

Linda-Susan Beard, PhD
Associate Professor of English
Director of The Africana Studies Program

Bryn Mawr College
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Education

1973-1979 Cornell University, PhD

Dissertation: "Geographical and Metaphoric Africa in the Novels and Stories of Doris Lessing"

Major Subject: Prose Fiction

Minor Subject: Nineteenth Century

Minor Subject: Comparative Literature

1975 Cornell University, MA

1973 Bennington College, BA Literature

Senior Thesis: "The Hard-Fought Narrative Crises of Thomas Hardy"

Scholastic Honors

2015 The Rosabeth Moss Kanter Change Master Research Fund (President's Office award for serving as a major change agent at Bryn Mawr College)

2005 Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, King's College (for work in the integration of contemplative and intellectual literacy in the classroom)

1986 Michigan State University Woman Achiever Award

1984 Elected [Lifetime] Fellow, Society for Values in Higher Education (old Danforth Foundation Association)

1973-1977 Ford Fellow, Cornell University

1973 Danforth Nominee and Finalist, Bennington College

1969-1973 National Achievement Scholar

Courses Taught at Bryn Mawr College

(An asterisk designates a course I developed and added to the College curriculum.

A ^ designates an existing course I reformulated for the Africana curriculum. A & indicates a course I designed for the English Department. ^^ indicates a course I reformulated for the English Department.)

English 101-102 "Freshman Seminar (2-semester sequence). I redesigned this with the theme of "Quest" from Genesis (1611 edition of KJB) to Bessie Head's **A Question of Power** ^^

English 104: "The Global Short Story" *&

English 250: "Methods of Literary Analysis"

English 262: "African American Literature: Topics" ^

English 263: "Toni Morrison and the Art of Narrative Conjure" *&

English 264: "The Black Bard: Poetry in the African Diaspora" *&
 English 279: "Introduction to African Literature" ^
 English 362: "African American Literature: Hypercanonical Codes: Topics" *&
 English 379: "The African Griot[te]: Topics (often a single author focus) *&
 English 381: "Post-Apartheid Literature" *&
 English 388: "Contemporary African Fiction: Topics" *&

Grants and Fellowships

2013 Faculty Travel Award, Bryn Mawr College, \$3000 (For participation in "A Symposium Honoring the 40th anniversary of the publication of Bessie Head's A Question of Power, Khama III Memorial Museum; Serowe, Botswana)

2010 U.S. Department of Education, \$1500 (For the development and teaching of a new course in Africana Studies in the 2009-10 academic year) Bryn Mawr was a member of the only consortium (with Penn, Haverford and Swarthmore) designated as a National Resource Center for African Studies that included a partnership between a research university and three liberal arts colleges.

2007-2008 Mellon Tri-Co Faculty Forum Seed Grant \$3000 (For a project entitled "The Legacy of Toni Cade Bambara: Intimations of New Diasporan Identities for *The Black Woman*") Project deferred due to major motor accident.

2006-2007 Bryn Mawr College Faculty Travel Award \$2500 (To support participation in *BESSIEFEST: 2* conference papers given at the University of Botswana (Gaborone) and the African Studies Centre of the University of Kwa-Zulu-Natal (Pietermaritzburg, South Africa) as well as a presentation at the Khama III Memorial Museum, Serowe, Botswana)

2004 Faculty Travel Award, Bryn Mawr College (Participation in BessieFest, a celebration of the 70th birthday of Bessie Head in Gaborone and Serowe, Botswana, and Pietermaritzburg, Botswana)

1997-1998 Contemplative Practice Fellowship, \$10,000 Contemplative Mind in Society Project (Nathan Cummings Foundation and Fetzer Institute) Course Development Grant for a new, contemplative Bryn Mawr course on slavery, apartheid and the Holocaust. Selected in the first class of Contemplative Fellows. This is a program later administered by the ACLS. There are 130 Contemplative Fellows in the U.S.

1993-1994 American Council on Education Fellow (Office of the President, Macalester College). Current year's salary+ \$15,000 travel allowance. Research Focus: The Future of Liberal Arts Colleges (Visited 24 colleges across the US and one American "liberal arts" university in Bulgaria)

1991-1993 Association for Religion and Intellectual Life, Brown University Grant for Development of Faculty Discussion Group on Pedagogy and Values

1990-1991 All University Research Initiation Grant, Michigan State University: "Resurrecting the Undead: The Fictions of Bessie Head"

1990-1991 Faculty Development Fund Grant for Further Internationalizing Michigan State University, International Programs: "English and the International Production of Culture: Course Design"

1990 Dartmouth College School of Criticism and Theory Fellowship (Summer Program)

1985 NEH Summer Seminar, Princeton University: "Afro-American Religious Studies" (Director: Albert Raboteau)

1986 ACLS Travel Grant, International Comparative Literature Association Conference, University of Sussex: "Who is an African Writer?"

