

**Linda-Susan Beard, EC, PhD**  
***Associate Professor of English***

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
- 1973              Bennington College, BA

**Scholastic Honors**

- 2005              *Honary Doctor of Humane Letters, King's College (for work in the integration of the contemplative and the intellectual spheres)*
- 1986              Michigan State University Woman Achiever Award
- 1984              Elected [Lifetime] Fellow, Society for Values in Higher Education
- 1973 - 1977      Ford Fellow, Cornell University
- 1973              Danforth Nominee and Finalist, Bennington College
- 1969 - 1973      National Achievement Scholar

**Grants and Fellowships**

- 2004              Faculty Travel Award, Bryn Mawr College (Participation in BessieFest, a celebration of the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of Bessie Head in Gaborone and Serowe, Botswana, and Pietermaritzburg, Botswana)
- 1997-1998      **1997-1998 Contemplative Practice Fellowship**, 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 now 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)  
Research Focus: The Future of Liberal Arts Colleges (Visited 24 colleges across the US and one American university in Bulgaria)

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| 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   |
| 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 | <b><i>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)</i></b> |
| 1980        | ACLS Travel Grant, Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies Conference, University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji  |

### **Teaching Honors**

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| 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**

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| 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, Universite de Versailles, France (Introduction to American Literature, Contemporary American Intellectual Issues, Introduction to Literature) |
| 1990        | Knight Scholar-in-Residence, Kalamazoo College (Fall Quarter) (African American and South African Literatures)  |
| 1989        | King/Chavez/Parks Visiting Associate Professor, Central Michigan University (Spring Semester, Sabbatical) (South African Literature)  |

### **Teaching Experience**

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| 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) |
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|-------------|--|
| 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)                            |
| 1979 – 1982 |  |
| 1982 - 1987 | Assistant Professor of English, Michigan State University (same course foci)   |
| 1977 - 1979 | Assistant Professor of English, University of Notre Dame (Undergraduate courses in African American, African, English, and Commonwealth Literatures)<br>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**

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| 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   | <b><i>Selected Member, Fulbright Fellowship Selection Committee (Southern Africa)</i></b>   |
| 2000 - 2001 | Appointed Member, English Department Search and Interview Committee for MLA (pre-1900 American Literatures and Cultures)  |
| 1999 - 2004 | <b><i>Coordinator, Africana Studies Program, Bryn Mawr College<br/>(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)</i></b><br><b><i>Faculty Coordinator, Mellon Minority Undergraduate Fellowship Program, Bryn Mawr College</i></b> |
| 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 | <b><i>Elected Member, Presidential Search Committee, Bryn Mawr College<br/>(Committee selected Nancy Vickers, past President of Bryn Mawr College)</i></b>  |
| 1994 - 1995 | Appointed Member, Haverford College English Department Search Committee (19th Century American Literature)  |
| 1994 - 1999 | <b><i>Elected Member, Executive Council of Literature in English Other than British and American Division, Modern Language Association</i></b>  |
| 1994        | <b><i>Member, National Research Council Ford Predoctoral Fellowship Panels</i></b>  |
| 1993 - 1994 | American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow, Office of the President, Macalester College<br>Research project: "The Intellectual and Fiscal Future of the Small Liberal Arts College"   |
| 1992 - 1993 | Member, English Department (MSU) Committee on Teaching  |

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|             | (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<br>(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 | <b><i>Appointed Member, University Awards Committee (Distinguished Faculty Award Selection Committee)</i></b>   |
| 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 | <b><i>Elected Member, Department of English Policy Committee, Michigan State University (Committee on Appointments and Tenure)</i></b>                                  |
| 1985 - 1986 | College Opportunity Prison Extension Faculty, Ionia Reformatory and Training Units<br>(Taught one course per semester in African American Literature to prison inmates) |
| 1984 - 1986 | Elected Member, Women's Studies Coordinating Committee  |
| 1984 - 1987 | <b><i>Elected Member, Faculty Professional Women's Association Board of Directors</i></b>   |
| 1984 - 1986 | <b><i>Elected Member, Modern Language Association Delegate Assembly</i></b>   |
| 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 | <b><i>Elected Member, African Literature Division Executive, Modern Language Association</i></b>  |
| 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 | <b><i>Elected Member, Executive Council of the African Literature Association</i></b>   |
| 1977 - 1979 | <b><i>Elected Member, Claremont College Faculty Senate<br/>(Executive Committee, 1978 - 1979)</i></b>   |

### **Board Appointments and Elections**

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| 1992 - 1996 | <b><i>Elected Member, Michigan Humanities Council (State Agency of the National Endowment for the Humanities) [Chair, Strategic Planning for the NEH Triennial Proposal; 1994-1995]</i></b> |
| 1989 - 1995 | <b><i>Elected Member, Board of Directors, Society for Values in Higher Education, Georgetown University</i></b>   |

## Consultancies

### DISSERTATIONS

- 2000 - 2003 *External Dissertation Committee Member, Committee Chair, South African Literature, University of Arizona (Graduate Program in Comparative Cultures)*
- 1999 - 2000 *External Dissertation Reader, 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

- 1989 - 2003 Editorial Advisory Board, Current Writing: Creativity and Reception in Southern Africa (international literary journal of The University of Natal; Durban, South Africa)
- 1997 - present 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 Publishers
- 1988 - present 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)*

1990

**ACCREDITATION**

Consultant, Michigan State Board of Education

October 1985

**International Conference Organization**

*Convener, The Black Woman Writer and the Diaspora International Literary Conference, Michigan State University (This was the pioneering international conference in the field.)*

**Print Publications**

*"The Magic of Bessie Head's Epistolary Art" in Bessie Head: Selected Essays in Honor of Her 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday, (ed.) Mary Lederer et al (Gaborone, Botswana: Pentagon Press, 2008), pp. 183-203.*

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

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

"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.

