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Education

Baylor University, Waco, Texas

Ph.D. in Contemporary American literature conferred December 2000

Dissertation: "Whose Culture Are You Bearing?": Searching for Self in Toni Morrison's Novels

Area of Concentration: 20th Century Literature & Contemporary 20th Century Literature

The University of Dallas

Master of Arts, English Literature with a concentration in the Humanities,
May 1991

Thesis: "The Feminine Treatment in Dostoevsky"

Baylor University, Waco

Bachelor of Arts, English

May 1986

Secondary Education Certification

May 1987

Teaching Experience

Baylor University

Senior Lecturer, 2006-present

Post-Doctoral Fellow, August 2000-2001

Teaching Assistant, 1998-2000

British Literature (Sophomore Masterpieces)

American Literature

Thinking and Writing

Thinking, Writing, and Research

Dallas Baptist University

Adjunct Instructor

Thinking, Writing, and Research

British Survey of Literature

Developmental English

McLennan Community College, Waco, Texas

Adjunct Instructor

Thinking and Writing

Thinking, Writing, and Research

Developmental English

British Literature

Navarro College, Waxahachie campus
Adjunct Instructor and Concurrent Curriculum Author
Thinking and Writing
Thinking, Writing, and Research
British Survey before Burns, After Burns
Concurrent Credit English for Waxahachie I.S.D.

MountainView College, Dallas Community College District
Thinking and Writing
Developmental English

Waxahachie High School
English I, III, IV, and Honors I&IV
Department Chairperson, English, Foreign language, reading
departments

Honors and Awards

Invited Faculty Member, Baylor in Great Britain, summer 2015. I will teach English 2301/British Literature in the BGB program as well as English 378, a reading Capstone Course.

Faculty in Residence at South Russell Residence Hall, appointed by Campus Living and Learning, July 2014.

Question Leader, chosen by The College Board for the summer AP Advanced Placement Grading, held in Louisville, KY, June 3-15, 2014.

Invited Keynote Speaker, Baylor Fling, held on April 12, 2014, The Galloway Suites, Floyd Casey Stadium, sponsored by the Baylor Women's Network.

Director of Baylor in Maastricht Study Abroad Program, fall 2013. I took 24 students to Maastricht, The Netherlands for a semester study abroad program, where I taught 2 classes at The University of Maastricht.

Baylor Fellow 2011-2012, chosen by Ed Burger, Vice-President for Strategic Educational Initiatives, and Provost Dr. Elizabeth Davis.

Honoree, Baylor University's Mortar Board, Distinguished Professor award, Circle of Achievement Banquet, spring 2010.

Honoree, *Outstanding Professor Award*, presented by the Student Athletes of Baylor University, presented at Athletic Banquet, Ferrell Center, May 7, 2012.

Honoree, *Outstanding Professor Award*, presented by the Student Athletes of Baylor University, presented at Athletic Banquet, Ferrell Center, May 4, 2013.

Faculty Fellow 2009, chosen as member of inaugural class at Baylor University, led by Dr. Gardner Campbell in the ATL (Academy for Teaching and Learning).

Honoree. Outstanding Professor, as chosen by 2009 Baylor Football team, presented at the BU vs. University of Connecticut game, September 19, 2009.

Honoree. Baylor University's Mortar Board, Recognition of Teachers. Nominated by Adrienne Bowman, November 20, 2008.

Winner, *Collins Outstanding Professor Award*, presented by the Senior Class 2008 Baylor University, April 7, 2008. University-wide Lecture entitled, "Tell Me the Stories I love to Hear: Why I Am Passionate about Teaching" given to colleagues, friends, and family on May 13, 2008, 4 pm, in Cashion Auditorium, Baylor University Campus.

Honoree, *Outstanding Professor Award*, presented by the Student Athletes of Baylor University, presented at Athletic Banquet, Ferrell Center, May 6, 2008.

Invited Participant, the *Summer Faculty Institute*, Baylor University, June 2-July 4, 2008, led by Drs. Tom Hanks, Lenore Wright, and Elizabeth Davis. Summer 2008 Participant.

