

Curriculum Vitae A-Z Format – Alexis Brooks de Vita

- A. Name:** Alexis Brooks de Vita
- B. College:** College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences
- C. Department:** English and World Languages
- D. Date and Rank of First appointment:** September 01, 2005, Associate Professor
- E. Secondary Appointment(s) (if any):** September 01, 2011, Full Professor
- F. Years Granted Toward Tenure at Time of Employment:** 3
- G. Current Rank:** Full Professor
- H. Date of Current Rank:** September 01, 2011
- I. Date of Attaining Tenure:** September 01, 2008
- J. Years of Academic Service at TSU:** 17
- K. Whether or not degree is terminal:** Yes
- L. Schools Attended: dates**
- 1) University of Colorado at Boulder: 1994-1998
 - 2) University of Vermont: 1986-1989
 - 3) University of California, Davis: 1981-1983
 - 4) American River College: 1979-1981
- M. Degrees Earned: fields, dates**
- 1) Ph.D.: Comparative Literature, “African and Diaspora Women’s Literary Mythatypes in English, French, Italian, and Spanish,” 1998
 - 2) M.A.: Comparative Literature, African and African American Literatures in English, French, Italian, and Spanish; English Gothic Literature; Thesis: “Feminist Women in Shakespeare’s Comedies and Tragedies,” 1995
 - 3) B.A.: Comparative Literature, “Love, Loss and Betrayal in the Turn-of-the-Century European Short Story,” English, French, Italian, Spanish, and Russian, 1989
 - 4) A.S.: Math/Science, 1981
- N. Special Training Programs:** Fluency: English, French, Italian; Reading Fluency: Spanish; Studied: Russian, Swahili
- O. Professional Employment: appointment, institution, dates**
- 1) Professor and Regular Graduate Faculty, African/Diaspora/Gothic/Horror/Victorian/Literatures, Literary Biography, Creative Nonfiction, Literary Theory, and World

- Literature, Texas Southern University (TSU) Fall 2011-Present
- 2) Associate Professor and Regular Graduate Faculty, African/Diaspora/Victorian Literatures and Literary Theory, World Literature, TSU 2005-2011
 - 3) Adjunct and Visiting Professor, Italian/Africana Studies, University of Notre Dame 2004-2005
 - 4) Assistant Professor, English/InterCultural Studies/Justice Education/Women's Studies, Saint Mary's College/University of Notre Dame 8/2001-5/2004
 - 5) Adjunct Professor, Italian/French/Women's Studies, Colorado State University – Pueblo 8/1998-5/2001
 - 6) Graduate Teaching Assistant/Instructor, Spanish, University of Colorado-Boulder, Fall 1995
 - 7) Instructor, English, Pueblo Community College/Colorado State-Pueblo 1/1991-12/1992

P. Consultantships and Professional Services: dates

Court Case Expert Witness, *Bisong vs. University of Houston*, Houston, Texas 2005-6

Q. Organizations: memberships and offices held, dates –

- 1) International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts: March 2007-Present
 - a. Submissions and Reviews Editor, *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*, 05/2022-Present
 - b. Inaugural Elected Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Caucus Representative to the Executive Board, International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts (IAFA), 06/2021-Present
 - c. Invited Creative Guest, 2015-Present
 - d. Scholar, 2007-2015
- 2) College Language Association: assistant book review editor, *College Language Association Journal*, 2014-2015
- 3) Southern Conference on African American Studies, Inc., 1999-2006
 - e. assistant book review editor, *The Griot*, 2005-2006

R. Fellowships and Honors: details and dates

- 1) Horror Writers Association, Affiliate Member, 02/2022-Present
- 2) Science Fiction Writers Association, Associate Member, 12/2021-Present
- 3) *Way to Be the Exception!* Recognition from the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences, Dr. Needha Boutte-Queen, 01/2020
- 4) *Who's Who in Black Houston* Who's Who Publishing, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2015- 2019
- 5) Judge, Colorado Gold Contest (Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers), 2006-2009, 2011-2016
- 6) Super Professor/America's Top Faculty, *Faculty Row*, 2012-2014
- 7) Jamie Bishop Memorial Award for an Essay Not in English, Judge, 2011-2014
- 8) SF/F Translation Awards, Judge, 2013
- 9) *Who's Who among Collegiate Faculty* Montclair Publishing LLC, 2011-2012
- 10) *Academic Registry - Who's Who among Executives and Professionals* Montclair Publishing LLC, 2010-2011
- 11) *Who's Who of Worldclass Professionals* Who's Who Worldclass Alliance, CBN, 2010

- 12) National Research Council of Ford Fellows: Senior Fellowship, 2010-Present
- 13) *Who's Who Among Executives and Professionals* Montclair Publishing, 2009-2010
- 14) Faculty Appreciation Certificate, TSU graduate Alexandra Dairo-Brown, 2008
- 15) *Who's Who among American Teachers*, 2002-2004
- 16) Harvard Graduate School of Education Certificate of Recognition for Teacher Initiative, 2002
- 17) Distinguished Member, International Society of Poets, 1999
- 18) Golden Key National Honor Society, 1994-1998
- 19) University of Vermont Mortar Board, 1988
- 20) International Society of Mensa, 1979-1981

S. Awards and Prizes: details and dates

- 1) Uplifter Award, granted by the IAFA BIPOC Caucus's Formative Representatives to the Executive Board: Dr. Isiah Lavender, III and Dr. Taryne Jade Taylor, 03/19/2022
- 2) PEN Publishing Award for *The 1855 Murder Case of Missouri versus Celia, an Enslaved Woman: An Exercise in Historical Imagination*, Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers, 2011
- 3) *Who's Who among American Teachers* Multiple Nominations Recognition Award, 2004-2006
- 4) *Mythatypes: Signatures and Signs of African/Diaspora and Black Goddesses* voted #7 of Top Ten Books on the African Diaspora selected by Questia.com researchers/librarians, 2006
- 5) Winner Colorado Gold Writing Contest, Speculative Fiction, for *The Books of Joy: Blood of Angels*, 2005
- 6) Double Finalist, Colorado Gold Contest, Romance, for *Left Hand of the Moon* and *The Books of Joy: Burning Streams*, 2004
- 7) Yvonne Ochillo Memorial Award for "On the Wings of Birds, Butterflies, and Bats: Fear, Flight, and Freedom in African Diaspora Women's Literature," Southern Conference on African American Studies, 2003
- 8) University of Vermont Academic Achievement Award, 1989

T. Grants: dates, amounts, whether approved and/or funded, candidate's level of participation (Principal Investigator, Co-PI, etc.)

- 1) Texas Southern University Faculty Development Grants occasionally awarded for travel to sponsor students and present research at conferences, 2006-2022
- 2) Lily/CWIL faculty sponsor with three undergraduate student travel/research Grants, travel and expenses paid, from St. Mary's College/Notre Dame University to Women's Worlds 2002 Conference at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, Summer 2002
- 2) National Academies Ford Predoctoral Fellowship, \$30,000/year + expenses per year for three years, 1996-1998
- 3) University of Colorado at Boulder Graduate School Fellowships, \$1,000+ awarded per semester, 1994-1998

U. Scholarships, scholarly/creative works:

I. ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

A. Books of Analysis and Translation

- 1) *Dante's Inferno: A Wanderer in Hell*. 2nd Edition: Surrey, UK: Double Dragon.

2021. (Paperback and e-book). Ontario: Double Dragon/Blood Moon Publishing, 2011
- 2) *The 1855 Murder Case of Missouri versus Celia, an Enslaved Woman: An Exercise in Historical Imagination*. Lewiston: The Edwin Mellen Press, 2010 (Clothbound library editions only).
 - 3) *Mythatypes: Signatures and Signs of African/Diaspora and Black Goddesses*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 2000; republished Santa Barbara, CA: ABC/CLIO, 2009 (Hardbound only).