1985 Michigan Council for the Arts: "The Black Woman Writer and the Diaspora International Film Fest"

1984-1985 All University Research Initiation Grant, Michigan State University: "The Face of Apartheid"

1981-1982 Rockefeller Humanities Fellowship: "The Human Cost of Apartheid: Unbridged Chasms in Contemporary Southern African Literature" (Interviews with banned and politically sensitive writers in South Africa as well as some in exile in Botswana. These could not be published at the time.)

1980 ACLS Travel Grant, Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies Conference, University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji: "Doris Lessing and Bessie Head"

Print Publications

2019 Expected publication of Shifting Sandscapes: Bessie Head, In Her Own Words (under contract with Africa World Press) This is the definitive, annotated, and authorized edition of Bessie Head's letters on which I have worked for a decade. There are a number of conference presentations and essays about this epistolary estate in this vita. I have the official permission of the Head Trust in Botswana, the British agents in charge of her estate, and Bessie's Canadian ex-husband, Harold Head, to publish the letters. This is the culmination of 30 years of my scholarship about Bessie Head.

2014 "Head on Head, Metacritically Speaking: Bessie Head's Own Epistolary Critique of A Question of Power" (2014) Current Writing: Text and Reception in Southern Africa, 26:2, 123-134, DOI: [10.1080/1013929X.2014.957524](https://doi.org/10.1080/1013929X.2014.957524).

2008 "The Magic of Bessie Head's Epistolary Art" in The Life and Work of Bessie Head: A Celebration of the Seventieth Anniversary of Her Birth, (ed.) Mary Lederer, Seatholo M. Tumed, Leloba S. Molema, and M. J. Daymond Gaborone: Pentagon Publishers, 2008: 183-203.

2007 "African Religion," in Encyclopedia of Love in World Religions (ed.) Yudit Kornberg Greenberg (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2007)

1997 Beard, Linda-Susan et al, "Birthquakes/Quaking Berths/Crossroads/Cross Purposes," Journal on Excellence in College Teaching, Spring 1997: 109-130.

1995 "Of Metaphors and Meaning: Language, Ways of Knowing, Memory Holes, and a Politic Recall," in African American Women Speak Out on Anita Hill-Clarence Thomas (ed.) Geneva Smitherman (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1995), pp. 182-199.

1991 "Bessie Head's Syncretic Fictions: The Reconceptualization of Power and the Recovery of the Ordinary," Modern Fiction Studies, Autumn 1991: 575-586.

1989 "Daughters of Clio and Calliope: Contemporary Afro-American Women Writers as Revisionist and Reclamation Herstorians," Psychohistory Review, Spring 1989: 301-343.

1986 "Interview with Bessie Head: A Remembrance," Sage: A Scholarly Journal on Black Women (Spelman College), Fall 1986: 44-47.

1983 "The Problem of Definition in Contemporary South African Fiction" in Language and Literature (ed.) Satendra Nandan (Suva, Fiji: University of the South Pacific, 1983), pp. 54-65.

1979 "Bessie Head's A Question of Power: The Journey through Disintegration to Wholeness," Colby Library Quarterly, Special Black Studies Issue, December 1979: 267-274.

Teaching Honors

- 1991** State of Michigan Teaching Excellence Award (Michigan Legislature)
1989 Fulbright Nomination, University of Zimbabwe
1988 Teacher-Scholar Award, Michigan State University
1987 Teacher-Scholar Nomination, English Department and College of Arts and Letters, Michigan State University

Visiting Appointments

- 1994-1995** Katherine E. McBride Visiting Associate Professor of English, Bryn Mawr College (American, African American, and African Literatures)
Fall 1991 Visiting Professor of Anglo-American Studies, Université de Versailles, France (Introduction to American Literature, Contemporary American Intellectual Issues)
1990 Knight Scholar-in-Residence, Kalamazoo College (Fall Quarter) (African American and South African Literatures)

Teaching Experience

- 1994-present** Associate Professor of English, Bryn Mawr College, Appointment with tenure (Courses in African American and African Literatures; triangulation of the literature of survivors of apartheid, American slavery and the Holocaust)
1987-1993 Associate Professor of English, Michigan State University, Promotion with tenure (Undergraduate and graduate courses in African American and African Literatures, and in Women's Studies)
1982-1987 Assistant Professor of English, Michigan State University (same course foci)
1979-1981 Assistant Professor of English, University of Notre Dame (Undergraduate courses in African American, African, English, and Commonwealth Literatures)
1977-1979 Instructor, The Black Studies Center, The Claremont Colleges
1977 Teaching and Research Assistant, Africana Research and Study Center, Cornell University (African Literature)
1976-1977 Reader in Victorian Fiction, English Department, Cornell University
1975 Writing Workshop Tutor, Cornell University
1971-1973 Teaching and Research Assistant, Literature Division, Bennington College

