

## **CASSANDER L. SMITH**

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Honors College  
 Professor of English  
 University of Alabama  
 P. O. Box 870169  
 Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

### **EDUCATION**

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**PhD**, Purdue University, May 2010  
 Early American Literature to 1865  
**MFA**, Purdue University, May 2005  
**BS**, Florida A&M University, December 2000

### **ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE**

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Honors College, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

#### **Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (May 2021-present)**

- Manage academic curriculum, which serves 7,000+ undergraduate students
- Supervise 9 staff and faculty positions
- Advise the Dean on hiring and strategic planning
- Oversee faculty professional development and contract renewal
- Supervise job search committees
- Assess and revise academic programming
- Ensure academic policy compliance
- Lead development of online Honors program, with ultimate goal of creating fully online Honors curriculum for distance-learners by Fall 2026
- Work with Dean and Associate Dean for Student Engagement and Involvement to articulate the unique intellectual experience that is Honors education and ensure that it resonates with the University's larger mission
- Manage \$80,000 academic budget, which funds faculty development and course management.
- Collaborate with Associate Dean for Student Engagement and Involvement on matters of recruitment and admissions
- Oversee course offerings and development both within the College and within other academic units on campus, which includes establishing and maintaining cross-campus partnerships
- Assess courses and work with the Dean and Associate Dean for Student Engagement and Involvement on matters of enrollment, retention, and success
- Collaborate with external partners who teach courses for the Honors College
- Communicate with students and occasionally parents on matters related to the in-classroom experience
- Adjudicate cases of student academic misconduct
- Represent the College on University-wide committees, including the committee that oversees the University's general education core curriculum

- Represent College at national Honors conferences
- Assistant Dean and development officer with fundraising

**Chief Diversity Officer** (August 2022-May 2024)

- Organize diversity training workshops for faculty
- Work with Dean to ensure mission alignment with regards to inclusivity
- Organize programming that emphasizes inclusivity
- Develop online teaching resources for faculty
- Chair College's DEI Committee
- Provide support to faculty and staff in terms of inclusivity
- Serve on University-wide committees relevant to inclusivity and diversity, including the Advisory Diversity Council

Provost's Office, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

**UA Provost Faculty Fellow for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** (May 2020- May 2022)

- Work with the Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Plan and implement workshops and seminars to help faculty and graduate student teaching assistants build more inclusive classrooms
- Organize webinars, other online teaching resources

Education Abroad, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

**Co-Director, UA@Oxford Study Abroad** (August 2019 – August 2022)

- Oversee six-course curriculum that serves 45+ students each summer
- Manage \$250,000+ budget
- Recruit students and faculty to program
- Organize travel for students and faculty
- Travel with and supervise students while abroad
- Coordinate excursions and other co-curricular activities
- Assess and implement changes to the curriculum

**ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

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University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

Professor, Department of English (Fall 2024 – present)

Associate Professor, Department of English (Fall 2016 – Fall 2024)

College of Arts & Sciences Leadership Board Faculty Fellow (Fall 2019-Fall 2023)

Assistant Professor, Department of English (Fall 2010 – Spring 2016)

**PUBLICATIONS**

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**Books**

“Wasteful Bodies: Imagining Conservation and Preservation in Transatlantic Slavery” (in progress)

*Race and Respectability in an Early Black Atlantic* (Louisiana State University Press, 2023)  
 Reviewed in  
*Slavery & Abolition* 45.3 (2024)

*Black Africans in the British Imagination: English Narratives of the Early Atlantic World* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2016)  
 Reviewed in  
*Journal of African American History* 104.4 (fall 2019)  
*American Literature* 91, no. 1 (March 2019)  
*The Americas* 75, no. 1 (January 2018)  
*SEL Studies in English Literature* 58, no. 1 (winter 2018)

### **Edited Books/Volumes**

“The Middle Ages and Its Cultural Afterlives in the American South,” co-edited (in progress)

*The Earliest African American Literatures: A Critical Reader*, Co-edited (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2021)  
 Reviewed in  
*American Literary History*, 35.2 (Summer 2023)

*Teaching With Tension: Race, Resistance, and Reality in the Classroom*, Co-edited (Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 2019)

*Early Modern Black Diaspora Studies: A Critical Anthology*, Co-edited (New York: Palgrave Macmillan Press, 2018)  
 Reviewed in  
*Bulletin of the Comediantes*, 73.2 (2021)  
*NWIG: New West Indian Guide / Nieuwe West-Indische Gids*, 94. 3/4 (2020)

### **Editorial Work**

Associate Series Editor, *African American Literature in Transition*, 17 volumes, Cambridge University Press (2019 – present)

Special Issue Co-editor, “Dear Sister: Phillis Wheatley (Peters) Studies Now” *Early American Literature* 57.3 (Winter 2022)