Invited Guest Speaker, *The Waco Women's Reading Group*, November 2007. Presented "Why I Love Teaching American Literature" to thirty invited group members.

Dissertation—"Whose Culture Are You Bearing: Searching for Self in Toni Morrison's Novels"—was recently cited in *The Fiction of Toni Morrison: Reading and Writing on Race, Culture, and Identity*, edited by Jami L. Calacio and published by NCTE, 2007. ISBN: 9780814116791.

Honoree, Baylor University's Mortar Board, Recognition of Teachers. Nominated by Mallory Furmheister, November 2006.

Newly elected officer, Councilor for executive committee, *Council for College Teachers of English (CCTE)*, as of March 2006.

Guest Speaker, *Early College*, based in Dallas, where I film lectures for students to obtain dual credit via distance learning. October 2006 to present.

Summer Sabbatical Recipient, Baylor University, June and July, 2005. * I will be writing a chapter on spirituality in Toni Morrison's *Paradise*.

Honoree, Pi Beta Phi's *Professor Book Dedication*, in conjunction with *One Book, One Waco* Reading Initiative, December 11, 2005, Baylor University.

Outstanding Woman Faculty Member, Presented by Theta Kappa Chapter of Chi Omega, Baylor University, spring 2003.

Baylor Women's League *Outstanding Women in the Workplace*, Recipient, Baylor University, spring 2001.

Pi Beta Phi Sorority *Outstanding Teacher Recognition*, Baylor University, spring 2000.

Post-Doctoral Fellow, Recipient, Baylor University 2000-2001.

Christine Fall Excellence in Teaching Award, Recipient, Baylor University, 1998-1999.

Honoree, Volunteer for *Campus Living and Learning*, Baylor University, spring 2003

Full Tuition Fellowship, Baylor University, Fall 1995-2000.

Finalist, "*Best Essay*," Clement Goode Young Scholars' Symposium, Baylor University, 1998.

Outstanding Teacher, Waxahachie I.S.D., 1994-1995.

Teacher of the Month, Waxahachie I.S.D., November, 1995.

Humanities Department Chairperson, 1995-1997 (Coordinator of English, Foreign Languages, Social Studies, and Reading). Waxahachie I.S.D., 1995-1997.

Nominee, *Outstanding Teacher of the Humanities*, awarded by The University of Texas, 1989-1990.

Publications

"Whose Culture Are You Bearing: Searching for Self in Toni Morrison's Novels"— my dissertation--was recently cited in *The Fiction of Toni Morrison: Reading and Writing on Race, Culture, and Identity*, edited by Jami L. Calacio and published by NCTE, 2007. ISBN: 9780814116791.

"Joyce Carol Oates." (article) *Contemporary American Women Fiction Writers*. Westport: Greenwood Press, fall 2000.

Blood Ties & The Christmas Box (entries). *Dictionary of Literary Characters*. Ridgefield: American Book Works Corporation, summer 2000.

"Phillis Wheatley." (article) *African-American Authors*. Westport: Greenwood Press, spring 1999.

In- Progress

"Gravestone Imagery in Toni Morrison's *Beloved*," article co-written Dr. Nancy Chinn. Accepted for publication by The University of Portugal in a *Critical Edition on Toni Morrison's Works*, under review / resubmission.

"Answering Emerson's Charge: The Need for Young Adult Literature in the Secondary Classroom," co-written with Dr. Chelley Crow. Submitted for publication to *The English Journal*, January 2011, under review / resubmission.

"Finding Spirituality in a C(oven): Salvation in Unlikely Places in Toni Morrison's *Paradise*."

"*Their Eyes Were Watching God* as Revival: A Study in Magical Realism."

"Murder, Mayhem, and Mystery: Finding Spirituality in *Paradise*: A Study of Toni Morrison's *Paradise*."

Reviews

Young Adult Literature in the Twentieth Century, reviewed fall 2007 for McGraw Hill.

