

Reggie Young
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Department of English
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., English, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL, 1990.

Specialization: Creative Writing (Fiction and Poetry);

Exam Concentration: African American Literature and Critical Thought.

Dissertation: *Crimes in Bluesville* (original novel designed as a “signifyin(g) ‘black’ text”)

Dissertation Committee: Michael Anania (Director), Sterling Plump, Lavonne Ruoff, Christian Messenger, David Joliffe.

M.A., English, University of Illinois at Chicago, 1987.

B.A., Black Studies, University of Illinois at Chicago, 1983. (Highest Departmental Distinction.)

UNIVERSITY EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2001-present.

Assistant Professor, Department of English, Wheaton College, 1997-01.

Visiting Assistant Professor in Fiction Writing, Department of English, Hamilton College, 1996-97.

Jesse Ball duPont Visiting Writer and Scholar, Randolph Macon Woman’s College, fall, 1995.

Assistant Professor, Department of English, Louisiana State University, 1992-1996.

Assistant Professor, English Department, Villanova University, 1990-92.

Instructor, Saturday College Program in Composition, Literacy, and Creative Writing, Office of Early Outreach, University of Illinois at Chicago, 1987-89.

Instructor, Black Studies Program, University of Illinois at Chicago, 1986-87.

Academic Advisor, Educational Assistance Program, University of Illinois at Chicago, 1983-87.

Special Assistant to the Associate Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Illinois at Chicago, 1982-83.

Program Coordinator, Rafael Cintrón Ortiz Cultural Center, University of Illinois at Chicago, 1980-82.

CRITICAL PUBLICATIONS

Book Projects:

Phantom Limbs Dancing Juba Rites: Spiritual Realism and the “Unheroic in African American Narrative Expressions. Forthcoming from Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.

Mozart and Leadbelly: Stories and Essay by Ernest J. Gaines (Compiled, edited and introduced with Marcia Gaudet). Published by Knopf, 2005.

Essays, Articles, and Reviews:

“Literary Influence, Experiential Imprints, and the Anxieties of Contemporary African American Literary Criticism.” *Contemporary African American Fiction: Critical New Essays.* Ed. Dana D. Williams. Columbus: Ohio State UP. (Forthcoming)

"Henry Dumas," and "The Black Aesthetic" (two articles). *A Gift of Story and Song: The Facts on File Twentieth Century African American Literature*. Ed. Wilfred D. Samuels. (Forthcoming)

"Phantom Limbs Dancing Juba Rites in August Wilson's *Joe Turner Come and Gone* and *The Piano Lesson*." *August Wilson, Black Aesthetics, and a New Black Arts Movement*. Eds. Sandra G. Shannon and Dana D. Williams. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004. 129-143.

"The Significance of Our Literary Voices." *Significant Voices: A Series of Readings and Discussions by 20th Century African American Writers*. Ed. Kathy Ball. Lafayette, LA: 2002.

"Blues, Righteousness, and a Higher Justice in Ernest J. Gaines's *A Lesson Before Dying*." *Interdisciplinary Humanities* 17.2 (2001) 147-59.

"Writing Place: Writing Bluesville." *The Christian Imagination: Essays on Literature and Writing*. Ed. Lee Ryken. Wheaton, IL: Harold Shaw, 2001. 177-192.

Rev. of *Imagining Grace: Liberating Theologies in the Slave Narrative Tradition* by Kimberly Rae Connor. *African American Review*. 34 (2000): 710-12.

"Zora Neale Hurston." *Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart*. Postfach (Germany): J.C.B. Mohr Publishing, 2001.

Rev. of *Paradise*, by Toni Morrison. *The Christian Century* 15 March 18-25, 1998: 322-23.

"Black Stereotypes." *Oxford Companion to African American Literature*. Ed. William Andrews. New York: Oxford UP, 1997. 698-701.

"On Having a Tradition to Learn From: Literacy, Empowerment, and the African American Literary Tradition." *Literary Influence and African American Writers*. Ed. Tracy Mishkin. New York: Garland, 1995. 359-389.

"African American Women Poets." *Oxford Companion to Women's Writing in the United States*. Ed. Cathy Davidson. New York: Oxford UP, 1994. 36-39.