### **Peer-Reviewed Journal and Book Essays**

- “Wheatley and Her Literary Predecessors,” *The Genius of Phillis Wheatley Peters: A Poet and Her Legacies*. Ed. Sarah Ruffing Robbins, Barbara McCaskill, and Mona Narain (under contract, Edinburgh University Press).
- “Narratives, Confessions, and Accounts: Wheatley in Context,” *Phillis Wheatley (Peters) In Context*. Ed. Wendy Roberts and April Langley (under contract, Cambridge University Press).
- “Evangelical Verse and the Poet-Minister Phillis Wheatley,” *The New England Quarterly* 97.2 (2024): 246–250.
- “Phillis Wheatley,” *Oxford Bibliographies in Atlantic History*. Ed. Trevor Burnard

- (Oxford University Press, 2024).
- “Early Caribbean Anglophone Literature,” *The Routledge Companion to Eighteenth-Century Literatures in English* (New York: Routledge, 2023): 51-61.
- “Dear Sister: Phillis Wheatley’s Futures” Special Issue Introduction (co-written), *Early American Literature*, 57.3 (2022): 663-679.
- “Respectability Politics and Early African American Literature.” *African American Literature in Transition, 1750-2015: Vol I* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022): 204-227.
- “Caribbean America.” *The Cambridge Companion to Early American Literature* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021): 250-267.
- “Race.” *A History of American Puritan Literature*. Kristina Bross and Abram Van Engen, eds. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020): 211-224.
- “Africans in Early America.” *A Companion to American Literature Vol I*. Susan Belasco and Theresa Strouth Gaul, eds. (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Publishing, 2020): 105-120.
- “Resisting Impulses and the Challenges of Teaching Race in the Early African American Studies Classroom.” *Teaching with Tension: Race, Resistance, and Reality in the Classroom*. Philathia Bolton, Cassander L. Smith, Lee Bebout, eds. (Northwestern University Press, 2019): 49-68.
- “‘Candy No Witch in Her Country’: What One Enslaved Woman’s Testimony During the Salem Witch Trials Can Tell Us About Early American Literature.” *Early Modern Black Diaspora Studies: A Critical Anthology*. Cassander L. Smith, Nicholas Jones, Miles Grier, eds. (New York: Palgrave Macmillan Press, 2018): 107-135.
- “Finding the Modern in Early Caribbean Literature.” *Literary Histories of the Early Anglophone Caribbean: Islands in the Stream*. Nicole N. Aljoe, Brycchan Carey, Thomas Krise, eds. (Palgrave Macmillan Press, 2018): 193-212.
- “Esteban, Fray Marcos and the Problem of Literary Translation on the Frontier.” *Before the West Was West*. Amy Hamilton and Thomas Hillard, eds. Lincoln, NE: U of Nebraska P, 2014: 80-101.
- “‘Nigger’ or ‘Slave’: Why Labels Matter for Jim (and Twain) in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.” *Papers on Language and Literature* 50.2 (2014): 182-206.
- “‘For They are Naturally Born’: Quandaries of Racial Representation in George Best’s *A True Discourse*.” *Studies in Travel Writing* 17.3 (2013): 233-249.
- “Washing the Ethiop Red: Sir Francis Drake and the Cimarrons of Panama.” *Race and Displacement: Nation, Migration, and Identity in the Twenty-First Century*. Maha Marouan and Merinda Simmons, eds. Tuscaloosa: U of Alabama P, 2013: 113-126.
- “Beyond the Mediation: Esteban, Cabeza de Vaca’s *Relaciòn*, and a Narrative Negotiation.” *Early American Literature* 47.2 (2012): 267-291.

### Encyclopedia Entries

- “Phillis Wheatley” and “Paul Cuffe” for *Great Lives from History: African Americans*, edited by Carl L. Bankston III for Salem Press, September 2011.

### Book Reviews

- Cassander L. Smith (2024): Zachary Hutchins, *Before Equiano: A Prehistory of*

- the North American Slave Narrative in Eighteenth Century Studies.*
- Cassander L. Smith (2023): Latoya Jefferson-James, ed., *Afro-Caribbean Women's Literature and Early American Literature in New England Quarterly*.
- Cassander L. Smith (2021): Michelle Faubert. *Granville Sharp's Uncovered Letter and the Zong Massacre in Eighteenth-Century Fiction*.
- Cassander L. Smith (2019): Brycchan Carey. *The Interesting Narrative by Olaudah Equiano in Eighteenth-Century Fiction*.
- Cassander L. Smith (2018): Susan Imbarrato. *Sarah Gray Cary From Boston to Grenada: Shifting Fortunes of an American Family 1764-1826 in Studies in American Culture*.
- Cassander L. Smith (2016): Trans. and Ed. Lesley S. Curtis and Christen Mucher. *Stella: A Novel of the Haitian Revolution by Émeric Bergeaud in Early American Literature*, 51:2, 533-5.
- Cassander L. Smith (2012): Sarah M. Pearsall. *Atlantic Families: Lives and Letters in the Later Eighteenth Century in Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, 41:7, 870-872.

