

Daylanne K. English, Professor
Macalester College Department of English & Creative Writing
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Saint Paul, MN 55105
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EDUCATION

PhD University of Virginia—English Literature, 1996
MA University of Virginia—English Literature, 1992
BA Oberlin College—English Major, Minor in Women’s Studies, 1984

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Macalester College Department of English

- Professor, Fall 2013-present
- Department Chair, January 2008-May 2010 and June 2014-May 2017
- Associate Professor, Fall 2006-Spring 2013
- Assistant Professor, Fall 2003-Spring 2006

Bowie State University Department of English and Modern Languages

Assistant Professor of African American and American Literature, Fall 1999 to Spring 2003

Brandeis University Department of African and Afro-American Studies

Lecturer in Caribbean Literature, Spring 1999

Brown University Department of English

Visiting Assistant Professor of African American Literature, Fall 1996 to Spring 1998

PUBLICATIONS

Books

“*Soul Sounds*”: *The Afterlife in African American Literature and Music*. New York: Fordham University Press. Forthcoming Fall 2026.

“*Each Hour Redeem*”: *Time and Justice in African American Literature*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press (March 2013).

- Reviewed in *American Literature*, *MELUS*, *American Studies*, *American Literary History Online Review Series III*, and *Choice*

Unnatural Selections: Eugenics in American Modernism and the Harlem Renaissance. Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press (May 2004).

- 2004 *Choice* Outstanding Academic Book, American Library Association

- Reviewed in *American Literature*, *modernism/modernity*, *Journal of African American History*, *American Studies*, *Journal of Southern History*, *International Fiction Review*, *Nursing History Review*, and *Choice*.

Essays

- English, Daylanne K. and Alvin Kim. "Now We Want Our Funk Cut: Janelle Monáe's Neo-Afrofuturism." *American Studies* 52.4 (2013): 217-30. Invited submission.
- "Being Black There: Racial Subjectivity and Temporality in Walter Mosley's Detective Novels." *NOVEL* 42.3 (Fall 2009): 361-365. Invited. (Conference Proceedings)
- "The Modern in the Postmodern: Walter Mosley, Barbara Neely, and the Politics of Contemporary African American Detective Fiction." *American Literary History* 18 (Winter 2006): 772-96.
- "W. E. B. Du Bois's Family Crisis." *American Literature* 72 (June 2000): 291-319.
- "Selecting the Harlem Renaissance." *Critical Inquiry* 25 (Summer 1999): 807-21.
- "Somebody Else's Foremother: David Haynes and Zora Neale Hurston." *African American Review* 33 (Summer 1999): 283-97.
- "Gertrude Stein and the Politics of Literary-Medical Experimentation." *Literature and Medicine* 16 (Fall 1997): 188-209.

Chapters in Collections

- "Now We Want Our Funk Cut: Janelle Monáe's Neo-Afrofuturism." Rpt. *The African American Music Reader*, edited by Paul Lopes. New York, NY: Routledge Press, forthcoming March 2026.
- "Science." In Erica R. Edwards, Roderick Ferguson, and Jeffrey Ogbar, eds. *Keywords for African American Studies*. New York, NY: New York University Press (November 2018).
- "Race, Writing, and Time." In Thomas Allen, ed. *Literature and Time*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press (March 2018).
- "Eugenics in *Melanctha*." Rpt. in *Gertrude Stein: Three Lives and Q.E.D., a Norton Critical Edition*, edited by Marianne DeKoven. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company (December 2005).

Bibliography Entries

- "Afrofuturism." In *Oxford Bibliographies in Literary and Critical Theory*. Ed. Eugene O'Brien. New York: Oxford University Press (2017). <http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/>. October 24, 2024 (update).

“Eugenics.” In *Oxford Bibliographies in African American Studies*. Ed. Gene Jarrett. New York: Oxford University Press, June 28, 2016. <http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/>.

Encyclopedia Entries (invited)

“*Beloved*.” *Literary Encyclopedia*. Eds. Robert Clark, Emory Elliott, and Janet Todd. May 26, 2011.

“The Harlem Renaissance.” *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Twentieth-Century American Fiction*. Eds. David Madden and Patrick O’Donnell. UK: December 17, 2010; USA: January 3, 2011.