Cartwright, Keith. *Reading Africa into American Literature: Epics, Fables, and Gothic Tales* in *The Journal of the American Studies Association of Texas*, August 2002, Marvin Harris, editor.

Grewall, Gurleen. *Circles of Sorrow, Lines of Struggle: The Novels of Toni Morrison* in *The Journal of the American Studies Association of Texas*, August 2001, Marvin Harris, editor.

Harcourt Brace Handbook. Spring 1999. Harcourt Brace College Publishers, Ft. Worth, Texas.

Scholarly- Presentations

Invited Session Leader, Faculty Interest Groups (*FIGS*), created by *The Academy for Teaching and Learning* at Baylor. I led a FIG entitled, “Judicial Stewardship” with Dr. Charles Weaver in the spring of 2014.

Invited Question Leader/Seminar Presenter, Denver, Colorado, March 2014, by *The College Board* for Advanced Placement AP Presentations.

Invited Question Leader/Seminar Presenter, Mesquite High School, November 2014, by *The College Board* for Advanced Placement AP Presentations.

Invited Keynote Speaker for *TAIR (Texas Improvement in Reading)* Conference, held on October 6, 2011, at Baylor University.

Invited Chair of Creative Writing: “Boundaries: Cross Curriculum Navigation,” *CCTE/College Council of Teachers of English*, Annual Meeting, March 10-12, 2009, San Antonio, TX.

“What’s All the Buzz About: Why Must We Include Young Adult Literature in Our Secondary Curriculum?” *TAIR Conference*, Baylor University, November 21, 2008.

“First Year Skills and Successful Transitions: Debunking the Advanced Placement (AP) Myths and Making the Bridge to College Composition,” *South Central Modern Language Association (SCMLA)* annual conference, San Antonio, TX, November 6-8, 2008.

Invited Chair of Panel Discussion: “Literature and Lives,” *CCTE/College Council of Teachers of English*, Annual Meeting, February 28, 2008, San Antonio, TX.

“Answering Emerson’s Charge: The Need for Young Adult Literature in our Classrooms,” *South Central Modern Language Association (SCMLA)* annual conference, Memphis, Tennessee, November 1-3, 2007.

“The Need for Young Adult Literature in the Secondary Classroom,” presented at *CCTE* annual conference in College Station, TX, April 2006.

Invited Keynote Speaker, “*Zora Neale Hurston’s Tent Revival: A New Slant on Teaching Their Eyes Were Watching God*,” hosted by Waco High School, Waco, Texas. Presented to 65 students and teachers on October 21, 2007. Invited by my former student, Mr. Brian Harris, Honors English II and III teacher, Waco High.

Invited Keynote Speaker, “*Gender Matter: A Day of Multi-generational Conversations About Shared Concerns*” Conference, hosted by the Northeast Independent School District and Communications Arts High School, San Antonio, TX, November 29, 2005.

Invited Chair of Panel/Roundtable Discussion: “*Gender Matters*” Conference, hosted by the Northeast Independent School District and Communications Arts High School, San

Antonio, TX, November 29, 2005. *Led small group discussions of Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* and Sue Monk Kidd's *The Secret Life of Bees*, all under the topic of gender issues in literature.

Co-authored article, written with Dr. Nancy Chinn: "For Sixty Million and More: Resurrecting Meaning in Toni Morrison's Gravestone Imagery," *Slavery Oppression and Prejudice: Ancient Roots and Modern Implications* conference, hosted by Baylor University and *Pruitt Memorial Symposium*, Waco, TX, October 2, 2004.

Conference Workshop Participant with Nobel Laureate, Toni Morrison: "*Toni Morrison and the Politics of Learning*," hosted by Howard University and *The Toni Morrison Society*, Washington, D.C., June 26-29, 2003.

"Seeing the Magical in Zora Neale Hurston's Works," *American Literature Association* conference, Los Angeles, California, May 28-June 2, 2002.

"Rethinking the Research Paper: Self-Assessment in Composition Courses," (CCTE) *Council for College Teachers of English* conference, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX, March 1, 2002.

