passing Over*, Detroit: Lotus Press, 2000.

Ed., *Unsettling Blackness*, Special Issue of *American Literature* devoted to Afro-American Literary Studies, 2000.

*Critical Memory: Public Spheres, Afro-Americans and Black Father and Sons in America*, Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2001.

*Turning South Again: Re-Thinking Modernism, Re-Reading Booker T.*, Durham: Duke University Press, 2001.

Co-ed. (with Dana Nelson), *Violence, the Body, and the South*, Special Issue of *American Literature* devoted to a New Southern Studies, 2001.

Ed., *Erasing the Commas: RaceGenderClassSexualityRegion*, Special Issue of *American Literature* (March, 2005).

*I Don't Hate the South: Reflections on Faulkner, Family, and the South*, Oxford University Press, 2007.

*Betrayal: How Black Intellectuals Have Abandoned the Ideals of the Civil Rights Era*, Columbia University Press, 2008.

repr. *A Many-Colored Coat of Dreams: The Poetry of Countee Cullen*, Cengage Learning, 2013.

Co-ed., *The Trouble with Post-Blackness*, Columbia University Press, 2015.

### **Publications: Articles and Essays**

“Engaged Literature and Jean Paul Sartre's *The Flies*,” *The UCLA Graduate Journal*, No. I (1967), pp. 13-23.

“A Decadent’s Nature: The Poetry of Ernest Dawson,” *Victorian Poetry VI* (1968), pp. 349-355.



- “New Year's Eve at Yale,” *Liberator X*, (1970), pp. 6-9.
- “The Poet's Progress: Rosetti's *The House of Life*, “ *Victorian Poetry VI* (1970), pp. 1- 14.
- “One Black College,” *Liberator X*, (1970), pp. 14-16.
- “The Environment as Enemy in a Black Autobiography: *Manchild in the Promised Land*,” *Phylon XXXII*, (1971), pp. 53-59
- “Completely Well: One View of Black American Culture,” *Key Issues in the Afro-American Experience I*, (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Jovanovich, 1971), pp. 20-35.
- “Paul Lawrence Dunbar: An Evaluation,” *Black World XXI* (1971), pp. 30-37.
- “The Western University: Culturocentricism and the Interdisciplinary Ideal,” *Afro-American Studies III* (1972), pp. 111-114.
- “The Achievement of Gwendolyn Brooks,” *CL A Journal XVI*, pp. 23-31.
- “Utile, Dulce and the Literature of the Black American,” *Black World X-I* (1972), pp. 30-35.
- “Area Bontemps: A Memoir,” *Black World XXII* (1973), pp. 4-9.
- “A Forgotten Prototype: *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man* and *Invisible Man*, “ *Virginia Quarterly Review* IL, (1973), pp. 443-449; repr. Michael Popkin, ed., *Modern Black Writers* (1977).
- “Report on a Celebration: Dunbar's One-Hundredth Year,” *Black World XXII* (1973), pp. 81-85.
- “The Problem of Being: Some Reflections on Black Autobiography,” *Obsidian I* (1975), pp. 18-30.
- “The West's Illegitimate Child: A Note on James Baldwin as a Literary and Social Critic,” *May II* (1975), pp. 4-7.
- “James Emanuel,” “Carolyn Rodgers,” “Nikki Giovanni,” *Contemporary Poets*, London: St. Martin (1975).
- “Is There Anybody There?: Some Black Aesthetic Notes,” *Era* (University of Pennsylvania), XXXII (1976), pp. 23-36.
- “An Intrinsic Ardor: The Work of Phyllis Wheatley,” Deland, Florida: Everett/Edwards, Inc. (1976) (cassette).
- “On the Criticism of Black American Literature: One View of the Black Aesthetic,” in *Reading Black*, pp. 48-58. (see item six under “Books”); repr. Leonard Harris, ed., *Philosophy Born of Struggle* (1982).
- “By the Rivers of Babylon: The Diasporic Historian and the Function of History,” *Ju-Ju: Research Papers in Afro-American Studies* (Spring, 1977), pp. 56-58.
- “A View of William Melvin Kelley's *dem*, “ *Obsidian II* (1977), pp. 12- 16.
- “Renewal,” “The Humble Black/Helpful White,” and “Because I do not hope to know again,” *Obsidian II* (1977), pp. 51-52.
- “‘These are songs if you have the/music’: An Essay on Imamu Baraka,” *Minority Voices I* (1977), pp. 1- 18.
- “The Embattled Craftsman: An Essay on James Baldwin,” *The Journal of African-Afro-American Affairs I* (1977), pp. 28-51; repr. Fred Stanley, *James Baldwin* (1983).