Book Reviews

Review Essay on *The Great Woman Singer* by Licia Fiol-Matta, *Woody Guthrie’s Modern World Blues* by Will Kaufman, *Beyond the Crossroads* by Adam Gussow, and *Conjuring Freedom* by Johari Jabir. *American Literature* 93.4 (December 2021): 718-22.

“The Consolation of Critique.” Review of *How to Read African American Literature: Post-Civil Rights Fiction and the Task of Interpretation*, by Aida Levy-Hussen. *NOVEL: A Forum on Fiction* 52.1 (May 2019): 145-49.

Review of *Afro-Atlantic Flight; Speculative Returns and the Black Fantastic* by Michelle D. Commander. *ALH Online Review*, Series XVI, September 11, 2018.

Review of *Inside a Silver Box*, by Walter Mosley. In *Public Books*, <http://www.publicbooks.org/>. September 1, 2015.

Review of *Women’s Work: Nationalism and Contemporary African American Women’s Novels*, by Courtney Thorsson. *ALH Online Review* Series III. July 27, 2015.

“Diaspora and the Politics of Genre.” Review of *Romance, Diaspora, and Black Atlantic Literature*, by Yogita Goyal. *NOVEL: A Forum on Fiction* 45.1 (Spring 2012): 124-28.

“*Melville J. Herskovits and the Racial Politics of Knowledge*, by Jerry Gershenson.” Book Review. *American Historical Review* 111 (October 2006): 1218-19.

“Postmodernism, Urbanism, and African American Literary Studies.” Review of *Signs and Cities: Black Literary Postmodernism*, by Madhu Dubey. *Contemporary Literature* 46 (Summer 2005): 358-362.

“*Conjugal Union: The Body, the House, and the Black American*, by Robert F. Reid-Pharr.” Book Review. *Callaloo* 25 (Spring 2002): 672-674.

“*Zora Neale Hurston’s Their Eyes Were Watching God: A Casebook*, ed. Cheryl A. Wall.” Book Review. *African American Review* 35 (Winter 2001): 667-669.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- “‘Marvels of Inventiveness’: The Power of Black Feminist Speculative Technologies.” Modern Language Association (MLA) Conference. Toronto, CA. January 8, 2026.
- “Picturing a Better Place: Spiritualism, Eugenics, and Van Der Zee’s 1920s Funerary Photographs.” Modernist Studies Association Conference. Portland, Oregon. October, 29, 2022. Invited and peer-reviewed.
- “‘Marvels of Inventiveness’: Black Feminist Theories of Time.” Race and Ethnicity Forum Session: “Black Time and Temporality.” MLA Conference. Seattle, WA. January 11, 2020. Invited.
- “Charlottesville: Texts and Contexts.” Roundtable: #Charlottesville: Teaching Through Terror.” American Studies Association (ASA) Conference. Atlanta, GA. November 10, 2018.
- “Afrofuturism and the Afterlife.” Roundtable: “The Temporal Turn in Black Studies.” MLA Conference. New York, NY. January 4, 2018.
- “Apocalypse Now and Then: Afrofuturism and Queer Generation.” ASA Conference. Denver, CO. November 18, 2016.
- “Another Country, Another Time: James Baldwin’s Social Science Fiction.” International James Baldwin Conference. American University of Paris. May 28, 2016.
- “‘Dealings with the Dead’: Paschal Beverly Randolph and Race and Sex in the Afterlife.” MLA Conference. Vancouver, Canada. January 9, 2015.
- “*A Genealogy of Afrofuturism*: Digital Form, Digital Content, and Scholarly Joy.” ASA Conference. Los Angeles, CA. November 6, 2014.
- “‘Temporal Damage’: Pragmatism and Plessy in African American Novels, 1896-1902.” Society for Novel Studies’ First Biennial Conference, “Novel Worlds.” Duke University. Durham, NC. April 28, 2012. Invited submission.
- “ArchAndroids and Their Antecedents: The Roots of Janelle Monáe’s Afrofuturistic Post-human.” ASA Conference. Baltimore, MD. October 21, 2011.
- “‘Being Black There’: Racial Subjectivity, Temporality, and Narrative Form in Walter Mosley’s Detective Novels.” *NOVEL*’s 40th Anniversary Conference, “Theories of the Novel Now.” Providence, RI. November 10, 2007. Invited submission.
- “‘All I had was the certainty that the world had passed me by’: Blackness, Modernity, and Temporality in Walter Mosley’s Writings.” Collegium for African American Research (CAAR) Conference. Madrid, Spain. April 19, 2007. Invited submission.