### Other Publications

- Smith, C.L. (2023). "Difference and Belonging: How to Leverage the Power of Diversity in College and Beyond," in *Foundations of Engaged Scholarship*. W. Ross Bryan and Anne Franklin Lamar, eds. (San Diego: Cognella): 161-174.
- Cardon, L. S and C.L. Smith (2022). "'What could I possibly say?' Addressing Racist Dialogue in the Classroom," *The Teaching Professor*. Magna Publications.
- Smith, C.L. (2022). "Diego, Drake, and Piracy in Panama," in *The Tudors: Passion, Power and Politics*. Charlotte Bolland, ed. (London: National Portrait Gallery): 108.

### HONORS/FELLOWSHIPS

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- UA College of Arts & Sciences Leadership Board Faculty Fellow (Fall 2019-Fall 2023)
- UA Provost Faculty Fellow (May 2020-May 2022)
- Purdue Alumnae Distinguished Women Scholars Award (2020)
- Society of Early Americanists Scholar of the Month (July 2018)
- Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellowship, Huntington Library (November 2017)
- Awarded Excellence in Academic Advising, UA Office for Academic Affairs (2015)
- Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship (June 2009 – May 2010)
- Ford Dissertation Diversity Fellowship alternate (April 2009)
- Purdue Fellowship (April 2009 – declined grant)
- Cheryl Oreovicz Dissertation Award for Early American Studies (Fall 2008)
- Newberry Library/ CIC Research Fellowship (Spring 2007)
- Purdue Doctoral Fellowship (August 2005 – May 2007)
- Purdue Master's Fellowship (August 2002 – July 2004)

### GRANTS

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- Folger Shakespeare Symposium Grant, "Early Modern Intersections in the American

- South,” (2019-2023) \$40,000
- University of Alabama Research Grant (May 2018-May 2020) \$5,416
  - University of Alabama CARSCA Grant (April 2019) \$4,000
  - University of Alabama Research Grant (May 2011-May 2013) \$5,000
  - National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar and Grant (Summer 2011) \$3,300
  - Folger Shakespeare Library Grant-in-aid (Fall 2010) \$5,000

## TEACHING

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### (Selected) Undergraduate Courses

- Love, Intimacy and Interracial Contact in Early American Literature (EN 488)
- African American Literature Survey (EN 249)
- Early American Literature Survey (EN 209)
- Early American Literature Survey honors (EN 219)
- Beyond the Slave Narrative: Captivity and Identity in Early African American Literature (EN 488)
- Great Texts of Early America (EN 340)
- The Craft of Early African American Fiction (EN 350)
- What is African American Literature? (EN 350)
- Brer Rabbit and His Literary Kinfolk in Early African American Fiction (EN 488)

### (Selected) Graduate Courses

- Survey of African American Literature (EN 648)
- (Some) Black Lives Matter: African American Culture and the Literary Origins of Respectability Politics (EN 648)
- Constructing Race in the Renaissance Atlantic World (EN 664)
- The Roots of American Racism, State-Sanctioned Violence and a Black Protest Tradition in African American Literature (EN 648)
- Race and Power in the Anglo Atlantic World (EN 640)
- Writing Race, Acting Race in the Early Americas (EN 666)
- Literature of the Early Atlantic in Red, White, and Black (EN 640)
- Piracy, Slavery, Cannibalism and the Countercultures of Early Atlantic Literature (EN 666)
- Intimacy and Interracial Contact in the Early Americas (EN 640)
- Slavery and the Power of Place in the Anglo Atlantic World (EN 648)
- Early America, Digital Humanities, and the Art of Critical Editions (EN 640)

### Study Abroad Courses

- “‘Black Sails’ and The ‘Real’ Pirates of the Caribbean” (month-long course taught in Oxford, England, summer 2017, summer 2018, summer 2022)
- “Cultural Geography of Africa” (3-week course taught in Accra and

Kumasi, Ghana, summer 2012)

#### Online Courses

\*Completed online teaching certification (Fall 2016)

- African American Literature Survey (graduate course // EN 648)
- Early American Literature Survey (undergraduate course // EN 209)
- “*Black Sails* and The ‘Real’ Pirates of the Caribbean” (undergraduate course // EN 422)

### INVITED TALKS

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#### Research

- “Wheatley and Black Atlantic Studies,” New York State Writers Institute, November 2024
- “Black Legend Rhetoric at the Borders of Guinea and the Caribbean in the 16th Century,” UCLA Center for 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> Century Studies, October 2024
- “Publishing and Professional Development,” British American Studies Association workshop, London, UK, January 2024
- “The Black Legend and the Early Caribbean,” University of Alabama Latin American Studies Colloquium, October 2023
- “Publishing and Professional Development,” British American Studies Association workshop, London, UK, September 2023
- “Phillis Wheatley at 250,” University of Kentucky, February 2023
- “Black Legend as Legal Rhetoric in Early British Encounters with Sub-Saharan Africa” Pearce Shakespeare Endowment Symposium, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN, January 2023
- “Phillis Wheatley and Respectability,” California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, October 2022
- “The Oral Tradition and Talking Back to a British Metropole,” Society of Antiquaries of London, London, October 28, 2022
- “Legacies of Slavery: Race, Respectability, and Black Women’s Bodies,” University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain, September 2022
- “‘No Rogue, No Rascal, No Thief’: Race and Respectability in the Early Americas,” Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA., October 21, 2021
- “Respectability and Resettlement in an Early Black Atlantic,” Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, October 14, 2021
- “‘We have heard her much admiring Gods free grace’: Black Women and the Stakes of Respectability in the Early Americas” CUNY Graduate Center, New York, September 2020
- “Black Africans in the British Imagination: English Saviors and Black Legend Rhetoric in 16<sup>th</sup> Century Guinea” *What’s Happening in Black British History VII*, London, UK, October 2017
- “The Black Legend and Ideological Migrations” Center for Renaissance and Medieval Studies, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, May 2017