- “For Sterling Brown,” *Sterling Brown: A Unum Tribute*, ed. James Spady, Black History Museum committee (Philadelphia, 1979), pp. 27-28.
- Black American Literature Forum XIV* (Special Issue on Literary Theory, 1980), Guest Editor.
- “A Note on Style and the Anthropology of Art,” *Black America Literature Forum, XIV* (1980), pp. 30-31; repr. from *Black History Museum Newsletter VII* (1979).
- “Color: A Possible Ending,” *Obsidian V* (1980), p. 111.
- “Black Woman,” “For Billy and Helen's Second,” “Return to my Parent's Home, Christmas, 1979,” *Dear Dark Faces: Portraits of a People*, ed. Helen Earle Simcox, Detroit: Lotus Press (1980).
- “English as a World Language for Literature,” *English Literature: Opening up the Canon*, eds. Fiedler and Baker (1981).
- “The 'Limitless' Freedom of Myth: Paul Laurence Dunbar's *The Sport of the Gods* and the Criticism of Afro-American Literature,” *The American Self: Myth, Ideology and Popular Culture*, ed. Sam Girgus, (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1981), pp. 124-143.
- “Generational Shifts and the Recent Criticism of Afro-American Literature,” *Black American Literature Forum XV* (1981), pp. 3-21.
- “Lorraine Hansberry,” *Dictionary of American Negro Biography*, New York: Norton (1982)
- “Written Off: Narratives, Master Texts and Afro-American Writing from 1760-1945,” (with John Sekora) *Komparatistische Hefte VII* (1983), pp. 39-52; repr. in *Studies in Black American Literature*, eds. Joe Weixlmann and Chester Fontenot (Greenwood, FL: Penkevill, 1984).
- “To Move Without Moving: An analysis of Creativity and Commerce in Ralph Ellison's Trueblood Episode,” *PMLA XCVIII* (1983), pp. 828-845; repr. *Black Literature and Literary Theory*, ed. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., (London: Methuen, 1984), pp. 221-248.
- “A Yea and an Announcement: Notice of a New Black Playwright and His Work,” *Black American Literature Forum XVIII* (1984), pp. 113-116.
- “Not Social Science, But Blues,” *SAGALA IV* (1984), pp. 26-31.
- “Patches: Quilts and Community in Alice Walker's 'Everyday Use’” (with Charlotte Pierce-Baker), *Southern Review XXI* (1985), pp. 706-720.
- “My Mother’s Mother House,” “Socializing Roots: Or When My Wife Surprised the Dinner Party with Talk of Her Youth,” “Carolina, Coltrane, and Love,” “Sr./Sd: for an African Chronicle,” “Double South Spring,” “Prodigal,” *Southern Review XXI* (1985), pp. 854-859.
- “Figurations for a New American Literary History,” in *Ideology and Classic American Literature*, eds. Sacvan Bercovitch and Myra Jehlen, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (1986).
- “Our Lady: Sonia Sanchez and the Writing of a Black Renaissance,” for *Studies in Black American Literature Annual 111*, eds. John Weixlmann and Houston A. Baker, Jr. (Greenwood, FL: Penkevill Publishing, 1987); repr. *Reading Feminist, Reading Black*, ed. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. (London: Methuen, 1990).
- “Belief, Theory, and the Blues,” for *Studies in Black American Literature Annual II*, eds. Joe Weixlmann and Chester Fontenot (Greenwood, FL: Penkevill Publishing, 1986), pp. 5-30.