- “Third Person Singular: Gender, Race, and History in William Wells Brown’s *Narrative of the Life and Clotel*.” MLA Conference. Philadelphia, PA. December 29, 2006.
- “*Contending Forces*: The Space of Fiction and the Construction of Citizenship in the Novels of Pauline Hopkins.” ASA Conference. Washington, D.C. November 3, 2005.
- “Pauline Hopkins’s *Contending Forces*: Immigrant Rights and Black Citizenship.” American Literature Association Conference. Boston, MA. May 29, 2005.
- “The Modern and Postmodern African American Detective.” MLA Conference. Philadelphia, PA. December 28, 2004.
- “*Blessed Are the Barren*: Lynching, Reproduction, and the Drama of New Negro Womanhood, 1916-1930.” MLA Conference. New York, NY. December 29, 2002.
- “The Critical Journey: *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Scholarship, and the Canon from 1937 to 2002.” Zora Neale Hurston Society Conference, Baltimore, MD. May 30, 2002.
- “New Women, Old Strategies? The Politics of Reproduction in the United States in the 1910s and the 1990s.” National Women’s Studies Association Conference, Simmons College. Boston, MA. June 17, 2000.
- “Cleaning Up America’s Trash: The Eugenic Family Studies, 1877-1926.” Fourth Biennial Conference of the Center for Working-Class Studies, Youngstown State University. Youngstown, OH. June 12, 1999.
- “Charting *Three Lives*: Gertrude Stein, Experimentalism, and Authority.” Annual Meeting of the Society for Literature and Science. Atlanta, GA. October 12, 1996.
- “Double Consciousness as Masculinist Paradigm: Zora Neale Hurston’s Challenge to W. E. B. Du Bois and Henry Louis Gates.” Fourth National American Women Writers of Color Conference. Ocean City, MD. October 5, 1995.
- “W. E. B. Du Bois and T. S. Eliot: A Race of Writers?” Modernist Division Panel at the MLA Conference. San Diego, CA. December 28, 1994.

SELECTED INVITED LECTURES and PRESENTATIONS

- Panelist. “Deborah McDowell as Teacher.” Conference: “Love All:” Tending the Tradition, A Retirement Celebration in Honor of Deborah E. McDowell. Charlottesville, VA, May 2026.
- Panelist. “‘The Best of Its Kind, Whatever the Kind’: A Roundtable on *PMLA*.” MLA Conference. Chicago, IL. January 4, 2019.

- Panelist. “Research and Practice: Graduate Student Professional Development.” Northwestern University Department of Performance Studies. Evanston, IL. April 5, 2017.
- “‘Swing Low, Time to Move On’: Afrofuturism and the Afterlife.” Emory University Departments of English and African American Studies. January 24, 2017.
- Respondent. Special Session, “Black Optimism and Afro-Pessimism: The Politics of Pleasure and Pain in the African American Canon.” MLA Conference. Vancouver, Canada. January 11, 2015.
- “‘Beyond the Gravitation of the Past’: Afrofuturism and its Queer Afterlives in 1868, 1920, and 2014.” Northwestern University Department of African American Studies. Evanston, IL. April 16, 2014.
- “Writing *Each Hour Redeem*: How I Came to Understand Time and Justice in the African American Literary Tradition.” Yale University Department of African American Studies. New Haven, CT. November 8, 2012.
- “Is There a Crisis in Black Research Publishing?” Joint Roundtable of the Council of Editors of Learned Journals and the Black American Literature and Culture Division of the MLA. MLA Conference. Los Angeles, CA. January 6, 2011.
- “Time, Justice, and the Tragic Mulatto in Charles Chesnut’s *The House Behind the Cedars*.” Northwestern University Department of African American Studies. Evanston, IL. May 20, 2010.
- “‘The Thorny Stem of Time’: One Hundred Years of *Crisis*.” Carter G. Woodson Institute Symposium: 100th Anniversary of the NAACP. University of Virginia. Charlottesville, VA. October 30, 2009.
- “Ticking, Not Talking: Timekeeping in Early African American Literature.” Bowdoin College. Brunswick, ME. April 13, 2009.
- Panelist. Penumbra Theatre Symposium on August Wilson’s *The Piano Lesson*. St. Paul, MN. March 3, 2008.
- Respondent. Special Session, “African American Writers Respond to Government Reform Initiatives, 1919–60.” MLA Conference. Chicago, IL. December 27, 2007.
- “The Modern in the Postmodern: Walter Mosley, Barbara Neely, and the Politics of Contemporary African American Detective Fiction.” Hodges Lecture at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN. March 13, 2006.
- Interview on *Unnatural Selections*. The Tom Pope Radio Show. May 6, 2004.