- “Mining the Archival Margins” NEH-sponsored workshop “Early American Women’s History: Teaching from within the Archives,” hosted by the Rhode Island Historical Society, Rhode Island, July 2015

### Pedagogy

- “‘Is This Offensive?’ Tense Moments and Traumatic Content in the Age of Call-out Culture,” Co-Presenter, preconference workshop, The Teaching Professor Conference, New Orleans, LA. June, 2023
- “Teaching to Learn: The Stakes of Anti-Racist Pedagogy for Literary Studies,” English Department, Brandeis University, March 2023
- “Anti-Racist Teaching in 2022” National Humanities Center summer residency program, July 2022
- “Building Multicultural Relationships” College of the Sequoias, January 2022
- “Anti-Racist Pedagogies,” Northwestern University, Evansville, IN, October 15, 2021
- “Strategies for Teaching Race,” Romantic Circles/Keats-Shelley Association of America Anti-Racist Pedagogies Colloquium, July 2021
- “Decolonizing the College Classroom Curriculum,” National Humanities Center summer residency program, July 8, 2021
- “Mark Twain and Navigating Racist Language in the Classroom,” guest speaker on *The American Vandal* Podcast, May 26, 2021
- “Beyond Course Content: Achieving Equity in the Classroom,” Plenary keynote address, Anti-Racist Teaching in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Studies, A Teach-In, May 26, 2021
- “Diversity and Inclusive Pedagogy,” English Department, Idaho State University, Pocatello, ID, April 15, 2021
- “Setting the Tone: Inclusive Classroom Practices,” English Department, Sienna College, Loudonville, NY, April 20, 2021
- “Teaching With Tension: Managing Classroom Discussions in Our Current Moment,” Honors College, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, expected spring 2021 [postponed due to COVID]
- “Identifying a Mentor for the Underrepresented Student,” Graduate School, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, November 2020
- “Belonging in the Sciences: Tips for Fostering Diversity and Inclusion in the Classroom and Beyond,” Department of Geology, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, August 2020
- “Research, Teaching, and the Tenure Clock at a State University,” Early Atlantic Reading Group Anniversary Symposium, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, April 2012

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- “Narratives of victimhood and Wasteful Bodies: Black Legend Rhetoric at the Borders of West Africa and the Caribbean in the 16th Century,” College Language Association, Memphis, TN, April 2024



- “Journal Publishing Tips for the Early Career Scholar,” College Language Association, Memphis, TN, April 2024
- “Wheatley and Revolutionary Genius,” Revolutionary Women Symposium, International Center for Jefferson Studies, March 2024
- “Journal Editing and Graduate Student Mentoring,” Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, PA, January 2024
- “Legacies of Slavery: Race, Respectability, and Black Women’s Bodies” International Association of University Professors of English (IAUPE), Rome, July 2023
- “African American Literature in Transition, Editorial Reflections,” Society of Early Americanists, Washington D.C., June 2023
- “Strategies to Protect: Critical Race Theory in Practice,” American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies, March 2023
- “Reflections on Jennifer L. Morgan’s *Reckoning with Slavery: Gender, Kinship, and Capitalism in the Early Black Atlantic: A Roundtable*,” American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies, March 2023
- “Phillis Wheatley and Her Futures,” Modern Language Association, San Francisco, January 2023
- “The Archives and the Ethics of Recovery in the Early Caribbean,” American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies, Baltimore, MD, April 2022
- “Remembering the Middle Passage: A Roundtable,” Modern Language Association, Jan 2022
- “Phillis Wheatley Peters at the Ungendered Borders of Early America,” Society for the Study of American Women Writers, November 2021
- “What Could I Possibly Say?” Addressing Racist Dialogue in the Classroom,” Leadership in Higher Education Conference, Baltimore, MD September 2021
- “Roundtable: Black Iberia,” Renaissance Society of America, Philadelphia, PA, April 2021
- “My Poor Little Ill-thriven Swarthy Daughter”: The Caribbean, Sierra Leone’s Province of Freedom, and the Racial (Dis-)Order of British Empire,” Remembering Plymouth (Society of Early Americanists-sponsored), March 2021
- “Trust Building and Allyship in the Profession,” Society of Early Americanists, March 2021
- “Toward a Theory of Black African Mediation, Authorship, and the Early American Literary Archives” Society of Early Americanists, March 2021
- “The Job Search in Digital Humanities,” College Language Association, Memphis, TN, April 2020 [postponed due to COVID-19]
- “Roundtable: Intellectual History of the Early African Diaspora,” Renaissance Society of America, Philadelphia, PA, April 2020 [canceled due to COVID-19]
- “Literature of an Early Black Atlantic and Its Circular Routes” College Language Association, Raleigh, NC, April 2019
- “Digital Caribbean: A Transoceanic Perspective” Society of Early Americanists, Eugene, Oregon, March 2019
- “Thomas Gage’s *The English-American*, Digital Humanities and the Art of Critical Editions” Modern Language Association, January 2019