B. Book Chapters, Articles and Encyclopedia Entries

- 1) "The Clockwork Chrysalis: Enslavement Poetry of Juan Francisco Manzano" in Campbell, Ian, Editor. *Science Fiction in Translation: Perspectives on the Global Theory and Practice of Translation*. Studies in Global Science Fiction Series. NY: Palgrave MacMillan. 12/2021. (pp. 283-307)
- 2) "Octavia Butler's *Xenogenesis* Trilogy, *Bloodchild* and the Androgynous Third" in Nanda, Aparajita and Shelby Crosby, Editors. *God is Change: Religious Practices and Ideology in the Works of Octavia Butler*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. 06/2021. (pp.169-182)
- 3) "'You Have Forever Changed My Life': Journaling through the Required Reading," with Novella Brooks de Vita, MLS, Ed. D. Candidate. *Humanities Bulletin*, vol. 2 no. 2. 11/2019. (pp. 285-297)
- 4) "Annihilation, HeLa and the New Weird: Destruction as Re-Creation" in Frankel, Valerie Estelle, Editor. *Fourth Wave Feminism in Science Fiction and Fantasy*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company. 11/2019. (pp. 88-101)
- 5) "The Propagation of Racialized Sexual Violence in American Literature" in *Maroon: Journal of Arts and Letters*, vol. 1 no. 1. Fall 2019. (pp. 38-48)
- 6) "Olatunde Osunsanmi and Living the Transatlantic Apocalypse: *The Fourth Kind*," in Dale Knickerbocker, Editor. *Lingua Cosmica: Science Fiction from around the World*. Champaign: University of Illinois Press. 06/2018. (pp. 151-182)
- 7) "Incest and Rape, Curses, Bloodshed, and Madness: The Gothic Activism of African American Women's Late Victorian Literature." *The Griot, Journal of African American Studies*, Inc. vol. 36 no. 2. Fall 2017
- 8) "Into the Pit of the Redeemer: The Sacrificial Child in International Film and Literature." *Extrapolation*. Vol. 55 no. 3. Liverpool, UK: Liverpool U. Press. 12/2014
- 9) "The Circle and the Cross: Womanhood, Manhood and Cultural Destruction in Prophetic African Literature." *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*. vol. 12 no. 3. Pocatello, ID: Idaho State University. 1/2011
- 10) "Atlantic Slave Trade," "Emmett Till," "Federal Writers' Project," "Guadeloupe," "Harlem Renaissance," "Zora Neale Hurston," "Audre Lorde," "Mythatypes," "Ogun," "Oya," "Soul Music," "Three Women Households," "Winged Women," "Yemoja/Olokun," in Carole Boyce-Davies, Ed., *Encyclopedia of the African Diaspora*. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO. 2008
- 11) Maryse Condé, *Moi, Tituba, sorcière. . . noire de Salem (I, Tituba, Black Witch of Salem)*; Thomas Mofolo, *Chaka*; Ferdinand Oyono, *Une vie de boy (Life of a Houseboy)*; Okot p'Bitek, *Song of Lawino*; Ngugi wa Thiong'o, *Weep Not, Child, The River Between, A Grain of Wheat*, in Michael Sollars, Ed., *The Compendium of Twentieth Century*

World Novelists and Novels. NY: Facts on File. 2007

- 12) "Murder, Suicide, and Salvation: The Fish King as Savior in African and Diaspora Myth, Folklore and Literature." *The Griot*. 2006
- 13) "In the Matrix of Becoming: The Female Triplicity in a Mississippi Shack." *The Griot*. 2005
- 14) "The Tree of Terror: *The Bondwoman's Narrative* as Witness of the Struggle." *The Griot*. 2004
- 15) "On the Wings of Birds, Butterflies, and Bats: Fear, Flight, and Freedom in African Diaspora Women's Literature." *The Griot*. 2002
- 16) "Selfless Love: Reading the Woman in Plato's *Symposium*'s Ideal Man." *English Language Notes*. 2001
- 17) "Seeds and Angels' Wings: Blues Signification and Milton's 'Paraphrase on Psalm 114'." *English Language Notes*. 2001
- 18) "Not Passing on *Beloved*: The Sacrificial Child and the Circle of Redemption." *The Griot*. 2000
- 19) "Immeasurable Reflections on *A Masque*: Reading Coercive Rape and the Ravishment of Silence in Milton's *Comus* and Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*." *English Language Notes*. 2000
- 20) "Waking on the Road: Quests, Deities, and Tricksters in African American Storytelling." *The Griot*. 1999
- 21) "Escaped Tricksters: Runaway Narratives as Trickster Tales." *The Griot*. 1998
- 22) "Wresting Order from Chaos: Reading Mythological Influences in Warner-Vieyra's *Juletane*." *The Griot*. 1997

C. Book Reviews

- 1) Lázaro-Reboll, Antonio. *Spanish Horror Film*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2012 in *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*, Pocatello, ID: Idaho State University, 25.2-3 No. 91 (2016 backdated 2014)
- 2) Anderson, Melanie R. *Spectrality in the Novels of Toni Morrison*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2013 in *College Language Association Journal (CLAJ)*, Vol. 56, No. 3 (3/2015 backdated 3/2013)
- 3) di Giorgio, Marosa. *Diadem: Selected Poems*. Trans. Adam Giannelli in *The Faculty Speaks*, Issue 11, 3/2013
- 4) "Trosclair." *Cajun Night Before Christmas*. Howard Jacobs, ed. Rice, J., illus. in *The Faculty Speaks*, Issue 10, 12/2012
- 5) Danielle L. McGuire. *At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape, and Resistance—A New History of the Civil Rights Movement from Rosa Parks to the Rise of Black Power* in *The Faculty Speaks*. Issue 6, 11/2010
- 6) Blackmon, Douglas A. *Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II* in *The Faculty Speaks*. Issue 3, 12/2009
- 7) Owomoyela, Oyekan. *Yoruba Proverbs* in *Proverbium*: 24. University of Vermont, Summer 2007
- 8) Egar, Emmanuel E. *Black Women Poets of Harlem Renaissance* in *The Griot*. Fall 2004
- 9) Osagie, Iyunolu Folayan *The Amistad Revolt: Memory, Slavery, and the Politics of Identity in the United States and Sierra Leone* in *The Griot*. Spring 2004
- 10) Holloway, Karla. *Passed On: African American Mourning Stories* in *The Griot*. Spring

2004

- 11) Hale, Thomas. *Griots and Griottes in The Griot*. Winter 2000
- 12) Florence, Namalundah. *bell hooks' Engaged Pedagogy in The Griot*. Fall 1999
- 13) Owomoyela, Oyekan. *Yoruba Trickster Tales in The Griot*. Spring 1998
- 14) Pfaff, Françoise. *Conversations with Maryse Condé in The Griot*. Spring 1997

D. Forewords/Prologues

- 1) "Foreword" in Mutunda, Sylvester N. *Descriptions of Masculinity in African Women's Creative Writing: Mariama Bâ, Philomène Bassek, Delphine Zanga Tsogo, Calexthe Beyala, Aminata Sow Fall*. Lewiston: The Edwin Mellen Press. 2015.
- 2) "Prologue" in *Tales in Firelight and Shadow*. Alexis Brooks de Vita, Editor. Ontario: Double Dragon/Blood Moon Publishing, 2014.
- 3) "Prologue" in *Love and Darker Passions*. Alexis Brooks de Vita and Lee Barwood, Editors. Ontario: Double Dragon/Blood Moon Publishing, 2012.