"Literacy, Literature, and the Liberation of the American Bluesvilles." *Multicultural Literature and Literacies: Making Space for Difference*. Eds. Susan Miller and Barbara McCaskill. Albany: SUNY UP, 1993. 55-76.

Professional Presentations:

"Once I Wuz a Baby Raised in Blackness: or, Why Can't My New Millennial Cool Mo Black Students Pass a Simple Quiz in African American Studies?" CLA, April 15, 2005, Athens, GA.

"Gwendolyn Brooks' Satin-Legs Smith: Secular Rites and Blues Revivals of a Bronzeville Native Son." Furious Flower: Furious Flower Poetry Conference, 2004, September 23, 2004, James Madison University.

"For Whom Does the Bell in this Field Toll? Racial Identity, African American Literary Studies, and the Mainstream Academic Workplace." CLA, April 15, 2004, Nashville, TN.

"The Work of Play and Play of Work in Charles Fuller's *A Soldier's Play* and August Wilson's *Fences*." MLA, December 30, 2004, San Deigo, CA.

"From Brute Slave to Hip-Hop Generation 'Thug': Exploding the Myth of Black Males as 'Natural Born Criminals.'" October 28, 2003, Louisiana State University.

Writers' Panel—Society for the Study of John Edgar Wideman Conference. October 10, 2003, University of Pennsylvania.

"'Love' and the Ground On Which We Stand: August Wilson's Black Aesthetic Manifesto and the 'Black Canon' Debate." CLA, April 24, 2003, Washington, DC.

"Is There a Place for 'Black' Identity in African American Literary Studies Today? The 'Black' Scholar and the Invisible Racial Mountain." MELUS, April 10, 2003, Boca Raton, FL.

"Bamboozling or Bamboozled?: Race, Critical Authority, and the New Millennium American Cinema as a Monster's Ball." 28th Conference on Literature and Film. January 31, 2003, Florida State University.

"From Sweet Home to Harlem and Sweet Home Again: Resurrecting Henry Dumas and the Cultural Legacy of the Black Arts Movement." MLA, December 28, 2002. New York, NY.

"'Marvelous' Spiritual Realism and Resurrecting Henry Dumas from the Dead." MELUS, April 5, 2002, Seattle, WA.

"Saints of a Darker Hue in Brenda Marie Osbey's *All Saints*." Society for the Study of Southern Literature, March 14, 2002. Lafayette, LA.

"From Goat Paths in Africa to Dixie Pikes: Sandy Jenkins and the Roots of Spiritual Realism in Contemporary African American Expressive Works." MLA, December 28, 2001. New Orleans, LA.

"Righteous Resistance and Spiritual Realism in Ernest Gaines's Fiction." National Association of Humanities Educators, March 5, 2001, Portland, OR.

"Angels All Around: The Hood as Domestic Space in Jess Mowry's *Way Past Cool*." MLA, December 28, 2000, Washington, D.C.

"Healing Through the Telling of Old Stories: Migrating Blues Narratives in August Wilson's *The Piano Lesson*." Narrative Conference, April 6, 2000, Atlanta, GA.

"Blues, Righteousness, and a Higher Justice in Ernest Gaines's *A Lesson Before Dying*." MELUS, March 9, 2000, New Orleans, LA.

"Blues Narratives in Gwendolyn Brooks's Poetry." MLA, December 29, 1999, Chicago, IL.

"Black and Tan Fantasy: Jazz Idiom, Black Consciousness, and the Black Arts Movement." MLA, December 29, 1999, Chicago, IL.

"A Day in the Life of a Bronzeville Man: Secular Rites and Blues Affirmation in Gwendolyn Brooks's 'The Sundays of Satin-Legs Smith'." The Erasmus Institute. November 8, 1999, Notre Dame.

"The Dynamics of Race and the Integration of Faith and Learning in Ernest Gaines's *A Lesson Before Dying*." Twentieth-Century Literature Conference, February 27, 1999, Louisville, KY.

"Spiritual Realism in August Wilson's *Joe Turner Come and Gone* and *The Piano Lesson*." MLA, December 29, 1997, Toronto, Ont.

"'Hysterical Ties' Which Do Not Always Bind: Brooks's Satin-Legs Smith as a Revision of the Bronzeville 'Native Son' Figure." CLA, April 12, 1996, Winston-Salem, NC.