Administrative Experience and Academic Service

- 2018-2021** Elected member, College Curriculum Committee (2018-2019 – Chair)
2016-present Director of Africana Studies Program, Bryn Mawr College (The Program provides a minor and includes a faculty and staff of 31 drawn from departments, programs, Canaday Library, and administrative offices.)
2013 Chair, PhD Committee, “Zimbabwean Women’s Education,” Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research, Bryn Mawr College
2012-2015 Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Mentor (I had 5 mentees; four from Bryn Mawr and one from Haverford)

2009-2012 Member, Committee on Undergraduate Awards and Fellowships (Selection of finalists for Fulbright, Rhodes, Marshall, Watson; winners of the European, African, and Slaughter Fellowships)

April 2007 Organization of a Campus-Wide Teach-In at Bryn Mawr on Diversity (A 7-hour presentation by faculty from different departments about "diversity" as understood in their disciplinary context following troubling racial incidents on campus). I also proposed, in the college paper, that we consider a social justice course requirement in the curriculum. The upshot of the proposal was the Social Justice Pilot Project (SJPP.)

2006-2008 Dedicated Office Hours for Posse Scholars

2006-2007 English Department Search and MLA Interview Committees for Professor of American Literatures.

2007 Member, English Department Search Committee, Film Studies

2004-2007 Appointed Member, Committee on Faculty Welfare (focus on faculty salaries and benefits)

2003-2006 Appointed Member, McBride Committee (Focus on older non-traditional students at Bryn Mawr)

2002-2005 Elected Member, Committee on Nominations (responsible for selecting membership of almost all College committees)

2002-2005 Selected Member, Fulbright Fellowship Selection Committee (Southern Africa)

2000-2001 Appointed Member, English Department Search and Interview Committee for MLA (pre-1900 American Literatures and Cultures)

1999-2004 Coordinator, Africana Studies Program, Bryn-Mawr College

(Coordination of a Title VI Studies Center, a consortium with The University of Pennsylvania, Swarthmore and Haverford Colleges, and an interdisciplinary program with tenure-track faculty)

1999-2004 Faculty Coordinator, Mellon Minority Undergraduate Fellowship Program, Bryn Mawr College

1998-1999 Appointed Member, English Department Search and Interview Committee for MLA (trans-Atlantic, multicultural American Literatures)

1997-1998 Appointed Member, English Department Search and Interview Committee for MLA (Modernism, 20th Century Literature)

1996-1997 Elected Member, Presidential Search Committee, Bryn Mawr College (Committee selected Nancy Vickers, past President of Bryn Mawr College)

1994-1995 Appointed Member, Haverford College English Department Search Committee (19th Century American Literature)

1994-1999 Elected Member, Executive Council of Literature in English Other than British and American Division, Modern Language Association

1994 Member, National Research Council Ford Predoctoral Fellowship Panels

1993-1994 American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow, Office of the President, Macalester College

1992-1994 Research project: "The Intellectual and Fiscal Future of the Small Liberal Arts College"

1992-1993 Member, English Department (MSU) Committee on Teaching (Conflict Resolution Council)

1992-1993 Member, College Committee on African and African American Culture Certificate Design

1989-1990 Appointed Member, CORRAGE, College of Arts and Letters Representative (23-member Council on the Review of Research and Graduate Education)

1989-1990 Member, African Studies Task Force: Designing the New Course for the Center for Integrative Studies

1987-1990 Appointed Member, University Awards Committee (Distinguished Faculty Award Selection Committee)

1987-1988 Coordinator and Founder, Black History Celebration Committee (Consortium of MSU Faculty, Administrators, Staff, and Students)

1987-1988 Appointed Member, English Department Search Committee (Feminist Theory and 18th Century Literature)

1987 Appointed Member and Co-Chair, Arts and Humanities Review Committee, College of Arts and Letters

1987 Appointed Member, University Committee on New Faculty Orientation

1986-1988 Appointed Member, MSU Minority Advisory Council to the President

1986-1988 Elected Member, Department of English Policy Committee, Michigan State University (Committee on Appointments and Tenure)

1985-1986 College Opportunity Prison Extension Faculty, Ionia Reformatory and Training Units (Taught one course per semester in African American Literature to prison inmates)

1984-1986 Elected Member, Women's Studies Coordinating Committee

1984-1987 Elected Member, Faculty Professional Women's Association Board of Directors