- “ASA Early American Matters Caucus: (Dis)Ability, Race, the Superhuman and the Emergence of Transatlantic Slavery” American Studies Association, Atlanta, Ga., November 2018
- “Refiguring the Black Atlantic” Transatlantic Conversations, Mainz, Germany, October 2018
- “Medieval Narratives and Perceptions of Whiteness in Charles Chesnutt’s *The House Behind the Cedars*” College Language Association, Chicago, April 2018
- “Translating and Transmitting Thomas Gage’s Politics – Digital Humanities and the Art of Critical Editions, a Workshop” Society of Early Americanists-sponsored conference, *Religion and Politics in Early America*, St. Louis, Missouri, March 2018
- “(Some) Black Lives Matter: Teaching Respectability And Early African American Culture” American Studies Association annual meeting, November 2017, Chicago, IL
- “New Approaches to Black Africans in the early Atlantic” Society of Early Americanists biennial conference, Feb. 28-March 5, 2017, Tulsa, OK
- “Making the Case for Multiculturalism and (Early) African American Studies in a ‘Race Neutral’ America” College Language Association, April 4-7, 2017, Columbia, MO
- “Resituating the Black Legend: Portuguese Tyrants, English Saviors, and Towerson’s 16<sup>th</sup> Century Voyages to Guinea” Renaissance Society of America annual meeting, Boston, MA., March 2016
- “The English in New Spain” Society of Early Americanists-sponsored conference, “Translation and Transmission in the Early Americas: The Fourth Early Americanist Summit,” Washington D.C. and College Park, MD, June 2016
- “Resisting Impulses and the Challenges of Teaching Race in the Early American Studies Classroom” American Studies Association annual meeting, October 2015, Toronto, Canada
- “Angling the Archives: Mediation as Contested Space in Thomas Gage’s *The English-American*” Society of Early Americanists/Omohundro Joint Conference, June 2015, Chicago
- “Finding the Modern in Early Caribbean Literature” National Council of Black Studies conference, March 2015, Los Angeles, CA
- “Points of Origin: Imagining West Africa in the Caribbean” Early Caribbean Society annual symposium, July 2014, London, England
- “Black African Interventions in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century Atlantic World: Re-examining the Slave Presence in Jonathan Dickinson’s *God’s Protecting Providence*” College Language Association annual meeting, April 2014, New Orleans, LA
- “‘No Rogue, No Rascal, No Thief’: Self-Fashioning and the Problem of Literary Translation in Adam Negro’s *Tryall*” American Literature Association annual conference, May 2013, Boston MA
- “Recovering Black Literary Presences in Early America” College Language Association annual meeting, April 2013, Louisville, Ky
- “Africa, American Indians, and Quandaries of Racial Representation in Early English Encounters with the Americas,” Society of Early Americanists 8<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting, Savannah, Ga., February 2013

- “Black African Women and Consumptive Reciprocity in Richard Ligon’s *A True and Exact History of Barbadoes*, American Studies Association annual meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 2012
- “Cultural Encounters, Subalternity and an Early Caribbean Literary History” Early Caribbean Society, San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 2012
- “Black African Women and the Challenges of Racial Performance in Richard Ligon’s *A True and Exact History of Barbadoes*” Society of Early Americanists-sponsored “Triumph in My Song” Conference, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, May 2012
- “Through a Lens of Native American Studies: Recovering Black Presences in the Atlantic Landscape of Jonathan Dickinson’s *God’s Protecting Providence*, Society for the Study of Southern Literature annual meeting, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, March 2012
- “Black Africans and the English Imagination in Early Caribbean Literature” Early Caribbean Society Symposium, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados, October 2011
- “Recovering Black Voices in Early American Literature, A New Methodological Approach” National Council of Black Studies annual meeting, Cincinnati, OH March 2011
- “‘No Witch in Her Own Country’: Candy’s Testimony at Salem and the Recovery of Black Voices in Early American Literature” Society of Early Americanists biennial meeting, Philadelphia, PA. March 2011
- “Red, White, but not Black: Race and Economic Power on the Frontier in the *Life and Adventures of James P. Beckwourth*” Association for the Study of African American Life and History annual convention, Raleigh, N.C., September 2010
- “From Translator to Conquistador: Estevan’s Journey with Fray Marcos through the Southwest” Society of Early Americanists-sponsored Early American Borderlands Conference, Flagler College, St. Augustine, FL., May 2010