- “Unravelling a Western Tale; The Critical Legacy of George Kent,” *SAGALA* 11, pp. 255-262.
- “What Charles Knew” (an essay on Charles A. Watkins, an undergraduate teacher), for *An Apple for my Teacher*, (Chapel Hill: Algonquin Press, 1986); repr. *The New American Rhetoric*, ed. Ben W. McClelland (Harper Collins, 1992).
- “Caliban's Triple Play,” in “*Race, “ Writing and Difference*, ed. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1986), pp. 381-395.
- “The Promised Body: Reflections on Canon in Afro-American Context,” in *The Rhetoric of Interpretation and the Interpretation of Rhetoric*, ed. Paul Hernadi (Durham: Duke University Press, 1989), pp. 87-103.
- repr., “Autobiographical Acts and the Voice of the Southern Slave,” (chapter two of *The Journey Back*), in *The Slave's Narrative*, eds. Charles T. Davis and Henry Louis Gates, Jr. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1985), pp. 242-261.
- “The Black Man of Culture: W.E.B. DuBois and *The Souls of Black Folk*” ( from *Long Black Song*), in *Critical Essays on W.E.B. DuBois*, ed. William L. Andrews (Boston G.K. Hall, 1985), pp. 129-139.
- “When Lindbergh Sleeps with Bessie Smith: The Writing of Place in Toni Morrison's *Sula*,” in *The Difference Within: Feminism and Critical Theory*, eds. Elizabeth Meese and Alice Parker (Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 1989), pp. 85 - 113.
- “A Birthday in the Dust,” and “Why LeRoi Wanted Himself as Dance,” (poems); in *Callaloo* 13 (1990), pp. 428-430.
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*W.E.B. Du Bois*, Volume II, by David Levering Lewis, in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, December 2000.

*Who's Afraid of Post-Blackness: What It Means to Be Black Now*, by Toure, *Konch Magazine*, Fall/Winter 2012.

*Charisma and the Fictions of Black Leadership*, by Erica R. Edwards, *The Review of Politics*, 2012.

*Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention*, by Manning Marable, *African American Review*, 2012.

"Sandy Fish on 'Stand Your Ground,'" *Konch Magazine*, September 2013.

"Macho Men," review of *Charisma and the Fictions of Black Leadership* by Erica Edwards, *The Review of Politics*, Vol. 75, No. 1 (WINTER 2013), pp. 128-132.

## **Op-Eds**

*The Philadelphia Inquirer*, “Of Penn, drunken frat boys and water buffaloes,” (May 1993), “Discovering America during the blizzard of '93, (May 1993), “It's time for rap to 'fight the power' of prime time media,” (June 1993), “Power brokers hype the black-Jewish confrontation,” (June 1994), “Looking at the past with a critical eye,” (October 1994), “A color-blind America is just another white fantasy, (March 1995), “Fear and loathing in West Philadelphia,” (November, 1996).

## **Media Presentations**

Storylines Southeast Radio Program on Frederick Douglass (October 1999); “Surviving the Silence,” *Nightline* (ABC) with Charlotte Pierce-Baker, Jamie Kalven, and Patsy Evans. Focus on men who supported women rape survivors. (March 2000); “The South in American History,” BBC Radio presentation. (June 2000); “Blues and Literature,” *What's the Word?*, MLA and NPR Radio. (Taped November 2000); Interview with Emily Eakin of the *New York Times*, resulting in feature article in *NYT* (April 2001); “Talk of the Nation,” with Juan Williams of NPR, on “Race and Identity in the USA” (July 2001); “On the Line,” radio show with Michael Meyers for WNYC New York (Sept. 2001); “The Wilmer Leon Show,” radio show devoted to *Turning South Again*, Washington DC (Sept. 2001); “The Writer’s Tale,” with Judith Paterson, taping for University of Maryland Cable Television (Sept. 2001); Interview with Mary Hartnett of WUNC-FM (NPR Affiliate) on *Turning South Again* (October 2001); Interview with *Chicago Tribune* on “Blues and the South Side,” in anticipation of appearance at Chicago Humanities Festival (November 2001). Various radio presentations in conjunction with the publication of *Betrayal: How Black Intellectuals Have Abandoned the Ideals of the Civil Rights Era*, 2008-2010. (New York, Los Angeles, Baltimore, Washington, D.C. etc.)