1984-1986 Elected Member, Modern Language Association Delegate Assembly

1983-1987 Appointed Member, African Studies Center Outreach Committee

1983-1984 Appointed Member, Race and Gender Issues Committee, College of Social Sciences

1982-1987 Elected Member, African Studies Center Advisory Committee

1981-1985 Elected Member, African Literature Division Executive, Modern Language Association

1980-1982 Elected Member, Graduate Studies Committee, English Department, University of Notre Dame

1980-1981 Elected Member, Executive Council, Notre Dame Chapter of the American Association of University Professors

1979-1982 Elected Member, Executive Council of the African Literature Association

1977-1979 Elected Member, Claremont College Faculty Senate
(Executive Committee, 1978 - 1979)

Board Appointments and Elections

1992-1996 Elected Member, Michigan Humanities Council (State Agency of the National Endowment for the Humanities) [Chair, Strategic Planning for the NEH Triennial Proposal; 1994-1995]

1989-1995 Elected Member, Board of Directors, Society for Values in Higher Education, Georgetown University

ACADEMIC CONSULTANCIES

Dissertations

2000-2003 External Dissertation Committee Member, Committee Chair for Ronit Frenkel, South African Literature, University of Arizona (Graduate Program in Comparative Cultures)

1999-2000 External Dissertation Reader for Desiree Lewis, South African Literature, The University of Cape Town (Department of English)

Curriculum

- 1991** African American Literature Faculty Seminar, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota
1991 "Implementing Multiculturalism," Montcalm Community College Board of Directors
1989-1990 "Developing an African Humanities Course," Ferris State University
March 1988 "Broadening the Literature Curriculum," English Department, University of Michigan
October 1987 "Structuring a Course in Afro-American Literature Since World War II," Lansing Community College

Editorial

- 2018** Bloomsbury Press (U.K.)
2010-2012 SUNY Press
University Press of Virginia
1989-2003 Editorial Advisory Board, Current Writing: Creativity and Reception in Southern Africa (international literary journal of The University of Kwazulu/Natal; Durban, South Africa)
1997-2009 Referee, Journal on Excellence in College Teaching
1988-present Referee, Research in African Literatures
1995 Referee, University Press of Virginia
1991 Referee, Michigan State University
Press **1991** Referee, McGraw-Hill
1988-1991 Referee, PMLA
1988-1998 Referee, Sage: A Scholarly Journal on Black Women
1983-1985 Editorial Consultant to Research in African Literatures (for the Modern Language Association)

Judicial Education

- 1990-1996** Faculty Member, Michigan Judicial Institute of the Michigan Supreme Court (I was the only non-jurist faculty member involved in design and presentation of diversity seminars for new and appointed Michigan judges, a program mandated by the Michigan Supreme Court)

Accreditation

- 2018-2019** Appointed, Bryn Mawr Middle States Steering Committee
1990 Consultant, Michigan State Board of Education

International Conference and Symposium Organization

- June 2013** Co-Convener, A Symposium Honoring the 40th Anniversary of the Publication of Bessie Head's A Question of Power, Khama III Memorial Museum, Serowe, Botswana
October 1985 Convener, The Black Woman Writer and the Diaspora International Literary Conference, Michigan State University (This was the pioneering international conference in the field.)

Colloquium Organization

October 2012 Convener, Bessie Head and the Twice-Told Tale

Reviews

1980-present Book Reviews of South African and African American texts for Sage: A Scholarly Journal on Black Women, Research in African Literatures and English in Africa (Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa)

Selected Workshops, Presentations, and Invited Lectures

October 2018 "Faux Contemplation: The Privilege of Amnesiac Insularity in the College Classroom," Association of Contemplative Mind in Higher Education Conference, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

August 2010 "The *Meaning* of Story After War, Genocide, and Other Atrocities," Contemplative Curriculum Development, Center for Contemplative Mind in Higher Education, Smith College

June 2009 "*The Peculiar Institution: The Catholic Church's Role in Slavery in the Americas*," Catholic Information Center of the Diocese of Grand Rapids, Michigan (3-hour presentation on June 16 and June 23, 2009 covering very painful and upsetting material)

April 2009 "Passing, Transfiguration, Transit: The Contemplative Stance," Contemplative Heart of Higher Education Conference, Amherst College

August 2007 and 2008 "Teaching and the Experience of the Cloud of Unknowing," Contemplative Curriculum Development, Center for Contemplative Mind in Society, Smith College (Invited Workshop Faculty)

July 2007 "Samples from Bessie Head's Epistolary Estate," Khama III Memorial Museum, Serowe, Botswana. This is the location where the Bessie Head Papers are housed.