II. CREATIVE PUBLICATIONS: FICTION, MEMOIRS and POETRY

A. Novels

- 1) *Left Hand of the Moon*. Surrey, UK: Double Dragon. 2021. Ontario: Double Dragon/Blood Moon Publishing. 10/2012 (paperback and e-book)
- 2) *The Third Book of Joy: Chain Dance*. Surrey, UK: Double Dragon. 2021. Ontario: Double Dragon/Blood Moon. 10/2011
- 3) *The Second Book of Joy: Blood of Angels*. Surrey, UK: Double Dragon. 2020. Ontario: Double Dragon/Blood Moon. 6/2011
- 4) *The First Book of Joy: Burning Streams*. Surrey, UK: Double Dragon. 2020. Ontario: Double Dragon/Blood Moon. 3/2011

B. Short Fiction and Memoir in Anthologies and Podcasts

- 1) "A Girl Crawls in a Dark Corner" in *Africa Risen: A New Era of Speculative Fiction*. Sheree Renée Thomas, Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki, and Zelda Knight, Editors. NY: Tordotcom/MacMillan Publishing. 11/2022. (*Publishers Weekly* starred review, 08/2022). (Hardcopy, paperback and e-book)
- 2) "In the City Where a Phantom Ballerina Danced Amid Burning Angels" (forthcoming)
- 3) "The Wakings" in *Love and Darker Passions*. Alexis Brooks de Vita and Lee Barwood, Editors. Double Dragon/Fiction4All. 2022. Ontario: Double Dragon/Blood Moon Publishing, 2012 (paperback and e-book)
- 4) "The Savant" in *Tales in Firelight and Shadow*. Alexis Brooks de Vita, Editor. Surrey, UK: Double Dragon/Fiction4All. 09/2021. Ontario: Double Dragon/Blood Moon Publishing, 12/2014 (paperback and e-book)
- 5) "Her Faithful Black Cat" in *Nightlight: The Black Horror Podcast*. Tonia Ransom, Editor. Nightlightpod.com. <https://nightlightpod.com/episode/401-her-faithful-black-cat-by-alexis-brooks-de-vita/> 02/09/2021 (audio and e-book)
- 6) "Her Faithful Black Cat" in *The Horror is Us*. Justin Sanders, Editor. Baltimore: Mason Jar Press, 10/27/2020 (paperback)
- 7) "In His Arms in the Attic" in *Candle in the Attic Window*. Silvia Moreno-Garcia and Paula R. Stiles, Editors. Canada: Innsmouth Free Press, 2011 (hardcopy)

- 8) “Safari” in *Safari: African American Stories, Parables and Tales*. Ginny and Leon Knight, Editors. Robbinsdale, MN: Guild Press, 1998, 2002. (paperback)

C. Memoirs and Short Fiction/AmazonShorts:

1) From *Safari: Fly into the Wild, Blind Night*:

- a. “Snakes and Bangles,”
- b. “Gangs and Soldiers” and
- c. “Moonlight in the Monastery” 11/2007-06/2010
- d. “Mzee and the Hedgehog” 11/2006-06/2010

2) From *The Books of Joy: Blood of Angels*:

- a. “My Mother Came Running across Oceans” and
- b. “The Measure of Grief” 11/2007-6/2010
- c. “Some of the People Could Fly” 11/2006-6/2010

D. Poetry

1) Guild Press:

- a. *Forced from the Garden: Poetry and Short Prose by Women*. 2003
- b. *Safari: African American Stories, Parables, and Tales*. 2002, 1998
- c. *Absorbing Destruction: Poetry by Ten Women*. 1999
- d. *Just Remember*. 1997
- e. *Full Circle 16-24*. Annually 1996-2003

2) National Library of Poetry:

- a. *Outstanding Poets of 1998*. 1999
- b. *Best Poems of 1998*. 1998
- c. *Sound of Poetry*. 1998, 1997
- d. *Thoughts by Candlelight*. 1998
- e. *The Other Side of Midnight*. 1997
- f.

III. EDITING

Submissions and Reviews Editor for Africa and Its Diaspora, *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*, June 2022-Present

The Uncanny and the Sublime. Contributing Editor. (forthcoming)

Love and Darker Passions. Contributing Editor. Surrey, UK: Double Dragon/Fiction4All. 2022. Ontario: Double Dragon/Blood Moon Publishing, 2012

Tales in Firelight and Shadow. Contributing Editor. Surrey, UK: Double Dragon/Fiction4All. 2022. Ontario: Double Dragon/Blood Moon Publishing, 12/2014

Reyhani, Moein. *The Báb and His Heroes: Dawn of the New Revelation*. Darmstadt, Germany: ‘Asr-i-Jadíd Publisher. 2019

Book Review Editor, *College Language Association Journal* of the College Language Association, fall 2014-fall 2015

The Faculty Speaks, Faculty Assembly/Senate Editor, 8/2009-8/2013

Patterns of Masculinity in Francophone African Women’s Novels. Sylvester N. Mutunda. Edwin Mellen Press, 2010-2012

Jewish Elements in the Life of William Shakespeare: Was William Shakespeare’s Father Jewish? Ghislain Muller, Edwin Mellen Press, 2010

Memoirs of an Educated Iranian Woman. Dr. Nahid Guilak. 2009-2010

The History of Iran-U.S. Political Relations, 1889-1943. Dr. Hooshang Guilak, 2009-2010
Acquiring Editor for Edwin Mellen Press, Francophone African Studies Conference, University of Arizona, Tucson, 03/2010
Acquiring Editor for Edwin Mellen Press, “Africa in Scotland, Scotland in Africa,” Centre of African Studies Annual International Conference, University of Edinburgh, 05/2009
Book Review Editor, *The Griot*, Southern Conference on African American Studies, 2005-2006

V. Teaching (Graduate and Undergraduate):

A. CLASSES DESIGNED, TAUGHT and/or APPROVED for PERMANENT LISTING

African American Poetry and Drama (TSU Fall 2022)
African American Gothic/Gothic Literature and Film (TSU Undergraduate 2006-7, Graduate Directed Reading 2015, Fall 2021 Directed Reading)
Multiethnic Women’s Literature (TSU 2018-Present)
Directed Reading and Research (TSU Graduate 2020)
Literary Biography and Nonfiction (TSU Graduate 2018)
English Literature Capstone (TSU 2015)
African American Fiction and Criticism (undergraduate/Directed Reading) (TSU 2014-Present)
Graduate Writing (TSU 2013-Present)
African/Diaspora Literature (Graduate Directed Reading/Thesis Research) (TSU 2010-Present)
World Literature I (Ancient and Medieval Literature) (TSU 2005, 2012, 2014-2016, 2018)
African/Diaspora Women’s Lit (Graduate Directed Reading /Thesis research) (TSU 2012)
African American Fiction (Graduate) (TSU 2012, 2017-Present)
Identity and Social Activism in African/Diaspora Autobiography (Graduate Directed Reading/Thesis Research) (TSU 2011)
World Literature II (Modern Literature) (TSU 2011-2012)
Introduction to Francophone African Literature in Translation (independent study) (TSU 2010)
Introduction to Literary Movements (Graduate) (TSU 2009)
Methods of Research (Graduate TSU 2008)
Literary Theory (Graduate) (TSU 2007)
Introduction to Literary Criticism (TSU 2007)
Victorian Literature (British Literature II) (TSU 2006-7)
Introduction to African Literature (St. Mary’s/Notre Dame 2001-4, TSU 2005-Present)
Introduction to African American Literature (St. Mary’s/Notre Dame 2001-4, TSU 2005-Present)
Introduction to African/Diaspora Cultural Studies (St. Mary’s/Notre Dame 2001-2004)
Harlem Renaissance Literature (St. Mary’s/Notre Dame 2001-2004)
Introduction to Afro-European Literature (St. Mary’s/Notre Dame 2001-2004)
African/Diaspora Liberation Literature (St. Mary’s/Notre Dame 2001-2004)
African/Diaspora Supernatural Literature (St. Mary’s/Notre Dame 2001-2004)
African/Diaspora Folktales (St. Mary’s/Notre Dame 2001-2004)
Enslavement Narratives (St. Mary’s/Notre Dame 2001-2004)
African American Autobiographies (St. Mary’s/Notre Dame 2001-2004)
African/Diaspora Women’s Literature (St. Mary’s/Notre Dame 2001-2004)
African American Women’s Autobiographies (St. Mary’s/Notre Dame 2001-2004)
African American Women’s Literature (Col. State-Pueblo, St. Mary’s/Notre Dame 1999-2004)
Intro to Multiethnic Women’s Literature (Col. State-Pueblo, St. Mary’s/Notre Dame 1998-2004)

Freshman Comp: Women Writing about Exile, Ostracism and Spiritual Exegesis (St. Mary's / Notre Dame 2001-4)

Freshman Comp: Women Writing about Ethnicity, Equality and Education (St. Mary's 2001-4)
Introduction to Women's Studies (Col. State-Pueblo 1998)

