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Vanderbilt University English Dept.
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Education

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

PhD Program in English

August 2005-Present

Master of Arts in English

August 2005

M.A. Thesis: “‘Necessary Executions’: Heterotopic Visions of Slavery, Commerce, and Revolution in *Letters from an American Farmer*”

Director: Dana D. Nelson

Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, MS

Bachelor of Arts in English

May 2004

Dissertation

Title: “Reimagining a ‘Beautiful but Baneful Object’: Black Writers’ Theories of Citizenship and Nation in the Antebellum U.S.”

Co-chairs: Dana D. Nelson and Teresa A. Goddu; *Readers:* Houston A. Baker, Jr., Shawn Salvant, and Richard Blackett

This study interrogates the dynamic between citizenship, aesthetics, and print practices in the early U.S. through a consideration of African American political writing. Each chapter takes up a specific text or constellation of texts and considers how it contributes to our understanding of the discursive form and structures of African American civic discourse born out of African Americans’ struggles to negotiate and re-imagine a “beautiful yet baneful object”: citizenship in (and out of) the U.S.

Awards and Fellowships

American Studies Fellow: Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, Vanderbilt University 2008-2009

Robert M. Greenfield Fellow: Library Company of Philadelphia and Historical Society of Pennsylvania 2008

Peterson Fellow: American Antiquarian Society, Kate B. & Hall J. Peterson Fund 2008

Robert Manson Myers Graduate Award in English: Vanderbilt University 2008

Awarded to the Vanderbilt English Department Ph.D. student whose dissertation prospectus shows the greatest promise for success in the field of English Studies.

Oberlin College Archives: Frederick Binkerd Artz Research Grant 2008

John M. Aden Award for Graduate Student Writing: Vanderbilt University 2007

Vanderbilt University College of Arts and Sciences Summer Research Award 2006, 2007

Social Science Research Council-Mellon Mayes Predoctoral Research Grant 2005, 2006, 2007

Ford Foundation Predoctoral Diversity Fellowship 2004-2008

Vanderbilt University Provost’s Graduate Fellowship 2004-2009

American Society for Bioethics and Humanities Early Career Scholarship 2004, 2005

United Negro College Fund/Andrew Mellon Foundation Undergraduate Fellowship Program	2002-2004
Tougaloo College Jackson Heart Study Scholar Program	2001-2004

Publications

- “Imagining a Nation of Fellow Citizens: Early African American Politics of Publicity” in *Early African American Print Culture in Theory and Practice*. eds. Lara Langer and Jordan Alexander Stein. Philadelphia: U Pennsylvania P, (forthcoming).
- Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*. A Penguin Enriched eBook Classic. edited with Houston A. Baker, Jr. New York: Penguin, 2009.
- “Historically Black Colleges and Universities.” *A Gift of Story and Song: An Encyclopedia on Twentieth Century African American Writers*. Ed. Wilfred P. Samuels. New York: Facts on File, 2007.
- “Truth, Sojourner.” *A Gift of Story and Song: An Encyclopedia on Twentieth Century African American Writers*. Ed. Wilfred P. Samuels. New York: Facts on File, 2007.
- “Wells-Barnett, Ida B.” *A Gift of Story and Song: An Encyclopedia on Twentieth Century African American Writers*. Ed. Wilfred P. Samuels. New York: Facts on File, 2007.

Conference Presentations and Lectures

- “Staging Citizenship in the Black State Conventions of the 1840s.” Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities Graduate Fellows Lecture Series. Vanderbilt University. 31 March 2009.
- “James McCune Smith's ‘Heads of the Colored People’ and the Politics of Representing Free Black Labor in the Antebellum U.S.” American Studies Association. Albuquerque, NM. 16-19 October 2008.
- “Appeals to the People: Defining Citizenship in the Black State Conventions of the 1840s.” Brown Bag Series. McNeil Center for Early American Studies. 24 September 2008.
- “Representing ‘The Best Average Colored’ Men and Women: James McCune Smith’s Montage of Blackness.” College Language Association. Charleston, SC. 9-12 April 2008.
- “The Two Paper Affair: Making Dissonance Productive in a New Writing Studio.” Southeast Writing Center Association. Nashville, TN. 10 February 2007.
- “Read Like a Victorian: Four Dimensions of Engagement in *Little Dorrit*.” Southwest Modern Language Association. Chicago, IL. November 2006.
- “The ‘Deepest of All Southern States’: Mississippi in The New York Times, 1960-1963.” Conference of the Ford Fellows. Washington, D.C. 1 October 2005.
- “Fellow Citizens and Respectable Men: Richard Allen and Absalom Jones’ Response to Matthew Carey’s ‘Short Account.’” American Literature Association. Boston, MA. May 2005
- “Patient/Doctor Communication: A Communicative Journey.” American Society for Bioethics and Humanities. Philadelphia, PA. October 2004
- “That Nigga’s Crazy: Insanity and Society in Ralph Ellison’s *Invisible Man*.” Eyes on the Mosaic: University of Chicago Minority Graduate Student Conference. Chicago, IL. April 2004.
- “A Linguistic Analysis of Patient /Physician Communication and Its Effects on Patient Health and Treatment Outcomes.” Journal of the Mississippi Academy of Sciences. Vol 49.1. 2004.