July 2007 "Bessie Head's Epistolary Art," Colloquium Honoring Bessie Head, African Studies Centre, University of KwaZulu-Natal

November 2006 "Faculty and Undergraduate Collaboration: The Bessie Head Project," Annual Lilly Conference on College Teaching, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio (3 Bryn Mawr students working with me on the Bessie Head letters and I talked about the dynamics of doing shared research on a major project. Lilly underwrote the students' registration, meal, and housing expenses.)

April 2005 "Reconfiguring Bessie: Letters and First-Person Voice," BessieFest, University of Botswana, Gaborone

February 2005 "Gesturing Toward a Healing of Memories," Endowed Divine Wisdom Lecture, King's College, Wilkes-Barre, PA (KEYNOTE ADDRESS)

August 2004 "Contemplative Pedagogy Panel," Teachers College, Columbia University

June 2004 "Bessie Head: The Epistolary Phoenix," Department of English, University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana (Informal Presentations)

June 2000 "Negotiating Borderlands: Contemplative Intelligence," Seventh Annual Conference of the National Association for Catholic Women in Higher Education," Providence College, Providence, RI (KEYNOTE ADDRESS)

June 2000 "Peacemaking as a Response to Campus Violence -- A Plenary Conversation Between Two Contemplatives," Going Public with Spirituality in the Workplace Conference, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

June 2000 "Call Me Ismael: The Lessons of the White Whale," Grand Valley State University Annual William James Synoptic Lecture (KEYNOTE ADDRESS)

April 2000 "Narrative Bridges: Perspectives from African Literature," Africa as Practice, China as Practice: Understanding Differences as Ways of Relating Faculty Workshop of The East-West Center and The University of Hawai'i, Memphis, TN

March 1999 "Neither Walls, No Bridges, but Permeable Membranes, Please: The Future of Women's Higher Education," Grand Valley State University Annual William James Synoptic Lecture

October 1998 "Integrating Spirituality and the Intellectual Life," Hope College Symposium "Articulating the Unspoken," Blue Sky Associates Conference, St. Olafs College

November 1995 "Spirituality in the Classroom," Lilly Conference on Teaching, Miami University of Ohio

August 1995 "Professing the Spirit: The Teacher-Scholar as Contemplative," Society for Values in Higher Education, Scripps College (panel co-chair)

May 1995 "The Fictive American Family and Contemporary Popular Culture," Los Angeles Department of Education Conference, Los Angeles

March 1995 "Charles Johnson, Magister Ludi," Calvin College, Grand Rapids

September 1994 "Eye, Ewe and Us: Ways of Knowing, Ways of Seeing," Honoring The Multiculturalism Year, Davenport College (KEYNOTE ADDRESS)

February 1993 "The Growth of an African American Ego: Three Centuries of Song, Soil and Self," Black History Month, Macomb Community College (KEYNOTE ADDRESS)

February 1993 "Phillis Wheatley: Self-Inscription and a Black Woman's Biomythography," Bowdoin College

January 1993 "Rediscovering Prophecy in African American Women's Literature," Hope College

December 1992 "Multiculturalism and its Implications for Teaching," St. Lawrence University

September 1992 "Who Do I Say That I Am: Columbus and the African American Struggle for Definition," Reinterpreting the Columbian Encounter: August 1992 An NEH Conference, Macomb Community College

August 1992 "Inheriting Our Mothers' Gardens: Contemplative Prophecy," Association of Contemplative Sisters National Conference, Madison, Wisconsin (KEYNOTE ADDRESS)

April 1992 "Griots and Troubadours: The Oral Traditions of Africa," Saginaw Valley State University Conference on African Cultures (KEYNOTE ADDRESS)

April 1992 "Zora Neale Hurston: *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and Issues in Black Women's Theological Explorations," Leaven Association of Michigan Clergywomen, Lansing, Michigan

November 1991 "Willa Cather's Recollections and Toni Morrison's Reconfigurations: *My Antonia* and *Beloved*," Freshman Common Text Annual Lecture, University of St. Thomas; St. Paul, Minnesota (KEYNOTE ADDRESS)

February 1991 "*Dessa Rose* and Revisionary American Historiography," Secondary Teachers' Workshop on African American Literature and Culture, Kalamazoo College

February 1991 "Doing the Right Thing": Life Beyond the Canon Wars," Saginaw Valley State University (KEYNOTE ADDRESS)

February 1991 "Cultural Ventriloquism: Teaching about the 'Other' as Object," Saginaw Valley State University

November 1990 "Implementing Multiculturalism in the K-12 Curriculum," Washtenaw County Intermediate School District

October 1990 "Multiculturalism and the Contemporary Curriculum: Babelonia Revisited," Grand Rapids Community College (KEYNOTE ADDRESS)