B. OTHER COLLEGE COURSES TAUGHT

Intermediate Intensive Italian (University of Notre Dame, 2004-2005)

Intermediate French (Colorado State-Pueblo 1998-2001)

Beginning Spanish (University of Colorado, Boulder 1995)

W. Graduate Contributions- Master's Portfolios & Theses, Dissertation Committees:

James Walls: (Chair, 2022)

Stevens Orozco: "The Prophetic Element: Writing through the Past, the Present, and the Future by Using Radical Imagination" (Chair, 2021)

Kerri Barnes: "Analyzing Breastfeeding Issues on Social Media" (Graduate School Representative Committee Member, 2021)

Jennifer Julian: "Fate, Free Will and Destiny: An Exploration of African Ancestral Knowledge, Spirituality and Belief in 18th and 19th-century Gothic Novels" (Chair, 2015)

James Ford: "A Study in the Moral and Psychological Development of Selected Twentieth Century African and African-American Male Protagonists – A Psychoanalytic Approach" (Chair, 2015)

Dirk Taylor: "Displaced People of the Enlightenment: Europeans Inventing the Colonized African": Portfolio (Chair, 2014)

Avery Johnson: "The Degradation of Women in African and Diaspora Literature": Portfolio (Chair, 2014)

Rayya Carrington: "Taking It In and Vomiting It Up: History, Self-Image and Self-Destruction of the African Women in Tsitsi Dangarembga's *Nervous Conditions*": Portfolio (Chair, 2014)

Arelia Johnson, Sociology (Graduate School Representative Committee Member, 2014)

Tossie Alford, Sociology (Graduate School Representative Committee Member, 2014)

Mingle Moore: "Living *Black Skin*, Wearing *White Masks*: Dependency and Inadequacy in Colonized African Communities" (Chair, 2013)

Johnniea Armstead: "The Erosion of African Cultures Due to European Colonization" (Chair, 2012)

Alexandra Dairo-Brown: "The Downfall of the Colonized African Man" (Chair, 2012)

Sabrina Curtis: "Speaking Out Against the Oppression: I Am, Despite Slavery, Colonialism and Apartheid" (2012)

Ashley Alexander: "The Great Migration: Traces of Lost Identity on the Road to Enlightenment in Richard Wright's *Black Boy*, Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* and Toni Morrison's *Jazz*" (2012)

Cathy Clay: "Supernatural: The Juxtaposition of Sensuality and the Macabre in Edgar Allan Poe's 'Lygieia'" (2008)

Jorge Javier Santos: "Societal *Tabula Rasa*: Destruction as a Form of Creation in Selected Works by Kurt Vonnegut" (2008)

X. Service to the University, the Profession and the Community: activity, dates –

A. LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS, READINGS/CHAIRING, MODERATING PANELS/ LEADING WORKSHOPS

- 1) Moderator: “Depicting Your Truth.” Conference Guest of Honor Nisi Shawl. International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts (ICFA)43. Saturday, March 19, 2022.
- 2) “Afrofuturism and Generational Trauma.” Agnes Gomillion, Moderator. Roundtable with Nisi Shawl (Guest of Honor) and Jalondra Davis. 03/19/2022.
- 3) “A Girl Crawls in a Dark Corner” Reading from *Africa Risen* anthology. BIPOC Counter Space *Coffee with Creatives* Readings: Lynette James, Moderator, with Tenea D. Johnson performing from *Frequencies* and Mary Turzillo reading from *Cosmic Cats*. ICFA 43. 03/18/2022.
- 4) Moderator: “Writing the Unsaid.” Panel discussion with Joyce Chng, Usman Malik, Mimi Monday, Erin Roberts. ICFA 42, online. March 2021.
- 5) Moderator: “Decolonizing the Fantastic.” Panel discussion with Ted Chiang, John Clute, Erin Roberts, Isabel Yap. ICFA 42, online. March 2021.
- 6) “Her Faithful Black Cat.” *The Horror is Us* Anthology Release Celebration. Baltimore: Ivy Bookshop, October 28, 2020 (online); *The Horror is Us: An Online Reading*. Barnstable: The Sturgis Library, October 24, 2020
- 7) “Di(fferent)-ability, Education and Community in ‘The Savant.’” Houston Community College, Fall 2019
- 8) “The Role of Women in the Development of the Baha’i Faith.” Houston Baha’i Center. 04/10/2019
- 9) Graduate Student Government-Sponsored Graduate Research-Writing Workshops, co-presenter with Dr. Joyce Jones, Dr. Joyce Finch, Dr. Claire Thoreson, Texas Southern University (TSU), Houston, 10/2015, 4/2015, 11/2016, 02/2017, 11/2017, 4/2018
- 10) “A Woman’s Tale, Born of Night.” ICFA, Orlando, 3/2018
- 11) “African Science Fiction.” ICFA, Orlando, 03/2018
- 12) “Heman Marion Sweatt, the Baha’i Faith, Desegregation, and Texas Southern University.” Houston Baha’i Center. 02/04/2018
- 13) Chair and Presenter – Authors’ Panel “*Tales in Firelight and Shadow*,” ICFA, Orlando 3/2015
- 14) Public Discussion, *The 1855 Murder Case of Missouri versus Celia, an Enslaved Woman*, “Keeping It Real! – Sister Scholars Discuss the Impact of Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality on Black Women’s Mental Health: Past, Present, and Future,” Dr. Karen Kossie-Chernyshev, Coordinator - TSU, Houston, 2/27/2015
- 15) “Diagnosing Special Needs in Underrepresented Populations – A Critical Analysis of ‘The Savant’” Houston Community College (HCC) 11/2014
- 16) “*Dante’s Inferno: A Wanderer in Hell* as a Reflection of Our Times” HCC 4/2014
- 17) “The Case of *Loving versus Virginia*” Presenter, Robert J. Terry Library, Texas Southern University (TSU), Houston 4/2014
- 18) Storytelling/Anthem-Writing Workshop with Ceschino Brooks de Vita, Jesse H. Jones School of Business, TSU, Houston 4/2014
- 19) Chair and Presenter - Authors’ Panel “Rewriting the African American South”: Presentation of *Left Hand of the Moon*, College Language Association, New Orleans 3/2014
- 20) “State of the Black College Student” – Panelist, Hosted by 100 Collegiate Black Males,

TSU, Houston 11/2013

- 21) *Empowering a New Generation of Women Series*—Session I: “Empowering Healthy Sex, Sexuality and Relationships” Panelist, TSU, Houston 4/2013
- 22) “The Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association and Federal Restitution” Guest host on “Self-Determination” Radio KPFT with Dr. Obidike Kamau 4/2013
- 23) Town Hall Coordinator/Committee Chair: “The New Teaching Evaluation.” TSU 4/2013
- 24) Guest Author Reading from *Left Hand of the Moon* and Host of Author Reading Roundtable. ICFA. Orlando, Florida 3/2013
- 25) “Understanding Immigration Reform” Guest host on “Self-Determination” with Dr. Obidike Kamau, KPFT, Houston, Texas 3/2013
- 26) “Political Divisions in Immigration Reform.” *Immigration Reform Deconstructed: Myths and Facts*, presented by the Hispanic Student Association, Texas Southern U. (TSU) 3/2013
- 27) “The Politics of Un-Identity: The Tyranny of the Unidentified Norm.” *Politics of Identity: The Implications of Ethnic Representation*, Hispanic Student Association, TSU 10/2012
- 28) “The Educational Persecution of Baha’is in Iran and Enslaved Africans in the United States.” Thurgood Marshall School of Law, TSU, Houston 5/2012
- 29) “Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*, Ursula K. LeGuin’s Tortured Child of ‘Omelas,’ and the Winged Daughter of ‘Some of the People Could Fly’: The Sacrificial Scapegoat.” HCC 4/2011
- 30) Guest Author Reading from *Blood of Angels* and Host of Author Reading Roundtable, ICFA. Orlando 3/2012
- 31) “The Hunting Down of Trayvon Martin: Sacrificing African American Men”: Guest speaker on “Self-Determination” co-hosted by Dr. Obidike Kamau and Akua Fayette, KPFT. Houston 3/2012
- 32) “Dante’s *Inferno* as a Reflection of 21st-Century Globalization: The Pillaging of Africa and the Role of Transformative Theatre.” ICFA. Orlando, Florida 3/2011
- 33) “‘You Have Forever Changed My Life’: Journaling through the Required Reading.” 17th Annual HBCU Teaching Effectiveness Symposium. Workshop coordinator and co-presenter. New Orleans 10/2010
- 34) “Rape, Secrecy and Healing.” Guest speaker on “Self-Determination” hosted by Akua Fayette. KPFT. Houston 8/2010
- 35) “The Re-enslavement of African American Men.” Guest speaker on “Self-Determination” co-hosted by Obidike Kamau and Akua Fayette. KPFT. Houston 6/2010
- 36) “Approaching Race, Religion and the Fantastic.” Panel organizer and presenter. ICFA. Orlando, Florida 3/2010
- 37) “The African Frog Prince/ss.” ICFA. Orlando, Florida 3/2010
- 38) “The Harlem Renaissance and the African American Family.” Gamma Psi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Guest Speaker. TSU 2/2010
- 39) “The 1855 Murder Case of *Missouri versus Celia*.” National Association of African American Studies (NAAAS). Baton Rouge and Houston Community College (HCC) 2010
- 40) “Women, War, Revolution, and Violence” Guest speaker on “Self-Determination” co-hosted by Dr. Obidike Kamau and Akua Fayette. KPFT. Houston 4/2009
- 41) “‘Some of the People Could Fly’: Myth, History, and Trauma in African/Diaspora