#### CONFERENCE / WORKSHOP ADMINISTRATION

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- Co-Organizer, 3-day symposium, “[Early Modern Intersections in the American South](#),” sponsored by the Folger Shakespeare Library, hosted by UA (part I February 2022; part II February 2023)
  - This two-part symposium interrogates the relationship between the early modern period and the region we now call the American South. Typically, we identify the American South based on factors such as geography, food ways, speech dialect, racial politics, and religion. Historically, we point to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries with the rise of plantation cultures and then the American Civil War and Indian Removal policies as formative in the development of this region. But what of those peoples and cultural structures that existed in that space prior to the eighteenth century? And what of interactions that transpired among Natives, Africans, and Europeans in that space? How might our conceptions of what is or is not the American South change when we consider this region within the context of the early modern era? And how do our conceptions of race, slavery, and indigeneity shift? What new cultural histories emerge? This symposium offers participants the opportunity to consider the early modern contours of the

American South by re-thinking its temporal and geographical boundaries.

- Co-organizer, 3-day conference, “The Middle Ages and Its Cultural Afterlives in the American South,” sponsored by the University of Alabama Department of English, September 8-9, 2022
  - This three-day conference explored the central role that ideas of the European middle ages have played among white and Black Americans, particularly in the U.S. South. It tracked the ways in which the South’s relationship to the middle ages has not only shaped America’s perception of this period and race relations but also shaped an often racially-charged academic study of the middle ages in American universities.
- Creator and Co-organizer, “[The Age of Phillis, a Common Reading Initiative](#),” sponsored by the Society of Early Americanists, March 2-5, 2021
  - This common reading initiative featured the book of poetry *The Age of Phillis*, by award-winning poet Honorée Jeffers, who used as inspiration the 18<sup>th</sup> century Black woman poet Phillis Wheatley (Peters). SEA collaborated with administrators and faculty at colleges and universities across the country to incorporate Jeffers’s and Wheatley’s poetry in their summer, fall and spring curriculums through course work, independent study, and book clubs. As a result of their participation in the common read, students were invited to participate in a colloquium-style plenary with Jeffers at SEA’s 12<sup>th</sup> biennial meeting, held virtually March 3-5, 2021. In addition, students contributed a variety of digital and multimodal projects and research presentations at the virtual conference.
- Organizer and Facilitator, “[Teaching for Diversity and Inclusion Fall Webinar Series](#),” sponsored by the University of Alabama Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Fall 2020
  - In my role as Provost Faculty Fellow, I organized and facilitated four webinar-workshops that all address issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the classroom.
    - “Inclusive Teaching in Online Environments,” August 14
    - “Teaching With Tension: A National Election, A Pandemic, State-Sanctioned Violence and Strategies for Talking about Race in Our Current Moment,” September 18
    - “Culturally Responsive Teaching in the STEM Classroom and Beyond,” October 13
    - “When the Multitudes Come: How to Channel Student Activism to Build Strong Networks of Allyship in the Classroom,” November 19 [postponed to spring 2021]
- Co-organizer, webcast “[Race and the Early Modern South](#),” part of *Critical Race Conversations*, Folger Shakespeare Library, February 18, 2021
- Organizer, 1-day workshop, “Teaching with Tension: Strategies for Addressing Race and Resistance in the Classroom,” sponsored by the English Department and College of Arts & Sciences at UA (February 2019)
  - The workshop addressed the extent to which attitudes about race, impacted by our current political environment, have produced pedagogical challenges for professors in the humanities, English studies in particular, who teach subjects that involve discussions of racial difference. Through workshops, teaching

demonstrations, and panel discussions, participants were able to exchange strategies and create dialogue about the struggles and joys of teaching topics that address racial difference and teaching in racially diverse spaces. They engaged questions such as the following: What teaching strategies work well (or fail) to help students navigate our current moment? How does rhetoric about post-raciality complicate the ways we historicize race or talk about race and current events in our classes? In what ways have students' thinking about race provoked "new" ways for contextualizing the study of race? In what ways have both students and teachers negotiated racial issues as both individual and social phenomena and as pedagogical and humanistic imperatives?

- Co-organizer, 2-day symposium, "Black/White Intimacies: Reimagining History, the South, and the Western Hemisphere" sponsored by the English Department at UA (April 2017)
  - This two-day symposium explored interracial interactions and the forming of American culture during the antebellum period and beyond. Featuring emerging and established scholars from academic institutions in the United States and France, the symposium addressed questions like "What were the limitations of interracial intimacies and how might people have addressed those limitations in various settings – domestic spheres, legal systems, religious spaces, classrooms? If people across races and cultures lived, ate, slept, and traveled together, what were the implications for cultural understanding—or lack thereof? What was interracial intimacy and how might expressions of such intimate contact have been guided by race, gender, and class?"
- Research Assistant, 3-day conference, "Prophetstown Revisited: A Summit on Early Native American Studies" sponsored by the Society of Early Americanists and Purdue University and hosted by Purdue University (Spring 2008)
  - This interdisciplinary conference featured workshops, presentations, and roundtable discussions led by leading scholars of Native American studies and members of Native American tribal communities.