“Picturing the Harlem Renaissance: Du Bois, McKay, Larsen, and Van Der Zee.” Presented at the David Winton Bell Art Gallery, Brown University. Providence, RI. May 3, 1998.

PANELS ORGANIZED and/or CHAIRED

Can Afrofuturism Mend the World? The Power of Black Speculation Now. MLA Conference. Toronto, January 2026.

#Charlottesville: Teaching Through Terror. ASA Conference. Atlanta, November 10, 2018.

The Temporal Turn in Black Studies. MLA Conference. New York, NY. January 4, 2018.

Afrofuturism 2.0: At Home in the Apocalypse. ASA Conference. Denver, CO. November 18, 2016.

The Return of the Repressed in Black Studies. MLA Conference. Vancouver, Canada. January 9, 2015.

Blackness and the Ecstatic. ASA Conference. Los Angeles, CA. November 6, 2014.

Afrofuturism. ASA Conference. Baltimore, MD. October 21, 2011.

African American Literature on the Pacific Rim. Black American Literature and Culture Division (BALC) Panel. MLA Conference. Los Angeles, CA. January 8, 2011.

New Directions in African American Literary and Cultural Studies. BALC Roundtable. MLA Conference. Philadelphia, PA. December 29, 2009.

Intersectionalities and Pluralities: Black Sightings. BALC Division Panel. MLA Conference. San Francisco, CA. December 29, 2008.

The New Chicago Renaissance Studies. BALC Division Panel. MLA Conference. Chicago, IL. December 29, 2007.

From Nonfiction to Fiction in African American Literature. MLA Conference. Philadelphia, PA. December 29, 2006.

Dark Princesses, Detectives, and Survivors: 20th Century African American Genre Fiction. MLA Conference. Philadelphia, PA. December 28, 2004.

Behind the Veil: The Poetics & Politics of Grief in African American Literature and Film (co-organized with Jacqueline Goldsby). MLA Conference. New York, NY. December 29, 2002.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Editorial and Advisory

- *PMLA* Advisory Committee, July 2015-June 2018

Invited Reader Work

- American Council of Learned Societies
- National Endowment for the Humanities
- Columbia University Press
- Duke University Press
- Fordham University Press
- Lerner Publishing
- Louisiana State University Press
- Modern Language Association of America
- Oxford University Press
- University of Massachusetts Press
- University of Minnesota Press
- The Ohio State University Press
- Temple University Press
- Yale University Press
- *American Quarterly*
- *Configurations*
- *ESQ: A Journal of Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Culture*
- MELUS
- *Modernism/modernity*
- *Modern Language Studies*
- PMLA
- *Studies in the Novel*
- *Subjectivity*
- *Twentieth-Century Literature*