- Literature.” National Association of African American Studies (NAAAS). Baton Rouge 2/2009
- 42) “Shades of Manhood in Ernest Gaines’s ‘The Sky is Gray,’ Richard Wright’s ‘The Man Who was Almost a Man,’ and Ferdinand Oyono’s *Une vie de boy (Life of a Houseboy)*.” NAAAS, Baton Rouge, 2/2009 and McCleary Symposium, TSU, 3/2008
 - 43) “The River Runs to the Road and Returns: The Circle and the Cross in Prophetic African Literature.” ICFA, Orlando and Research Week, TSU, 3/2008
 - 44) “Gangs and Soldiers in Idi Amin’s Uganda.” HCC 2008
 - 45) “Issues in African American Literacy.” Guest speaker on “Self-Determination” co-hosted by Dr. Obidike Kamau and Akua Fayette. KPFT. Houston 11/2007
 - 46) “Water, Literacy, and a Meal: Elizabeth Kharono’s Unity Project.” Houston Baha’i Center, 2007
 - 47) Panelist, “Gender in the Academy: The Secret Lives of Women.” African American History/Women’s History Workshop, Dr. Trudier Harris, keynote speaker, Dr. Elizabeth Brown-Guillory, coordinator. University of Houston 3/2007
 - 48) “Triplcities in Italo Calvino’s ‘The Enchanted Castle.’” Houston Community College 4/2007
 - 49) “On the Wings of Birds, Butterflies, and Bats.” HCC 3/2007
 - 50) “Rites of Passage and Ultimate Loss in Langston Hughes’s ‘Salvation.’” HCC 11/2006
 - 51) “Circumcision and Transformation in Ngugi wa Thiong’o’s *The River Between*.” Graduate Seminar. TSU 4/2007
 - 52) “The Epistolary Tradition in African American Letters.” Graduate Seminar. TSU 11/2006
 - 53) “Some of the People Could Fly.” Lambda Iota Tau Induction Ceremony. TSU 4/2006
 - 54) “Mythatypes in the Blues: Trees, Rivers, Crossroads, and the Crying Sky.” McCleary Symposium. TSU 3/2006
 - 55) “Understanding African Traditions: Female Cleansing in Waris Dirie’s *Desert Flower* and Flora Nwapa’s *Efuru*.” TSU 3/2006
 - 56) “Dynamic Book Review Writing.” English Dept. Monthly Seminar. TSU 11/2005
 - 57) “Waris Dirie’s *Desert Flower*, Alice Walker’s *Warrior Marks*, Female Genital Cutting, and the Godsisters Empowerment Project.” University of Notre Dame’s Shades of Ebony 2/05, St. Mary’s College 4/2003, 9/2002
 - 58) “In the Matrix of Becoming: A Triplcity of Women in a Mississippi Shack.” Southern Conference on African American Studies (SCAASI). Montgomery, AL 2/2005
 - 59) “Celebrating Achievement and Diversity.” Second Annual Black and Latino Graduation Luncheon Keynote Speaker. Indiana University-South Bend (IUSB), 8/2004
 - 60) “Making the Academic Connection.” Discussant. IUSB 4/2004
 - 61) “Black Men’s Think Tank.” Group Discussion Coordinator. IUSB 2/2003, 2/2004
 - 62) *Forced from the Garden* Poetry Workshop and Five-Year Conference Theme Plan Committee. SCAASI 2/2004
 - 63) “Murder, Suicide, and Salvation: The Fish King as Savior in African/Diaspora Myth, Literature, and Folklore.” University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth, SCAASI - Nashville, Tennessee, University of California-Riverside, Atlantic Armstrong University 2004
 - 64) “Diversity among Women: Images and Integration.” University of Virginia Women’s Center, Charlottesville VA, and Inter-Race Forum, University of Notre Dame 12/2003
 - 65) “The Tree of Terror: *The Bondwoman’s Narrative* as Witness of the Struggle.”

- SCAASI. Charleston, South Carolina 2/2003
- 66) “It’s the Transitions That Will Kill You.” Ethnic Minority Faculty Survival Workshop. National Academies Conference of Ford Fellows. Albuquerque, NM 10/2002
- 67) Chair, African Religions and Catholicism Panel, “Native Religions and Christianity” Conference. St. Mary’s College/University of Notre Dame, 10/2002
- 68) “St. Mary’s Women.” Keynote Address. St. Mary’s Primary Teacher College, Bukedea, Uganda 7/2002
- 69) Chair and Panel Presentation “*Mythatypes: Cruelty, Castration, and Claiming.*” Africana Women’s Literature Panel, 8th International Congress on Women (Women’s Worlds 2002). Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda 7/2002
- 70) Journaling Workshop, *Encuentro*. Saint Mary’s/Notre Dame, Summer 2002
- 71) “On the Wings of Birds, Butterflies, and Bats: Fear, Flight, and Freedom in African Diaspora Women’s Literature.” Brown Bag. Saint Mary’s College/University of Notre Dame 1/2002
- 72) “Cultural Awareness, Historicity, and Racial Sensitivity in Teaching Nella Larsen’s *Passing*.” Brown Bag. Saint Mary’s College/University of Notre Dame 11/2001
- 73) Journaling Workshop. Women of Color in Higher Education Conference. Colorado State University-Pueblo 3/2001
- 74) “*Mythatypes*.” University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, 1/01; Conference of Ford Fellows, University of California, Irvine 10/2000
- 75) “Waking on the Road: Quests, Deities, Tricksters in African American Storytelling.” SCAASI. Houston 2/1999
- 76) “Not Passing on *Beloved*: The Sacrificial Child and the Circle of Redemption.” CO State-Pueblo 2/1999
- 77) “Escaped Tricksters: Runaway Narratives as Trickster Tales.” SCAASI. New Orleans 2/1998

B. SPONSOR: STUDENT/ALUMNI PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AWARDS

1) **Virtual International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts (VICFA)1: *The Global Fantastic, October 2022***

- a. Brave Space: “The Role of African/Diaspora Myth and Traditions in Self-Actualization”

Candice Thornton: “GodIsLove: Personified Deities and Mythatypical Patterns in Freshwater”

Mingle Moore: “Traditional African Ecoharmony, Colonial Greed, and Purifying Fire”

Desirée Amboree: “Love, Temptation, and Humanization in African American Fiction and Film”

- b. Brave Space: “Self-Definition, Self-Assertion, and Self-Determination in African/Diaspora Literature and Film”

Stevens Orozco: “Analyzing Works of James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, and Octavia E. Butler as Prophetic Literature in American Society”