October 1990 "Raw Bits: Reconstructing the Tale of Several Americas," Workshop on the Challenge of Professing Literatures," Grand Rapids Community College

April 1990 "African Story-telling from the 'Breast of the Earth': Teaching Africa in the US Classroom through the Arts," African Studies Center Outreach Workshop, Michigan State University

April 1990 "Can[n]ons and Other Exploding Devices: A Reconceptualization of 'America'," Northwestern Michigan College (KEYNOTE ADDRESS)

April 1990 "Recipes for Understanding Multiple Americas," Northwestern Michigan College Conference on English Literature

March 1990 "Sisters of the Spirit: A Contemporary Black Woman's Renaissance," Black History Month Lecture, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, East Lansing, Michigan

February 1990 "Toni Morrison's *Beloved* and the Haunting of History: Contemporary Afro Voices," Diocese of Grand Rapids, Black History Month Celebration

February 1990 "Alice Walker and the Making of *The Color Purple*," Black History Month Celebration, United Ministries in Higher Education, East Lansing, Michigan

November 1989 "Black Women of South Africa," Theater Preview Lecture for "You Have Struck a Rock," Wharton Center, Michigan State University

September 1989 "Familiar Temples, Impenetrable Citadels: Contemporary African American Women Writers and the Haunting of History," Michigan Black History Network, Grand Rapids

September 1989 "Re-constructing American Experience: The Politics of an American Literary Canon," Hillsdale College

September 1989 "Of Curricular Canons: Resurrecting the Dead Poets," Hillsdale College National Forum: Can the Humanities Survive on the Modern College Campus

April 1989 "Revolution, Prophecy and Herstory: The Fictions of Alice Walker and Toni Morrison," Ferris State University Professional Women's Association (Keynote Address)

February 1989 "Afro-American Mothers and Daughters in Contemporary Fiction," Black History Month Celebration, Ferris State University

April 1988 "Sofia's Sisters: The Ambivalence of Power," 25th Anniversary Celebration of *The Feminine Mystique*, Michigan State University

March 1988 "Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon*: Reclamation History," Lansing Community College Lecture

February 1988 "Black History Month: The Meaning of Celebrating the Past," Radio Interview, WKAR (East Lansing Public Radio)

July 1987 "Athol Fugard and the South African Theater," Preview to Kalamazoo College Production of "Master Harold and the Boys"

February 1987 "In Celebration of African American Legacies," TV Interview, WILX-TV (Lansing)

February 1987 "The Women Writers of West Africa," West African Women Conference, Albion College

- February 1986** "Baldwin's *Go Tell It On the Mountain* and the Power of the Black Church," State of Michigan Library Series, Lansing
- January 1986** "Martin Luther King and The Black Church," City of South Bend, Indiana, Martin Luther King Commemoration
- October 1985** "South African Literature and Holocaust Letters: A Double Dying," Siena Heights College Aquinas Lecture Series
- September 1985** "Alan Paton and the Failure of Liberalism: 'Cry, the Beloved Country'," Hope College Annual Faculty Retreat Presentation
- August 1985** South African Literature and Culture: A Workshop, Pax Christi State Conference, Aquinas College
- January 1984** "Linking African American and Black South African Literature," Martin Luther King Memorial, Wharton Center, Michigan State University
- November 1983** "Black and White American Perceptions of Continental Africa," African Film Festival, Michigan State University
- November 1983** "Black Women and the Academy: Journeywomen in the Locus of Alienation," Women's Studies Program Lecture, Michigan State University
- August 1983** "The Human Cost of Apartheid: Rosenfeld's *Double Dying* and the Problem of Naming Experiences of Holocausts," Kalamazoo College Lecture, Summer Lecture Series
- 1980-1988** Week-long Summer Seminar: "Introduction to the Literatures of Africa," The African Institute, University of Notre Dame
- April 1983** "Black Feminism and Contemporary Black Women's Writings," Lansing Community College Lecture
- January 1983** "Apartheid and the Literature of the Tortured," African Studies Center, Michigan State University
- January 1983** "South African Writers: Lessons from Interviews in South Africa," Faculty Women's Association Lecture, Michigan State University
- February 1981** "In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens: Black Foremothers, Lucy Terry and Toni Morrison," Women's Studies Lecture Series, Indiana University at South Bend