MLA Offices

- Delegate Assembly of the MLA, Member, elected December 2024, representing the Great Lakes Region, 2025-2028
- MLA Committee on Honors and Awards, Member, Summer 2023-Spring 2026
 - Chair, 2025-26
- Executive Committee of the Associated Departments of English (ADE), Member, 2017-2020
 - Organizer and panelist, ADE Roundtable: “Sustaining and Building the English Major: Models for Success.” MLA Conference. Seattle, WA. January 10, 2020.
 - Co-Leader (with Jacqueline Jenkins), “New Chairs Workshop.” ADE Summer Seminar North, Milwaukee. June 20, 2019.
 - Plenary Speaker: “Diversifying English for the 21 Century.” ADE Summer Seminar North, Milwaukee. June 20, 2019.
 - Plenary Speaker: “Creative Writing in the English Department.” ADE Summer Seminar North, Milwaukee. June 21, 2019.
 - Organizer and panelist, ADE Roundtable: “Sustaining and Building the English Major: Models for Success.” MLA Conference. Chicago, IL. January 5, 2019.

- Moderator, “Running a Good Search.” ADE Summer Seminar North, Ann Arbor. July 11, 2018.
- Co-Leader (with Todd Butler), “New Chairs Workshop.” ADE Summer Seminar North, Ann Arbor. July 9, 2018.
- Panelist, “Synergy Between Creative Writing and Literary Studies in Macalester’s English Department.” ADE Panel: “Writing in the English Department: Models for Success.” MLA Conference. New York, NY. January 5, 2018. Delivered by Claire Buck on my behalf.
- MLA Prize for Independent Scholars Selection Committee, 2011-14
 - Chair, 2014
- Delegate Assembly of the MLA, Member representing the Great Lakes Region, 2010-2013
- Member, Executive Committee of the MLA’s Black American Literature and Culture Division, 2007-2011
 - Chair, 2010
 - Secretary, 2009
 - Chair, Darwin Turner and Joe Weixlmann Prizes Subcommittee, 2007

MACALESTER COLLEGE SERVICE

- Religious Studies Search Committee (External Representative), Fall 2025
- Psychology Department Search Committee (Affirmative Action Representative), Fall 2024
- English Department Critchett (Internal Funding) Committee, 2018-20, 2022-23, 2024-26
- American Studies Advisory Committee, Spring 2023
- Political Science Department Search Committee (Affirmative Action Representative), 2022-23
- English Department Search Committees, 2003-4, 2004-5, 2005-6, 2006-7, 2018-19, 2022
- Faculty Personnel Committee, Fall 2019-Spring 2021
 - Chair, 2020-2021
- Classical Mediterranean and Middle East Department Search Committee (Affirmative Action Representative), 2019-20
- Affirmative Action Committee, 2006-7, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2015-16, 2019-20
- MacSlams Poetry Slam Team Faculty Advisor, 2010-21
- Chair, English Department, January 2008-May 2010, Summer 2014-Spring 2017
- Chair, English Department Search Committees, 2008-9, 2009-10, 2014-15, 2015-16
- History Department Search Committee (External Member), 2015-16
- Co-Founder and Co-Organizer, Macalester Humanities Faculty Colloquium, 2008-9, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, and Fall 2017
- Faculty Mentor for four Mellon Mays Fellows, 2004-6, 2012-13, 2012-14, and 2016-17
- College Affirmative Action Officer, 2012-13
- Resources and Planning Committee, Fall 2011-Spring 2013
- Social Responsibility Committee, 2011-12, 2012-13
- Community Recognition Awards Selection Committee, Spring 2011 and Spring 2013
- Internship Advisory Committee, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13
- Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee, Spring 2012

- Education Studies Steering Committee, Spring 2009-Fall 2013
- Gateway Writing Prize Committee, 2010-11, 2011-12
- Political Science Department Search Committee (Affirmative Action Representative), 2011-12
- Bookstore Advisory Committee, 2008
- Ad Hoc Committee for Conversations on Multiculturalism, 2006-7
- General Education Writing Requirement EPAG Subcommittee, 2006-7
- Bush Grant Steering Committee, 2004-5
- Multicultural Advisory Board, 2004-5
- Department of History Search Committee (External Member), Spring 2005
- Planning Committee for the 2005 American Studies Conference, 2003-4

SELECTED MACALESTER PRESENTATIONS

The Process of Writing “*Soul Sounds*”: *The Afterlife in African American Literature and Music*. Macalester College English & Creative Writing Literary Salon. April 1, 2026.

“Marvels of Inventiveness?: Black Feminist Technologies of Time and the Afterlife.” Macalester College Humanities Faculty Colloquium. October 23, 2025.