Aisha Breed-Thomas: “Determined Freedom in African and Diaspora Literature and Film”

James Walls: “The Great Ultimatum: Autonomy or Subjugation in African American Realism and Science Fiction”

2) **“Futures from the Margins” Science Fiction Research Association Conference hosted by CoFUTURES at the University of Oslo, June 27--July 1, 2022**

Novella Brooks de Vita, Moderator: “Every ‘Other’ Thing: Tokenism and Stereotyping as Diversification in Science Fiction and the Fantastic”

Aileen E. Fonsworth: “Mother's Madness: The Silent, Secret Struggle of Mothers in African American SF and Horror”

Candice Thornton: “Transcendence: Facing Intergenerational Trauma through Science Fiction and Fantasy in Octavia E. Butler’s *Kindred* and ‘Bloodchild’”

3) **In-class Virtual Final Essay Guest Panelists, April 2022:**

a. Donmonique Streater, James Walls

b. Aisha Breed-Thomas, Aileen E. Fonsworth, Candice Thornton

c. Matilda Alexandra Martinez, Erkenis White

4) **International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts (ICFA) 43: *Fantastic Communities*, Orlando, Florida March 18, 2022**

ICFA’s Inaugural Brave Space Panel and Discussion, TSU Alumnae: “Demons, Maddened Mothers and the Traumatized Outsider as African American Horror Antiheroes”

Aileen E. Fonsworth: “The Silent, Secret Struggle of Mothers in African American Literature and Film”

Candice Thornton: “Transcendence, Intergenerational Trauma in Octavia E. Butler’s *Kindred* and ‘Bloodchild’”

Novella Brooks de Vita, Moderator: “Claiming the Everyman in *American Gods* and *Us*”

5) ***End of English* Rice University English Dept. Symposium, Saturday, February 26, 2022**

TSU Panel: “Racialized Bondage and Freedom in Translingual and Interdisciplinary Texts and Films”

Aileen E. Fonsworth: “Mother’s Madness: The Silent, Secret Struggle of Mothers in African American Literature and Film”

Tatyana Finch: “Death versus Bondage in Creative Nonfiction Texts and Film”

Aisha Breed-Thomas: “Determined Freedom in African and Diaspora Literature and Film”

Stevens Orozco: “Analyzing the Works of James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, and Octavia E. Butler as Prophetic Literature in American Society”

6) **National Association of African American Studies (NAAAS)-2022 Virtual Conference, 02/14-19/2022**

TSU Alumnae/Grad Panel: “Demons, Maddened Mothers and the Traumatized Outsider as African American Horror Antiheroes”

Taylor Smith: “An Unorthodox Hero: Demons Transformed in African American Film and Fiction”

Candice Thornton: “Transcendence: Intergenerational Trauma in Octavia E. Butler’s *Kindred* and ‘Bloodchild’”

Novella Brooks de Vita, Moderator: “Claiming the Everyman in *American Gods* and *Us*”

7) **African Literature Graduate Student Guest Panel, TSU Blackboard online class: “Reflections on African and Diaspora Literature and Film” April 22, 2021**

Jared Brooks – “African Leadership in the Face of Colonial Rule”

Aileen E. Fonsworth – “Pawns or People: The Commodification of Children”

DeShawn Skipper – “Water in the Middle Passage”

8) **COLABS Conversations – TSU Virtual Student Panel: “The Terror of Transitions in African American Literature and Film” April 16, 2021**

Taylor Smith – “The Nightmarish Realities of the Northern Dream”

James Walls – “The Great Ultimatum: Autonomy or Subjugation”

Aileen E. Fonsworth – “Pawns or People: The Commodification of Children”

DeShawn Skipper – “Water in the Middle Passage”

Mario Jenkins – “Internal Conflict Due to Racism in African American Literature”

9) **University of Houston - Downtown 12th Annual Gender Conference: April 4, 2019**

Graduate Student Panel: “Fathers, Fears and Monsters”

Jeremy Eugene, Panel Chair – Spoken Word Poetry: “Goaltending,” “Black Contradiction,” “Father Country,” “Still Rewriting”

James Ford – Memoir: “Stay Out of the Street!”

Novella Brooks de Vita – Essay: “Maggots and Tomato Worms: Violence and Impotence in *Coraline* and *The 1855 Murder Case of Missouri* versus *Celia, an Enslaved Woman*”

Mingle Moore – Essay: “Frantz Fanon’s *Black Skin, White Masks*, Fear and Fatherhood in *Chaka* and *The River Between*”

10) **TSU Student Symposium: “Race, Gender and the Violence of Social Mis-Identification” April 24, 2018**

a. Graduate and Undergraduate Panel I: Racism and the Fight for Positive Identity

Jeremy Eugene, Panel I Chair – A Spoken Word and “From African and Diaspora Literature to Justice in Black Lives Matter: Survival, Escape, and Return”

Nathaniel Starr-Price – “Racism: Blatant vs. Subtle”

Ryan Nickerson – “What Does It Mean to Be Black?”

Oladimeji Ogunyemi – “The Eugenics of Today: Pseudo-Science of Suppression”

b. Panel II: Love and Faith in a Violent Society

Jasmine Gershanov, Panel II Chair – “Being ‘Black’ in America”

Christina Guyden – “Love Quest”

Godswill Sam – “The Legacy of Men Who Carved out the First Forms of Civilization”

Grady Paris Johnson – “American Rape Culture and African American Female Identity in Crisis”

c. Panel III: Healing the Person and the Community in a Fractured Society

Novella Brooks de Vita, Panel Chair – “The Glass Ceiling in the Ivory Tower”

James Ford – “African American History through Art: The Murals of Hannah Hall”

Tyrelle Haney – “Re-Member: A Body Divided Cannot Stand”

Ashlee Daniels – “Metamorphosis: Spiritual Transitions of African American Identity”

11) University of Houston - Downtown 11th Annual Gender Conference: “Resist & Persist!” April 4, 2018

- a. TSU Graduate Panel: “Race, Gender and the Violence of Social Mis-Identification – I”
Jeremy Eugene, Panel Chair – “Elevator Pitch,” a Spoken Word, and “From African and
Diaspora Literature to Justice in Black Lives Matter: Survival, Escape, and Return”
Nathaniel Starr-Price – “Racism: Blatant vs. Subtle”
Novella Brooks de Vita – “The Glass Ceiling in the Ivory Tower”

- b. TSU Graduate Panel: “Race, Gender and the Violence of Social Mis-Identification– II”
Jasmine Gershanov, Panel Chair – “Being ‘Black’ in America”
Gabriella Tavera – “Beneath the Skin”
Ashlee Daniels – “Metamorphosis: Spiritual Transitions of African American Identity”
Grady Paris Johnson – “American Rape Culture and African American Female Identity in
Crisis”

- c. TSU Graduate Panel: “Race, Gender and the Violence of Social Mis-Identification – III”
Tyrelle Haney – “Re-Member: A Body Divided Cannot Stand”
Godswill Sam – “The Legacy of Men Who Carved out the First Forms of Civilization”
Ryan Nickerson – “It’s Okay to Be Black”
Novella Brooks de Vita, Panel Chair

**12) TSU Student/Alum Publications in *The Griot*, Journal of the Southern Conference
on African American Studies, Inc.**

- a. Mingle Moore. Poetry. Fall 2017.
- b. Jeremy Eugene. Poetry. Spring 2017.
- c. James Ford. Essay: “Rational Blindness.” Fall 2016.