"Spiritual Realism, the African Continuum, and the Preservation of Family in Dash's *Daughters of the Dust* and Burnett's *To Sleep With Anger*." MLA, December 29, 1995, Chicago, IL.

"Literacy, Empowerment, and the African American Struggle for (Re)Enlightenment in Contemporary Slave Narratives." MLA, December 29, 1995, Chicago, IL.

"*You Can't Use a Slide Rule to Mend a Bridge of Faith: Techno-Man in the Realm of Spiritual Realism in Naylor's Mama Day*." CLA, April, 1995, Baton Rouge, LA.

"The Boyz of the 'Hood in Contemporary Slave Narratives." Villanova University, November, 1994.

"Understanding the 'New Black Poetry' and the Literacy of a Generation in Waiting." *Furious Flower: A Revolution in African American Poetry*, September, 1994, Harrisonburg, VA.

"Revolting Against Bondage: Literacy and Violence as Means for Survival in Singleton's *Boyz in the Hood* and Mowry's *Way Past Cool*." MELUS, April 23, 1994, College Station, TX.

"On Writing Our World Into Being." Fourth Gutenberg Conference on Literacy and Society, State University of New York at Albany, March 19, 1991, Albany, NY.

Panels Organized and Chaired:

"Reconciling Relatives: Black Male Writers after Ellison." MLA, December 27, 2002, New York, NY.

"Honoring the Spiritual, the Secular, and the Sublime in the Works of Toni Morrison." CLA, April 25, 2002, Memphis, TN.

"Teaching August Wilson." MELUS, April 7, 2002, Seattle, WA.

"Not Magical *but* Spiritual Realism: Ritual and Renewal in African American Expressive Culture." MLA, December 29, 1997, Toronto, Ont.

SELECTED CREATIVE WORKS

Novel: *Crimes in Bluesville* (Expanded revision of dissertation currently in progress.)

Novel in progress: *An Afro-American Love Story* (Completed full draft).

Poetry Collection: *The River Bluesville: Selected and New Poems*. (In progress.)

Chapbooks and Monographs:

Katrina's Smile. Lafayette, LA: Significant Voices, 2002.

The Daze of Bluesville Boyz (poems excerpted from *Crimes in Bluesville*). New Orleans: Black Bayou P., 1995.

Concrete Rituals (short fiction excerpted from novel). New Orleans: Black Bayou P., 1994.

Selected Short Fiction:

"faith flight." *African American Review*. 34 (2000): 105-117.

"Concrete Rituals." *African American Review* 26 (1992): 486-494.

"Jungle Love." *West Side Stories*. Ed. George Bailey. Chicago, IL: City Stoop Press, 1992. 155-175.

Selected Poems:

"Homecoming." *Kodon*. Spring, 1999. 65-66.

"Saviors." *The Poetry Connection: Dial-A-Poem, Chicago! Tenth Anniversary Anthology*. Chicago: Dept. of Cultural Affairs, 1991.

"Praise in Bluesville." *Black American Literature Forum*, 24 (1990): 560-63.

"Bluesville Nights" and "The Sum." *MOJO* Winter (1990), 19-20.

"Saviors." *The Christian Century*, 106 (1989): 623.

"In the Shade of Years." *Red Shoes Review* 6, No.1 (1988): 22-23.

"The Watering Hole." *MOJO* Fall (1999), 15.

"Close Quarters." *Red Shoes Review* 4, No.1 (1987).

"The Blackvilles of Chicago." *Literati Internationale* Spring (1987): 22-30.

"Turk Swan (All-American)." *Blind Alleys* 2, No. 2 (1986): 15-16.

"The American Bantustan," "Morning Boogie," "Sweet Stuff Sam," "Five Long Years Away From Home," "Great Aunt Nannie," and "Home / Coming." *Bluesville* 1, No. 1 (1985): 59-69.

"Love Veins." *The Spoon River Quarterly* Fall (1985): 49.

"Punished by Fire." *Contact II* Fall, (1984): 31.

"Auxiliary Love." *The Chicago Poetry Letter News* January (1984): 4.