Selected Conference Papers

- September 2018** "The Bessie Head Epistolary Archive: An Essential Key to Interpreting an Enigmatic Writer" (SCOLMA UK Libraries and Archives Group on Africa, University of Birmingham, UK)
- July 2016** "Filo Dough and Layered Meanings: Post-Apartheid Humor in Niq Mhlongo's *Dog Eat Dog* and *After Tears*," Society for Values in Higher Education, Oberlin College (panel chair)
- October 2010** "Bessie Head: The Village Epistemic and Epistolary Iconoclast," Colloquium on Bessie Head and the Twice-Told Tale, Bryn Mawr College (colloquium organizer)
- September 2010** "Wondering and Wandering: *Getting Lost* as a Strategic Narrative Encounter with Contemplative Knowing," Second Annual Conference of The Association for Contemplative Mind in Higher Education, Amherst College
- November 2009** "The Obama Phenom": Negotiating Minefields in Topical Teaching," Annual Lilly Conference on College Teaching, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio
- August 2009** "Nella Larsen's *Passing*: Transitus and Transfigurations," First Annual Conference of The Association for Contemplative Mind in Higher Education, Amherst College

March 2000 "Narrative Bridges: Perspectives from African Literature," Conference on Africa as Practice, China as Practice: Understanding Differences as Ways of Relating, Project of the East West Center and the University of Hawai'i, Memphis

August 1999 "The Serpent in the Garden: M01Tison's Paradise and the Black Bourgeois Escape from Dystopia," Society for Values in Higher Education, Hampton University

July 1998 "Coetzee, Caesar and Intertextual Connections: A South African Novel and an Emperor's Gallic War Diary," Postcolonial Literature Conference, University of Cape Town, South Africa

August 1997 "The Rhetorics of War: Policy and Polity in Ecclesiological Discourses about the Gulf War," Society for Values in Higher Education, Workshop on Religious Violence, Colorado College

November 1996 "Inventing the Self: Student Autobiography and the Biomythography of Teaching," Lilly Conference on Teaching, Miami University of Ohio (panel chair)

November 1985 "The Liberal Arts Classroom and the Ethical Learning-Teaching Exchange," Lilly Conference on Teaching, Miami University of Ohio (panel chair)

April 1995 "Race in Space: Star Trek and the Fabulated Argument for Diversity," College Language Association, Southern University, Baton Rouge

March 1995 "Alice Walker in a Post-Allmuseri Universe: The Politics of Postcolonial Excision," African Literature Association, Ohio State University

November 1994 "The Violence of Our Knowing: Three Bryn Mawr Colleagues Reflect on Teaching and Values," Lilly Conference on Teaching, Miami University of Ohio (panel chair)

October 1994 "Twin Discourses: David Walker and Charles Chesnutt," Frederick Douglass Commemorative Centennial, West Chester State University; West Chester, Pennsylvania

October 1994 "Playing with Oppression: A View from the Literature Gallery of Charles Johnson's *Middle Passage*," Great Lakes History Conference, Grand Rapids (panel chair)

November 1990 "Inventing Themselves: Black Women Writers and Herstorigraphy," Midwest Modern Literature Association, Kansas City

August 1990 "Draft for a New Design: Nomenclature and the Historiographical Muse in Sherley Anne William's *Dessa Rose*," Society for Values in Higher Education, Williams College

April 1990 "Bessie Head's Syncretic Fictions: The Recovery of the Ordinary," Tradition and Transition in African Letters, The Common Wealth of Letters, Yale University

October 1989 "Bessie Head's 'Dangerous Liaisons: The Reconceptualization of Power in One Woman's Work,'" Great Lakes College Association Conference on Women, Culture and Power, Denison University (KEYNOTE ADDRESS)

August 1988 "Daughters of Clio and Calliope: Black Women Writers as Reclamation Herstorians," Society for Values in Higher Education, Seton Hill College

August 1987 "The 'Censored Imagination': The South African Writer-Critic in the Nexus of Suffering," English Institute, Harvard University

April 1987 "Alice Walker and the Fiction of Reconciliation," College Language Association, Washington, D.C.

April 1987 "The Fictive Bessie Head: A Memorial Tribute" African Literature Association, Cornell University

April 1987 "The Reclamation of Power: Bessie Head's Fiction and the Art of Syncretism," African Literature Association, Cornell University

March 1987 "The Black Woman Writer: Novelist-as-Prophet," American Academy of Religion, Southeastern Regional Meeting; Atlanta, Georgia

April 1986 "The 'Censored Imagination' in South African Letters: Writer's or Critic's Dilemma," African Literature Association, Michigan State University

August 1985 "Black American Women Writers and the Reconstruction of American History: Making the Invisible Visible," International Comparative Literature Association, University of Sussex, England

December 1984 "Contemporary Black American Women Writers and the Meticulous Creation of Self," Modern Language Association, Washington, D.C.