Workshops and Seminars

- “Diversity Fellowships from the Ford Foundation, Woodrow Wilson Foundation, and Others.”
Vanderbilt University Grant and Fellowship Workshop. Vanderbilt University. 28 March 2009.
- “Reconsidering the Manichean Allegory in C. L. R. James’s *Beyond a Boundary*.” *Slavery, Modernity, and the Americas: Navigating the African Diaspora*. Vanderbilt University. 26 February 2008.
- “Graduate School Preparation and Survival.” McNair Program. Murray State University, Kentucky. March 2006.
- “Intersections: Culture and Disease—‘Lesbians under the Medical Gaze,’ ‘The Disease of Masturbation,’ and ‘Double Lives on the Downlow.’” Tougaloo College. 29 March 2006.
- “Finding Focus in Your Writing.” Vanderbilt University Writing Studio. 21 Feb 2006.
- “Philosophical Perspectives and the Principles of Bioethics.” Jackson Heart Study Undergraduate Training Center. Tougaloo College. 08 Feb 2006.
- “Applying to and Surviving Graduate School.” Tougaloo College English Department. 21 Nov 2005.

Academic Positions**Vanderbilt University**

- Instructor: ENGL 118 W, Literature and Cultural Analysis* Fall 2009
Topic: “Richard Wright: Texts and Contexts”
- Graduate Student Assistant* 2007- 2008
MSA X, 2008 Conference of the Modernist Studies Association
- Research Assistant: Teresa Goddu* 2007-2008
- Instructor: ENGL 102W, Literature and Analytical Thinking*
Topic: “The Future’s Past...Or...Now as I remember it.” Part II Spring 2007
- Instructor: ENGL 102W, Literature and Analytical Thinking*
Topic: “The Future’s Past...Or...Now as I remember it.” Part I Fall 2006
- Writing Studio Consultant* Spring 2006
- Teaching Assistant*
Introduction to Film Studies (Instructor: Paul Young) Fall 2005

Tougaloo College

- Consultant: Jackson Heart Study Science, Language Arts and Mathematics Program—General Statistics* Summer 2005
- College Writing Center Tutor* 2003-2004
- Teaching Assistant*
Ethics Medicine and Society (Instructor: Madhu Singh) Spring 2004
General Linguistics (Instructor: Annie J. Cistrunk) Fall 2002

Advanced Grammar(Instructor: Annie J. Cistrunk)

Fall 2002

Professional and Institutional Service

- Organizer, Richard Wright Centennial Reading Series. Vanderbilt University. 2008-2009
President, English Graduate Student Association. Vanderbilt University. 2007-2008.
Co-Founder and Coordinator: “Reclaiming Citizenship” Reading and Working Group. Sponsored by Vanderbilt University Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, American Studies, and the Office of Active Citizenship. 2007-2009
Panel Organizer: “*Harmonizing Dissonance: Making Consultant/Student Differences Productive.*” Southeast Writing Center Association. Nashville, TN. 10 February 2007.
Moderator: *Narrative* session. American Society of Bioethics and Humanities. Washington, D.C. October 2005.

Areas of Interest

- Representations of Race and Citizenship in American Literature
Twentieth Century African-American Literature and Culture
Literature and Religion
Science/Speculative Fiction
Race, Literature, and Science

Professional Affiliations

- African American Literature and Culture Society (American Literature Association)
American Society of Bioethics and Humanities
American Studies Association
Midwest Modern Language Association
Modern Language Association
Richard Wright Circle (American Literature Association)

References

- Houston A. Baker, Jr. Distinguished University Professor, Vanderbilt University.
houston.a.baker@vanderbilt.edu
Carolyn Dever, Professor of English and of Women’s and Gender Studies, Dean College of Arts & Science, Vanderbilt University. carolyn.dever@vanderbilt.edu
Teresa Goddu, Associate Professor of English and Director of American Studies, Vanderbilt University. teresa.a.goddu@vanderbilt.edu
Dana Nelson, Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor of English and American Studies,
Joe B. Wyatt Distinguished University Professor, Vanderbilt University.
dana.d.nelson@vanderbilt.edu
Jerry W. Ward, Jr. Distinguished Professor of English and African American World Studies, Dillard University. jerryward21@hotmail.com