13) University of Houston – Downtown 10th Annual Gender Conference, 4/2017:

- a. Graduate Student Panel I: “Re/Claiming Self and Mapping Survival in African and
Diaspora Women’s Literature”
Novella Brooks de Vita, Moderator – “Inside Out: Identity and Resilience in African and
Diaspora Women’s Literature”
Gabriel Cisneros – “Misperception of Strength: The Subjugation of Women in African
American Fiction”
LaCresha Douresseaux – “Betrayal before Survival: The Empowerment of Women in African
Diaspora Literature”

- b. Graduate Student Panel II: “Annihilation and the Rebuilding of Body and Soul in African
and Diaspora Literature”
Jeremy Eugene, Moderator – “God’s Arrow Seeks a Target”
Brianna Hadnot – “A God of My Own: Construction of the Religious Self in Harriet Wilson’s
Our Nig and Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God*”
Gloria Williams-Mitchell – “The Power of the Kongo Cosmogram in Reading Race and Gender
in Frantz Fanon’s *Black Skin, White Masks*”

14) ***From the Middle Passage to Black Lives Matter II: Second Annual Intra-Collegiate Conference of the College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences, 3/2017:***

a. Graduate Panel I: “Identity Destruction and Reconstruction in African and Diaspora Literature”

James Ford, Moderator – “Rational Blindness” Lily Newton Hornsby Award, SCAASI

Gabriel Cisneros – “Internal Diaspora: The Immigrant Soul”

Eric Reyes – “Self-Suppression and Enslavement: Issues of African Identity in Literature”

Jeremy Eugene – “God’s Arrow Seeks a Target”

b. Graduate Panel II: “Sex, Sexism and the Re/Claiming of Self in African and Diaspora Literature”

LaCresha Douresseaux, Moderator

Novella Brooks de Vita – “Shaken to the Core: De/Re-Construction”

Brianca Hadnot – “Reshaping Misconceptions about America’s Free North in Harriet Wilson’s *Our Nig* and James Weldon Johnson’s *Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*”

Gloria Williams-Mitchell – “The Power of the Kongo Cosmogram in Reading Race and Gender in Frantz Fanon’s *Black Skin, White Masks*”

15) **Reflections on Classic African American Literature from the TSU R.J. Terry Library’s African American Read-In, 2/2017**

a. Eng 244-01 – Thirty (30) Undergraduate Presentations

b. Graduate Presentations (throughout the day)

16) **University of Houston – Downtown 8th Annual Gender Conference, 4/2015:**

Graduate Student Panel: “Gender, Literature and Education”

Novella Brooks de Vita, Chair - “Life, Death, Sexuality, and Resurrection: The Transcendent Transsexuality of Children in Literature”

James Ford – “Rational Blindness of the African Descent Male in the *Bildungsroman*”

Jennifer Julian - “Power, Spirit and the Quest for Autonomy in African Diaspora Women’s Literature”

17) **University of Houston – Downtown 7th Annual Gender Conference, 4/2014:**

a. Panel I: “Race, Gender and Spirit in African and Diaspora Literature and Literary Characters”

Sarah Moustapha - “Tradition and Liberation in African Women’s Literature”

Hoda Moghaddam - “Racism, Reality and Spirit in African American Women’s Literature”

Trelisia White - “African American Women's Enlightenment through Persecution”

Stephanie Curry - “The Traditional African Woman Laments the Colonizing of the African Man”

b. Panel II: “Gender, Power and De-colonialist Literary Analysis”

Ekwutosi Egbuna, Chair - “Lashes on a Nigerian Woman’s Back: An African Woman’s Reading of African American Literature”

Irma Nikicicz - “Reception Theory and Religion in Early African American Literature”

Ravin Porter - “Colonialism and Women’s Disempowerment in African/Diaspora Literature”

18) College Language Association Convention, New Orleans, 3/2014:

a. Panel One: “The Invention of Racism to Colonize Africa and the Diaspora”

Dirk Taylor – “Displaced People of the Enlightenment: Europeans Inventing the Colonized African”

Avery Johnson – “The Degradation of Women in African and Diaspora Literature”

Rayya Carrington – “Taking It In and Vomiting It Up: History, Self-Image and Self-Destruction of the African Woman in Tsitsi Dangarembga’s *Nervous Conditions*”

Mingle Moore, M.A., Chair – “Living *Black Skin/Wearing White Masks*: Dependency and Inadequacy in Colonized African Communities”

b. Panel Two: “Re-Inventing the Self as a Challenge to the System”

Alfonso Arteaga – “Leading and Following, Race and Enslavement, Gender and Domination in the Tango Embrace: Fantasies of a Cripple”

Novella Brooks de Vita – “The Suppression of Sub-Saharan *Homo Sapiens*’ Intelligence”

Arelia Johnson – “An African American Woman’s Collegiate Manifesto”

Sabrina Curtis, M.A., Chair – “Dual Notions of Reality: Personal Narratives by Social Activists of African Descent”

19) Students’/Alumni’s Short Story publications:

a. “Mercy and the Mermaid” by Alexandra Dairo-Brown (TSU grad alumna), “Nuckelavee” by Joseph Michael (TSU/Rice University), “*Sans Lake*” by montage (TSU grad alumnus), “My Bogeyman” by Novella Serena (TSU grad student) in *Tales in Firelight and Shadow*, Alexis Brooks de Vita, Editor, Ontario: Double Dragon/Blood Moon Publishing, 2014

b. “In the Closet” by Natalie L. R. Baker (TSU alumna), “I Am a Smart Maid” by Matt K. Bird (HCC and University of Houston), “Vengeance” by Tedd Hawks (Notre Dame alumnus, Northwestern University grad student), “Lullaby for a Hated Person” by Joseph Michael (Rice University), “Noisnam Edicius” by Joel Owusu (HCC alumnus) in *Love and Darker Passions*, Alexis Brooks de Vita and Lee Barwood, Editors, Double Dragon/Blood Moon Publishing, 2012

20) Rice University Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality 5th Annual Graduate Symposium 1/2012: “Belonging”

a. Panel I: “The Cost of Conforming to a Colonized World”

Sabrina Curtis - “Dual Notions of Reality: Personal Narratives by Social Activists of African Descent”

Rayya Carrington - “Taking It In and Vomiting It Up”

Mingle Moore - “Living Black Skin, Wearing White Masks: Dependency and Inadequacy in Colonized African Communities”

Dirk Taylor - “Displaced People of the Enlightenment”

b. Panel II: “Dying/Killing and Transforming: Outcasts Rejecting the Rules”

Alfonso Arteaga - “Leading, Following and Gender in the Tango Embrace: Fantasies of a Cripple”

Kimberly Fain - “Obsessive Love and the Drastic Consequences of Rejection in Toni Morrison’s

Jazz” (taught by Dr. Charlene Evans)
Johnniea Armstead - “In Search of the Girl Soldiers of Aboke”

21) “The Hunting Down of Trayvon Martin: Sacrificing African American Men”:
Sponsored **Student Guest Speaker Johnniea Armstead on “Self-Determination”** co-hosted by Dr. Obidike Kamau and Akua Fayette, KPFT. Houston 3/2012

22) **TSU Research Week, 4/2011: “Research Discovery: Building Blocks of Future Trends”**

Alfonso Arteaga - “The Contradictory Notion of Aliens in Post-Modern Narration in Alex Rivera’s *Sleep Dealer*, Rick Najera’s *Pain of the Macho* and Jorge Blanco’s *Planet 51*”

23) **International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts (ICFA), Orlando, Florida 3/2011:**

Alfonso Arteaga - “The Contradictory Notion of Aliens”

Joseph Brooks de Vita - “Dante’s Crusade through Hell: *Dante’s Inferno* as the Interactive Media Experience of Alighieri’s *Inferno*”

24) **Rice University Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality 4th Annual Graduate Symposium 1/2011: “Borders Revisited”**

a. Panel I: “Colonization as Self-Alienation”

Jyme Roundtree - “Hubris, Healing and the Colonized Subject’s Quest for Self-Claiming”

Ashley Alexander - “Tradition versus Progress in African Literature: Disempowerment of Traditional African Women in Europeanized Societies”

D’Aundra McCoy - “The Fall of an African Man”

Toni Walker - “Fatherly Love for a Circumcised Child Bride”

b. Panel IV: “Alienation as Altered Identity of the Disempowered”

Alfonso Arteaga - “The Contradictory Notion of Aliens in Post-Modern Narration”

Sabrina Curtis - “Traditions, Rituals and Spirituality: Colonization as Infringement upon the Boundaries of Identity and Purpose”

Alexandra Dairo-Brown - “Lost Boundaries and Broken Men in African Literature”

25) **ICFA, 3/2010: “Race and the Fantastic” Panel Coordinator**

Alfonso Arteaga, TSU undergraduate - “Timeless Tango: Fantasies of a Cripple”