Conference Host/ Chair of Panel: "*Storytelling in the Millennium*," Baylor University, February 2-4, 2001.

Conference Host/ Chair of Panel: "*Communities of Women: Woman Writing and Written in Literary & Cultural Experience*," Baylor University, September 24-25, 1999.

Conference Host/ Chair of Panel: "*Romanticism and the Brownings: An International Conference*," Baylor University, March 12, 1999.

Conference Host/ Chair of Panel: "*The Christ-Haunted South*," Baylor University, September 1998.

Conference Host/ Chair of Panel: "*Toward the 21st Century*," Baylor University, April 1998.

"*A Handsome Achievement: The Artistic Sensibility of Willa Cather*," 1998 Willa Cather Conference, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"*From Cynic to Lover: The Cinquopace of Benedick in Much Ado About Nothing*," Atlanta, October 1997.

"*Marie de France: The Imaging of Woman*," Nashville, September, 1997.

"*The Many Green Worlds of Beloved: Exploring Fantasy in Toni Morrison's Novels*," 1998 Clemente Good Young Scholars' Symposium, Baylor University (one of only three papers selected for presentation).

Related Professional Experience

Intern Supervisor, English/Language Arts Interns (student teachers), Department of Curriculum & Instruction, 2007- present.

Guest Lecturer on Toni Morrison's *Paradise*, invited by Dr. Sarah Ford for upper-level novel class, Dec 3, 2008.

Guest Lecturer on *the Harlem Renaissance*, invited by Dr. Bill McDonald for upper-level American Literature class, November 15, 2008.

Invited Committee Member, The College Board; test item writer for The American Literature exam, CLEP test, member since 2001.

Invited Grader for National Advanced Placement Exams, AP Summer Grading Institute, June 2004 and June 2006, Orlando, Florida.

Guest Faculty Member for the Education Department, teaching an interdisciplinary course, *TED 2380*, Baylor University, fall semester, 2003.

Guest Faculty Member for the Education Department, helping to supervise student teachers in the Waco schools, Baylor University, fall semester, 2004.

Honors Colloquium featured speaker on Toni Morrison's novels, Baylor University Honors College, spring semesters, 2002-2005.

Guest Lecturer on Toni Morrison's *Paradise*, Baylor University in upper-level novel class, fall, 2000.

Guest Lecturer for the *Baylor University Interdisciplinary Core (BIC)*, spring 1999, fall 2000.

Interactive copyediting and proofreading for the Baylor Health and Wellness Department, Waco, Texas, 1998-2000.

Administrative Associate, Baylor University Health and Wellness Department; facilitated various programs and coordinated mentoring programs, 1998-2000.

Student-athlete tutoring for Baylor Student Academic Developmental Services, English composition and survey literature courses, summer and fall, 1996.

Tutoring for Waco and Midway I.S.D. through *The Tutor Connection*, Waco, Texas.

Languages

*French, *Spanish, Arabic

*Comprehensive exams passed in each.

University Service

Social Committee CO-Chairperson, Department of English, 2003-2007 calendar years, Baylor University, 2005- 2010.

Faculty Partner for Women's Dormitories and the Office of Student Life, Baylor University, and fall 2004.

Education Faculty Committee, 2002-present, Departments of English and Curriculum & Instruction, Baylor University.

Freshman English Committee, 1996-1997, Department of English, Baylor University.

Professional Associations

Council for College Teachers of English (CCTE), member of executive board, 2005-2009.

Modern Language Association

South Central Modern Language Association

The Toni Morrison Society

English Graduate Student Association, Baylor University, (1995-2000).

References

Dr. Dianna Vitanza, Chair, English department, Baylor University, 254.710.1768

Dr. Larry Browning, Chair, Curriculum & Instruction, School of Education, Baylor University, 254.710.6122.

Dr. James Barcus, English Professor, Baylor University, 254.710.6839.

Dr. Sarah Ford, English Professor/Undergraduate Director, Baylor University,
254.710.6903.

Dr. Deborah McCollister, Chairman of the English Department, Dallas Baptist
University, 214.333.8311.