## **PROFESSIONAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

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- University Level Service
  - Job Search Committees
    - OTide
      - Teaching Academy director search (2023)
    - Honors College
      - Dean's search (chair) 2022-2023
      - Staff search (chair) 2021-2022
    - College of Education (2011-12)
    - Capstone International Programs faculty search (summer 2022)
    - Faculty Task Force on the History of Slavery, Race, and Civil Rights Postdoc Job Search (October 2021-March 2022)
  - Chief Diversity Officer, Honors College (2022-2024)
  - Council of Associate and Assistant Deans (CAAD) Committee (May 2021-present)
  - Core Curriculum Oversight Committee (CCOC) (May 2022-present)

- Faculty Task Force on the History of Slavery, Race, and Civil Rights (May 2022 - present)
  - Black Faculty and Staff Association
    - Chair, Finance Committee (January 2023-present)
    - Co-Chair, Staff and Faculty Development Committee (2016-2018)
  - Project X (2018-2021)
    - University-level ad hoc committee consisting of faculty, administrators, and Athletics Department staff interested in creating campus programming that assists all students, first-gen in particular, in developing soft-skills needed to navigate college.
  - Spark Initiative (2019-2020)
    - University-level committee tasked with brainstorming strategies for the recruitment and retention of BIPOC faculty across campus.
  - Faculty Advisor, Caribbean Student Association (2017-2020)
  - Mentor, UA's Tide Together Retention Program
    - 2011-12
    - 2016-17
  - UA Mediation Committee (January 2018-December 2021)
  - Buford Peace Award Selection Committee (external member), College of Social Work, 2021
- College Level Service (Arts & Sciences)
- Job Search Committees
    - College of Arts & Sciences (2019-20) Dean's Diversity postdocs search
    - New College (2013-14) (position in arts/arts entrepreneurship)
  - Contributor, A&S Teaching Hub blog (2018)
    - Wrote blog post about the dangers of color blind rhetoric (<https://teachinghub.as.ua.edu/faculty-blog/what-we-mean-when-we-say-diversity/>).
  - College of Arts & Sciences RGC Grant Committee (Fall 2018-Spring 2021)
  - Gender and Race Department Retention Review Committee
    - 2016-17 (chair)
    - 2018-19
  - The Year of Utopia Committee (2015-2016)
  - Paul R. Jones "Freedom?" Exhibit Committee
    - 2015-2016
    - 2016-17
- Departmental Service (English)
- Job Search Committees
    - 2014/2015 (postcolonial search)
    - 2019-20
      - Strode faculty job search
      - Department Chair search
    - 2022-23 (chair) (African American literature search)

- Co-founder, African American Women in English (now known as AAWE) (2011-Present)
    - Race-specific support group for Black faculty and graduate students in UA's English Department.
  - English Department Graduate Faculty Committee (2023-present)
  - Strode Faculty Committee (2010-present)
  - Literature Faculty Committee (2010-present)
  - English Department Diversity Committee
    - 2016-17 (chair)
    - 2018-19 (chair)
    - 2019-20
  - Subcommittee to revise EN 249/250 guidelines (2019-2020)
  - Guest Lecturer, EN 533/534 (2018-2020)
    - Discuss with graduate teaching assistants strategies for promoting diversity and inclusion in the classroom, providing them with hands-on tools they can apply to their teaching.
  - Faculty mentor to 5 junior faculty (Cajetan Iheka, Alexis McGee, Nana Nkweti, Kwoya Maples, Delia Steverson) between Fall 2016 and Fall 2023
  - English Department Executive Committee
    - 2015-16
    - 2019-20
  - English Department Master's Exam Committee (2019-20)
  - Robert Milton Young Memorial Lecture Committee—English Department (2010-2018)
  - English Department Retention Review Committee (2016-17)
  - English Graduate Job Placement Coordinator
    - 2015-16
    - 2016-17
  - English Department Instructor Review Committee
    - 2011-12
    - 2012-13
    - 2013-14
    - 2014-15
  - Faculty Organizer, Professional Development Workshops For the Major and Beyond (May 2015 -May 2017)
    - This committee of two faculty members organized workshops each semester designed to help undergraduate students majoring/minoring in English and those considering the major prepare for careers after graduation.
  - Committee to Review T&P Standards (2014-2015)
- Service to the Profession
- *Early American Literature*, co-editor (July 2023 to present)
    - editorial board member (2018-2022)
  - Early Caribbean Society (elected),