October 1984 "A Quartet of Voices: Mongane Wally Serote's To Every Birth Its Blood," African Studies Association, Los Angeles

August 1984 "Harriet Wilson's Invisible Etchings: The Punitive Response to an Impolitic Text," Society for Values in Higher Education, Vassar College (session co-convenor)

"The Scribe and the Revolution Wrought by Prose: Dambudzo Marechera's *House of Hunger*," African History Conference, Michigan State University (panel chair)

December 1982 "Doris Lessing and Ayi Kwei Armah: Comparative Fragmentation in The *Golden Notebook and Fragments*," Modern Language Association, Los Angeles

April 1981 "On the Horns of Dilemma: Defining the South[ern] African Writer," African Literature Association, The Claremont Colleges

April 1981 "Contemporary South African Literature," African Literature Association, The Claremont Colleges (panel chair)

March 1981 "Protest Literature, Protesting Literatures: South Africa," Seventh Annual Third World Conference, Chicago (panel chair)

October 1980 "The *House of Hunger*: The New South African Literature," African Studies Association, Philadelphia (panel chair)

May 1980 "Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon*: Biblical Echoes, Harmonies, and Dissonances," National Women's Studies Association, Indiana University

April 1980 "The Image of Self in Fiction by East African Women Writers," African Literature Association, University of Florida, Gainesville

January 1980 "The Problem of Definition: How to Name the Unnamable in Southern African Literature," Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies, University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji

December 1979 "African Women as Writers and Critics," Modern Language Association, San Francisco (panel co-chair)

December 1979 "Mirror Images in Black: The Image of the Other in Black American, Caribbean, and African Literatures," African Studies Association, Los Angeles (panel chair)

October 1979 "Bessie Head's *A Question of Power*: Fragmentation in the Southern African Novel," Southern African Research Association, University of Maryland, College Park

March 1979 "Bessie Head and Doris Lessing: A Comparative Study of Southern African Fiction," African Literature Association, Indiana University, Bloomington

March 1979 "Juxtapositions: The Relations between Black American and Black South African Literature," African Literature Association, Indiana University (panel chair)

March 1979 "The Marriage Question in Novels by Black American Women," Western Association of Africanists, Arizona State University (panel chair)

December 1978 "Unbridged Chasms: The Problem of Relationship in South African Fiction," Modern Language Association, New York

April 1978 "Doris Lessing is an African Writer," African Literature Association, Boone, North Carolina

December 1976 "In Cyclical Time: Lessing as an African Writer," Modern Language Association, New York

December 1975 "Lessing's Africa," Modern Language Association, San Francisco

Professional Memberships

Modern Language Association; African Literature Association; Society for Values in Higher Education; Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies; Contemplative Mind in Society Project.

Community Service

March 2010 "The Dignity of the Human Person," St. Michael's Church, Remus, Michigan
2006-2009 Workshops on Contemplative Spirituality, Black Catholic Community, Diocese of Grand Rapids and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

February 1991 "Multiculturalism and the African American Catholic Experience," Call to Justice Conference, Diocese of Grand Rapids

February 1991 "The Multiple Faces of Hate: A Commentary on the KKK and the Duke Separatist Agenda," Citizens Celebrating Diversity, Central Montcalm Middle School (co convener)

February 1991 "Making a Way Out of No Way: Black Community Crises in the 1990s," Holy Angels Parish, Indianapolis

November 1987 "Healing the Sin of Racism: A Reflection Day," Diocese of Grand Rapids

September 1987 Association of Contemplative Sisters Delegate to Papal Audience with African American Leaders, New Orleans

May 1987 Delegate to National Black Catholic Congress, Washington, D.C. (first Congress since 1894)

1985-1990 Central Montcalm Ministerial Association

1985-1990 Coordinator, Rural Women's Reading Group, Montcalm County

1977-2013 Parish Liturgist and Organist

1977-1979 Reader, Recording for the Blind, The Claremont Colleges

Languages

Fair conversational French

Good reading knowledge of French

Fair reading knowledge of Spanish and Latin

Travel

Fall 2018 England; Ottawa, Canada

Summer 2013 Botswana

Summer 2009 Botswana

Summer 2007 Botswana, South Africa

Summer 2004 Botswana

Fall 2002 Botswana

Summer 1998 Botswana, South Africa

Summer 1995 Western Europe

March 1995 South African Peace Mission

April 1994 Eastern Europe and the Balkans

Fall 1991 Paris

Summer 1991 London Summer Program, Michigan State University

August 1991 Rome, Vienna, Budapest

Summer 1985 England

February-May 1982 Southern Africa

June 1980 Mexico (Intensive Social Justice Workshop Experience)

January 1980 Fiji (ACLALS Conference)

Summer 1978 Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal (Conference on the African Novel, University of Ibadan)

November-December 1976 United Kingdom