26) **“Preface” by Nelson C. Solomon II**, TSU undergraduate, in *The 1855 Murder Case of Missouri versus Celia, an Enslaved Woman*. Lewiston: Edwin Mellen Press, 8/24/10

27) **National Association of Hispanic and Latino Studies 18th Annual Conference**, “Beauty is in the Details: A Global View of Persons of Color,” TSU undergraduate student presentation “Timeless Tango: Fantasies of a Cripple” by Alfonso Arteaga. Baton Rouge, Louisiana 2/2010

28) **International Interdisciplinary Conference on “Human Rights, Individualism and Globalization”** HCC undergraduate student presentation “Tango as Sense of

Accomplished Self” by Alfonso Arteaga. Bethany College, West Virginia, 4/2008

- 29) **“Women, War, Revolution, and Violence,”** all-day conference and workshop, coordinator and co-sponsor with Dr. Obidike Kamau and Dr. Alvia Wardlaw, Directors of Libraries and Museums, TSU, and LaKeshia McBride, student co-founder of Gender Matters and afternoon workshop coordinator; TSU Museum 4/2009
 - a. student presenters:
 - i. Jacquenetta Armstead,
 - ii. Mariah Mayes,
 - iii. LaTosha Pierce,
 - iv. Ruth Wainaina

- 30) **“BookMarks and African American Literacy,”** co-facilitator of intercampus panel, TSU 11/2007
 - a. featuring Karla F. C. Holloway, Duke University Distinguished Professor, keynote speaker
 - b. Krystal Austin, TSU student co-founder of Gender Matters
 - c. Dr. Obidike Kamau, Director of Robert J. Terry Library and Urban Learning Center RJ Terry Library

- 31) **“The Victorian Nightmare: Representations of the Atlantic Slave Trade in Traditional Gothic Literature,”** facilitator of Minerva Literary Association/English Department
 - a. undergraduate student panel presentations by Johnniea Armstead, Natalie Baker, Toni Walker, TSU 11/2006

- 32) **Lillie Newton Hornsby Memorial Collegiate (undergraduate student) Essay Awards, Southern Conference on African American Studies, Inc.:**
 - a. **2016:** Texas Southern University Graduate Student: James Ford, M. A.: “Rational Blindness”

 - b. **2007:** Sponsored three-student sweep of 1st-3rd place sweep of awards by Texas Southern University undergraduates:
 - i. Natalie Baker,
 - ii. LaKeshia McBride,
 - iii. Toni Walker

 - c. **2006:** Sponsored four-student sweep of 1st-4th place awards by Texas Southern University undergraduates:
 - i. “Community Building: Cultural Consciousness” by LaKeshia McBride,
 - ii. “Cultural Oppression and Racism throughout American History” by Danielle Grayson,
 - iii. “Community Responsibility” by Kevin Penn, “Victim of Identity” by Duke Chweya

 - d. **2005:** Co-Sponsored winner with Dr. Richard Pierce, Chair of Africana Studies,

University of Notre Dame:

- i. "One Nation under a Groove" by Shawtina Ferguson
 - e. **2004:** Co-Sponsored three of four winners with Dr. Richard Pierce, Chair of Africana Studies, University of Notre Dame:
 - i. Novella Brooks de Vita, "Abiku Babies: Spirit Children and Human Bonding in Ben Okri's *The Famished Road*, Danticat's *Krik? Krak!*, and Tina McElroy Ansa's *Baby of the Family*," published in *The Griot* Spring 2005
 - ii. Johnea Brooks de Vita, "Womanhood, Motherhood, Life, and Death In African/Diaspora Folktales: Metamorphosis and Affirmation Despite Loss and Sacrifice," published in *The Griot* Spring 2005 and awarded the Yvonne Ochillo Memorial Award in 2006
 - iii. Ceschino Brooks de Vita, "Creating an Identity: Frantz Fanon's First Step on the Road to Liberation and Empowerment for African Diaspora Individuals and Communities"
 - f. **2003:** St. Mary's/Notre Dame: Sponsored one of two first-place winners,
 - i. Novella Brooks de Vita, "Beloved and Betrayed: Survival and Authority in *Kindred*" published in *The Griot* Spring 2004
- 33) **Reanitsa K. Butler Award for undergraduate student panel presentations, Southern Conference on African American Studies, Inc.:**
 - a. **2005/2004:** University of Notre Dame, second place and third place
 - b. **2003:** St. Mary's College, third place
- 34) **Poetry** by three St. Mary's students published in *Forced from the Garden*, Guild Press, 6/2003
- 35) **2003:** Co-sponsored with QWIL **Dr. Karla Holloway's reading and book-signing of *Passed On: African American Mourning Stories***. St. Mary's College/U. Notre Dame
- 36) **2002:** Invited and co-sponsored with QWIL **Dr. Rachel Harding/Veterans of Hope Project, Iliff School of Theology, presentation of "Women of the Civil Rights Movement."** St. Mary's College/ University of Notre Dame
- 37) **2002:** Faculty creator/organizer/sponsor **Godsisters/Godfamily**, St. Mary's-Notre Dame, U.S.A. linked with St. Mary's-Bukedea, Uganda

C. UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE SERVICE

- 1) Texas Southern University
 - A. University Rank, Tenure, Promotion, and Salary Committee, Fall 2015-2017, Committee Chair 2019-2021
 - B. Paris Study Abroad, Chaperoning Professor, Summer 2015

- C. Ad Hoc Teaching Evaluation Committee, Chair Fall 2012-Fall 2013
- D. Ad Hoc Faculty Performance Evaluation Committee, Member Fall 2012-Spring 2013
- E. \$10,000 Degree Committee, Member Spring 2013
- F. Faculty Assembly/Senate, Editor of *TSU Faculty Speaks* Fall 2009-Spring 2013
- G. Ad Hoc Faculty Performance and Teaching Evaluations Committee, Chair Fall 2011-Fall 2012
- H. Ad Hoc Textbook Policy Committee, Secretary Fall 2010-Spring 2011
- I. Provost's Ad Hoc Committee on Retention and Graduation Fall 2009-Spring 2010
- J. Graduate School Grievance Committee, Secretary Winter 2006

2) University of Vermont, President's Commission on the Status of Women 1988-1989

D. **INITIATION/SPONSORSHIP and TEACHING: SERVICE/LEARNING PROJECTS**

- 1) Faculty Sponsor, **IGNITE**, TSU, 2019-2020.
- 2) Paris Study Abroad support faculty, TSU, 2015
- 3) Faculty Advisor of Student Retention and Graduation Action Plan and Policy Proposal, TSU, Summer-Fall 2012
- 4) Faculty co-sponsor/advisor of **TSU's Latin Dance Club**, TSU, 2010-2012
- 5) Teacher of 15-year-olds (Year of Declaration), Houston Baha'i Center, 2009-2010
- 6) Houston Baha'i Teaching Committee Chairman, 2006-2008
- 7) Faculty co-creator/sponsor of **Gender Matters student/community activism group** TSU, 2005-2008
- 8) Facilitation of American Baha'i community financial support of **Elizabeth Kharono's Unity Nursery and Health Centre in Mbale, Uganda**, Fall 2002-2008
- 9) Committee member, **Women's Studies Minor proposal** with Dean of COLABS, TSU, 2005-2006
- 10) Clothes smuggled to **Kitgum Concerned Women's Association for rescued child soldiers** Uganda 2004
- 11) **Enrollment of five rescued young women at Saint Mary's Primary Teacher College**, Bukedea, Uganda, for teacher certification; tuition/fees paid by Saint Mary's/University of Notre Dame God Sisters/Godfamily 2003-2005
- 12) Faculty creator, sponsor, advisor of **Saint Mary's Sister School/God Sisters** project and committee, fundraising to rescue 300 Ugandan women/girls from circumcision, 12/2002-5/2003, sheltering them at Peace High School 2002-2005
- 13) Donation drive for **toys/books/games for women and children's parenting time programs** at Pueblo Minimum (Security) Correctional Facility, Pueblo, Colorado 1999-2001