- president (2021-2023)
  - vice president (2019-2021)
  - secretary-treasurer (2017-2019)
- Modern Language Association's Restoration & Early 18th Century Forum Committee (May 2023-present)
- Board of Advisors
  - Imagining Black Europe, Peter Lang Book Publishers (present) (book series)
- Society of Early Americanists, member of program committees organizing 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> biennial conferences (2019-2023)
  - Chair, African American Panel Stream SEA Sub-committee, tasked with ensuring the conference program represents the vastness of early African American literary studies (2019-2023)
- Reviewer, Huntington Library Short-Term Fellowships (2020-2023)
- Featured Speaker
  - [Early Visions of Florida Series](#) (hosted by University of South Florida/Thomas Hallock), 2022
- Chair, Renaissance Society of America DEI Transition Team, 2021
  - Four-person committee tasked with assisting RSA leadership in execution of diversity and inclusion initiatives while organization worked to fill a newly-created position for a chief diversity officer.
- Member, Renaissance Society of America Working Group on Diversity and Inclusion, Fall 2020
  - Nine-person committee tasked with collecting recommendations from RSA's 5,000+ members about measures the organization could take to improve its diversity. Committee submitted report to RSA leadership with suggested action items in September 2020.
- Member, Society of Early Americanists Committee for Ethical Mentoring and Racial Equity (2017-2021)
  - Organize panels at biennial conferences of Society of Early Americanists (SEA) that focus on issues of mentoring and diversity within the organization. Also draft guidelines for organization so members have specific parameters for mentoring and encouraging diversity in SEA.
- Reviewer, ACLS/Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowships (2019, 2020)
- *Just Teach One: African American Imprint* (commonplace.org), co-convener
- *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers*, consultant reader, (2013 to present)
- Liaison for the Society of Early Americanists to the Society for the Study of American Women Writers (2014 to 2017)
- *Atlantic Studies*, reader for a special issue on Obeah and the global Atlantic (summer 2014)
- Tenure Review
  - Auburn University
  - University of Minnesota Rochester
  - Virginia Commonwealth
- Book Manuscript Review



- Pennsylvania State University Press
- Palgrave Macmillan Press
- West Virginia University Press
- SUNY Press
- Vanderbilt Press

➤ Supervisory Committees

- PhD Dissertation Committee
  - Oluwafunmilayo Akinpelu, **chair** (2023-ongoing)
  - Lauren Santoru, **chair** (2021-ongoing)
  - Jeremiah Carter, **chair** (2019-2024)
    - Assistant professor, Jacksonville University
  - Charlie Bell (2021-2024)
  - Matthew Smith (2019- May 2021)
  - Jess Hamlet (2017- May 2021)
    - assistant professor, Alvernia University, Pennsylvania
  - MaryKatherine Foster (2018- May 2020)
    - Fulbright fellow, Ireland
  - Sondra Washington (2018- May 2020)
    - assistant professor, Florida Atlantic University
  - Barry Cole (2018-2020)
    - instructor, University of Alabama
  - Megan Bailey (2017-May 2019)
    - assistant professor, UA Honors College
  - Margaret Holloway, **chair** (2017- May 2018)
    - assistant professor, Clark Atlanta University
  - Ashley Burge (2016-August 2019)
    - assistant professor, Augustana College
  - Laura DeFurio (2015-August 2019)
  - Briana Whiteside (2015- 2018)
    - assistant professor, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
  - Delia Steverson (2015-2018)
    - assistant professor, University of Florida
  - Benjamin Crawford (2014-2016)
    - instructor, King Fahad Security College, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
  - Syreeta Lyons-Burn (2014-2015)
    - instructor, Miles College
  - Shahara'Tova Dente (2010-2016)
    - assistant professor, Mississippi University for Women
  - Kemeshia Randle (2010-2013)
    - assistant professor, Gardner-Webb University
  - Donnie Jones (2010-2012)
    - Albany State University
  - Victoria Whitfield (2011-2013)
    - director, UA Early College, UA

- Matthew Kelly (2011-2012)
  - instructor, UA
- Bonnie Whitener (2010-2012)
  - instructor, UA
- Master's/MFA Thesis Committee
  - Senan Ege Carkaci, **chair** (2022-2024)
    - PhD student, UC San Diego
  - Joyce Jekayinoluwa (2022-2023)
    - PhD student, University of Buffalo
  - Audrey Hall, **chair** (2022-2023)
    - Academic advisor, University of Florida
  - Mark Galarrita (2019-2021)
    - independent writer
  - Tyra Isaacs (2019-2020)
    - teacher, private high school in Virginia
  - Kendra Bryant (2019-2020)
    - commissioned book series with Iowa press
  - Diamond Ford, English (2017- 2018)
    - PhD student, Florida State University
  - Nabila Lovelace, English (2017- 2018)
  - Samantha Caddis, English, **chair** (2014-2015)
    - teacher, Alabama School of Fine Arts
  - Erin Warner, Gender and Race Studies (2012-2013)
    - IT specialist, UA
- Undergraduate Honor's Thesis Advising
  - Casandra Leighty (2020-2021)
  - Katherine O'Neal (2018-2019)
    - accepted to law school
  - Emily Warwick (2015-2016)
    - accepted to law school
  - Alexander Carrie (2012-2013)
    - accepted to law school

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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- American Studies Association (council member for Early American Studies Caucus, 2016-2021)
- College Language Association (member of Research Development Committee, 2017-present)
- Early Caribbean Society (immediate past president and charter member)
- Modern Language Association (Restoration & Early 18th Century Forum Committee)
- National Council of Black Studies
- Renaissance Society of America
- Society of Early Americanists