## **Poetry Reading**

University of Pennsylvania, Wabash College, William and Mary, Howard University (5th Black Writers Conference, 1983), Festival on the Eno (Durham, NC, 1983), Library of Congress (1986), Virginia Polytechnic Institution (1988), Nubian Bookstore (Louisville, Kentucky, 1988), University of Arizona (Tucson, 1991), University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill, 2003), Fifth International Meeting of Poets (Coimbra, Portugal, 2004), Furious Flower Poetry Festival (James Madison University, 2005).

## **Published Poems**

*Ante*, *Yale Literary Magazine*, *Obsidian*, *Dear Dark Faces* (anthology, Lotus Press), *Black American Literature Forum*, *Southern Review*, *Callaloo*, *In Search of Color Everywhere* (ed., Ethelbert Miller), *The Jazz Poetry Anthology, Volume One* (ed. Yusef Komounyakaa, 1991), *The Ringing Ear: Black Poets Lean South* (ed., Nikky Finney, 2007), Visiting Lectureships

## **Visiting Lectureships**

Yale. University, University of Wisconsin, Fisk University, Hampton Institute, New Mexico State, Haverford College, University of Akron, Hollins College, Temple University, University of Rochester, Brown University, William and Mary, Morgan State University, University of the West Indies, The University of California-Berkeley, University of California-Riverside, Cornell University, Morehouse College, Washington and Jefferson University, Wayne State University, University of Arkansas, University of Kentucky, Norfolk State University, Duke University, Stanford University, Mellon Summer Institute (Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, 1978, 1979), Princeton University, University of Colorado, University of New Mexico, Wabash College, Washington University, University of California, Los Angeles, Florida State University, Wabash College, Washington University of North Carolina, North Carolina State, LeMoyne College, Spelman College, Louisiana State University, University of California-Santa Cruz, University of California-Santa Barbara, Georgetown University, University of Virginia, University of West Virginia, University of Iowa, Howard University, Scripps College, University of Texas, Prairie View A&M University, Saint Joseph University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Hartwick College, Villanova University, Ball State University, Georgia Southern State University, University of Alabama, Mississippi State University, etc.

## **Dissertations Supervised**

### **Graduate Students, University of Pennsylvania (Dissertations Completed):**

Professor Joyce Jonas, “Anancy in the House,” (1984); Published Greenwood Press (1990).

Professor Michael Awkward (University of Michigan), “A Circle of Sisters,” 1986. Published as *Inspiriting Influences*, Columbia University of Press (1989).

Professor Craig Smith (Bard College), “Utopia and Necessity: The Crises of Nationalism in African Literature (1993)

Professor Ruth Lindeborg (Ohio State University), “Rushdie and the Politics of Postcolonial Representation” (1994).

Stephen Best, “The Subject of Property: Race, Prosthesis, and Possession in American Culture” (1997)

Jeannine DeLombard, “Eyewitness to Cruelty: Antislavery Literature and the Antebellum Culture of Testimony,” (1998)

Yoonmee Chang, completed 2003, published as *Writing the Ghetto: Class, Authorship, and the Asian American Ethnic Enclave* (2010)

Michele Frank, “Violating Maternity: Contemporary African American Women Writers and Motherhood.”

James Peterson (Director, before assuming post at Duke)

(Second or Outside Reader for dissertations at: Yale, University of Virginia, University of Pennsylvania, University of West Indies, and others.)

### **Graduate Students, Duke University:**

Amanda Gryzb, “Representing American Homelessness.” (Director, Dissertation Completed)

Mendi Lewis, “High Fidelity: Blackness in the Literary Soundscape.” (Committee Member, Dissertation Completed)

Genevieve Abravanel, “Atlantic Effects.” (Committee Member, Dissertation Completed)

Jené Erica Lee (Director, Dissertation Completed)

Nihad Farooq (Committee Member, Dissertation Completed)

Lauren Coats, (Committee Member, Dissertation Completed)

### **Graduate Students, Vanderbilt University:**

Destiny Birdsong (Committee Member, Dissertation Completed)

Derrick Spires (Committee Member, Dissertation Completed)

Justin Haynes (Committee Member, Dissertation Completed)



Nick Villanueva (Committee Member, Dissertation Completed)

Arthur Carter (Committee Member, Dissertation Completed)

Aubrey Porterfield (Committee Member, Dissertation Completed)

Kathleen DeGuzmann (Committee Member, Dissertation Completed)

Andy Hines (Committee Member, Dissertation Completed)