“Immortal Man: Kendrick Lamar and the Afterlife.” Macalester College English & Creative Writing Literary Salon. September 17, 2025.

“Picturing a Better Place: Spiritualism, Eugenics, Paschal Beverly Randolph and James Van Der Zee’s 1920s Funerary Photographs.” Macalester College English Literary Salon. October 18, 2023.

Faculty Speaker. Academics at Macalester: Parents and Families Orientation Webinar. August 29, 2022.

Alumni Faculty Office Hours. Alumni Engagement/Macalester Fund. January 5, 2021.

Facilitator. “Class of 1969 Discussion of *Invisible Man*.” Macalester College Reunion. June 7, 2019.

Panelist. “Inclusion and Equity in the First-Year Course Classroom.” First-Year Course Faculty Workshop. May 22, 2019.

Panelist. “Engaging Race: A Conversation at Macalester.” Macalester Institute for Global Citizenship. October 25, 2016.

“Dealings with the Dead?: Paschal Beverly Randolph and Race and Sex in the Afterlife.” Macalester Center for Scholarship and Teaching (CST). November 23, 2015.

“Digital Humanities & Afrofuturism: What are they and what is their connection?” Macalester CST. September 15, 2014.

“A Syncopated Tune’: Langston Hughes’s ‘The Weary Blues’ and the Harlem Renaissance.”
Macalester College Orientation Lecture. August 29, 2014.

“Ecstasy & Apocalypse: Literature of the Extreme.” Course Video and Interview. Macalester College. November 18, 2011.

“Origins and Omissions: Literary and Philosophical Genealogies and the Times of Frederick Douglass.” Macalester College Humanities Faculty Colloquium. September 21, 2010.

“Ticking, Not Talking: Against an Oral Tradition in Early African American Literature.” Reunion Lecture. Macalester College. June 5, 2009.

Panelist. “Racism and Science.” Ninth Annual American Studies Conference. “Racism in the Name of Science.” Macalester College. St. Paul, MN. March 1, 2008.

“Reading Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*.” Faculty Podcast Series. Macalester College, St. Paul, MN. September 7, 2006.

“Appreciating Frederick Douglass’s *Narrative of the Life*.” Faculty Podcast Series. Macalester College, St. Paul, MN. January 23, 2006.

MACALESTER COURSES TAUGHT

- Topics in African American Literature: *LOVE*
- Afrofuturism
- Black Feminist Thought
- English Major Literature Capstone Course
- Charlottesville: Texts and Contexts
- Introduction to African American Literature
- Black Feminist Theory
- Identities and Differences in U.S. Literature
- Ecstasy & Apocalypse: Literature of the Extreme
- African American Detective Fiction
- The Long Harlem Renaissance
- African American Literature to 1900
- African American Literature 1900 to the Present
- Postmodern African American Literature
- The Harlem Renaissance
- Contemporary African American Novels
- From Nonfiction to Fiction: 19th Century African American Narratives
- African American Women’s Novels
- American Voices
- Novel
- Letters & Diaries

SELECTED HONORS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

Mellon *Renewed Purpose* Course Development Grant. April 2018. For *Charlottesville: Texts and Contexts*, Fall 2018.

Wallace Travel Grant, Macalester College. Fall 2015. For travel to and paper presentation at the International James Baldwin Conference in Paris, France. May 2016.

Mellon Digital Humanities Summer Grant, Macalester College. Summer 2013.

Mellon Digital Humanities Seed Grant. Macalester College. Summer 2012.

Wallace Travel Grant, Macalester College. Fall 2006. For travel to and paper presentation at the CAAR Conference in Madrid, Spain. April 2007.

American Library Association Award, 2004 *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title for *Unnatural Selections: Eugenics in American Modernism and the Harlem Renaissance*. January 2005.

University System of Maryland Women's Forum Faculty Research Award. Summer 2001.

Norman Foerster Prize awarded by American Literature Section of the MLA for best essay published in *American Literature* in 2000 for "W. E. B. Du Bois's Family *Crisis*." Prize presented at MLA Conference, Washington, D.C. December 29, 2000.