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

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

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

"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.

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

## 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

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 KwaZulua-Natal*

July 2007      *“Reconfiguring Bessie: Letters and First-Person Voice,” BessieFest, University of Botswana, Gaborone*

April 2005      *“Gesturing Toward a Healing of Memories,” Endowed Divine Wisdom Lecture, King’s College, Wilkes-Barre, PA (KEYNOTE ADDRESS)*

— · · · · ·      *“Contemplative Pedagogy Panel,” Teachers College, Columbia University*

*“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)*

*“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*

*“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 asPractice, China as Practice: Understanding Differences as Ways of Relating Faculty Workshop of The East-West Center and The University of Hawai’i, Memphis, TN*

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| 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<br><i>"Articulating the Unspoken," Blue Sky Associates Conference, St. Olaf's College</i>  |
| November 1995  | <i>"Spirituality in the Classroom," Lilly Conference on Teaching, Miami University of Ohio</i>  |
| August 1995    | <i>"Professing the Spirit: The Teacher-Scholar as Contemplative," Society for Values in Higher Education, Scripps College (panel co-chair)</i>  |
| 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 ( <b>KEYNOTE ADDRESS</b> )  |
| February 1993  | "The Growth of an African American Ego: Three Centuries of Song, Soil and Self," Black History Month, Macomb Community College ( <b>KEYNOTE ADDRESS</b> )   |
| 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: An NEH Conference, Macomb Community College  |
| August 1992    | "Inheriting Our Mothers' Gardens: Contemplative Prophecy," Association of Contemplative Sisters National Conference, Madison, Wisconsin ( <b>KEYNOTE ADDRESS</b> )  |
| April 1992     | "Griots and Troubadours: The Oral Traditions of Africa," Saginaw Valley State University Conference on African Cultures ( <b>KEYNOTE ADDRESS</b> )  |
| April 1992     | "Zora Neale Hurston: <u>Their Eyes Were Watching God</u> 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: <u>My Antonia</u> and <u>Beloved</u> ," Freshman Common Text Annual Lecture, University of St. Thomas; St. Paul, Minnesota ( <b>KEYNOTE ADDRESS</b> ) |
| February 1991  | " <u>Dessa Rose</u> 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 ( <b>KEYNOTE ADDRESS</b> )  |
| 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 ( <b>KEYNOTE ADDRESS</b> )  |
| 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     |   |

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|                | "Can[n]ons and Other Exploding Devices: A Reconceptualization of 'America'," Northwestern Michigan College ( <b>KEYNOTE ADDRESS</b> )                                    |
| 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 <u>Beloved</u> and the Haunting of History: Contemporary Afro Voices," Diocese of Grand Rapids, Black History Month Celebration                         |
| February 1990  | "Alice Walker and the Making of <u>The Color Purple</u> ," 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 ( <b>KEYNOTE ADDRESS</b> ) |
| 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 <u>The Feminine Mystique</u> , Michigan State University                                    |
| March 1988     | "Toni Morrison's <u>Song of Solomon</u> : 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 <u>Go Tell It On the Mountain</u> 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**

- 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: Morrison'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 Chesnut," 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 Herstorography," Midwest Modern Literature Association, Kansas City
- August 1990 "Draft for a New Design: Nomenclature and the Historiographical Muse in Sherley Anne Williams'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)
- April 1984 "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)

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| October 1979  | "Mirror Images in Black: The Image of the Other in Black American, Caribbean, and African Literatures," African Studies Association, Los Angeles (panel chair)        |
| March 1979    | "Bessie Head's <u>A Question of Power</u> : 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)           |
| December 1978 | "The Marriage Question in Novels by Black American Women," Western Association of Africanists, Arizona State University (panel chair)                                 |
| April 1978    | <b><i>"Unbridged Chasms: The Problem of Relationship in South African Fiction," Modern Language Association, New York</i></b>   |
| December 1976 | "Doris Lessing is an African Writer," African Literature Association, Boone, North Carolina   |
| December 1975 | <b><i>"In Cyclical Time: Lessing as an African Writer," Modern Language Association, New York</i></b>   |
|               | <b><i>"Lessing's Africa," Modern Language Association, San Francisco</i></b>  |

### **Professional Memberships**

Modern Language Association; College Language Association; African Literature Association; Society for Values in Higher Education; Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies; Friends of the Michigan Humanities Council, Contemplative Mind in Society Project.

### **Community Service**

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|----------------|--|
| 1983-present   | Coordinator, C.O.N.N.E.C.T.I.O.N.S (outreach social justice initiative for Moncalm County-poorest county in the state of 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   |
|                | "The Multiple Faces of Hate: A Commentary on the KKK and the Duke Separatist Agenda," Citizens Celebrating Diversity, Central Montcalm Middle School (co-convener) |
|                | "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 | <b><i>Association of Contemplative Sisters Delegate to Papal Audience with African American Leaders, New Orleans</i></b>   |

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 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 - present | Parish Liturgist and Organist  |
| 1977 - 1979    | Reader, Recording for the Blind, The Claremont Colleges                                    |

### **Languages**

Good conversational French  
 Good reading knowledge of French  
 Fair reading knowledge of Spanish and Latin

### **Travel**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 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  |
| Summer 1978              | Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal                               |
| November - December 1976 | British Isles   |