"J. Silence Green (an ex-leader of the sixties)." *Ecos* Summer (1983): 22.

"Stranded: The Way I Feel Sometimes." *Haymarket*, August (1982), 12.

"When White Folks Couldn't Afford Soul Food" and "Blues Sonnet." *Ecos* Winter (1982) 34-36.

Numerous others in various newspapers and community publications.

Editorships:

Editor, *Bluesville: A Literary Journal of Chicago's West Side*, Chicago, IL, 1984-87.

Associate Editor, *Ecos: A Latino Journal of People's Literature and Culture*, 1982-84.

Poetry Editor, *La Opinion Latina*, 1981-82.

Selected Readings (Poetry and Fiction):

Significant Voices (featured reader), Lafayette, LA, March 3, 2002.

"Writing Bluesville" (featured reader), Azusa Pacific University, October 4, 2001.

Printers Row Book Fair, Chicago; July, 1999.

The Guild Complex, Chicago, IL, March, 1999.

University of Illinois at Chicago (featured reader), February, 1998.

The Writer's Voice Conference, Wheaton College; Wheaton, IL, September 23, 1997.

Campus Reading Series, Hamilton College, February, 1997.

"Creative Vibrations": Jazz and Poetry Festival. Dillard University, June 27, 1996.

Baton Rouge Gallery, March 31, 1996.

New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA), February 15, 1996.

Visiting Writers Series, Randolph-Macon Woman's College, September 27, 1995.
Fest For All, Baton Rouge, LA, May 20, 1995.
Hollins College, October, 1995.
Deep South Writers Festival, University of Southwest Louisiana, April 6, 1995.
SUNY/Westchester Community College (featured reader), October 22, 1994.
Harvest for the Homeless, Varsity Theater, Baton Rouge, LA, October 4, 1992.
Printers Row Book Fair, Chicago, IL, July, 1991.
Borders Bookstore, Philadelphia, PA., October 1990.
Chicago Poetry Festival at Navy Pier, June 11, 1990.
PEN Discovery Reading, Chicago Filmmakers, June 18, 1989.
"Chicago's Finest," Guild Books, February 13, 1988.
Many others in various schools, cultural institutions, and other sites.

PROFESSIONAL SEMINARS

- Erasmus Institute Summer Seminar on Fiction and Theology. St. Edward's University, June 5-19, 1999.
- Foundations for Integration of Faith and Learning. Wheaton College, 1998-99.
- Midwest Faculty Seminar: Toni Morrison's *Beloved*. University of Chicago, October 29-31, 1998.

ACADEMIC GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

ATLAS Fellowship, Board of Regents, State of Louisiana, 2005-06.
Summer Research Grant, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2003.
PEW Evangelical Scholars Award, 2000-2001.
Wheaton College Alumni Association Grant, 1999-2000.
Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program Faculty Award, April 22, 1996.
Educational Assistance Program Outstanding Service Award, University of Illinois at Chicago, 1990.
Illinois Consortium on Higher Education Fellowship, 1987-88 and 1988-90.
Black Student Retention Program, Highest Academic Award, 1988 and 1990.
Martin Luther King Academic Fellowship, University of Illinois at Chicago, 1986-87 & 87-88.
Activities Honorary Society, University of Illinois at Chicago, October 3, 1982.

ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, RESIDENCIES, AND AWARDS

Residency at The Writer's Colony at Dairy Hollow, Eureka Springs, AR, August 26-September 17, 2005.
Artist Mini-Grant. Louisiana Division of the Arts, 2005.
Residency at A Studio in the Woods, New Orleans, LA, June 15-30, 2005.
Artist Mini-Grant. Louisiana Division of the Arts, 2004.
PEN Discovery Award, Chicago, IL, 1988.
Illinois Poet Laureate Award for Significant Illinois Poets, Chicago, IL, June 7, 1987.
Chicago Council on Fine Arts, City Arts I Grant, Principal Investigator, 1983-84.
Chicago Council on Fine Arts, Neighborhood Arts Project, Individual Artist Grant, 1981-82 and 1982-83.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Modern Language Association.
The Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS).
College Language Association.
Associated Writing Programs (AWP).
Society for the Study of Southern Literature.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

African American Literature, Film and Popular Culture.
American Literature, 1865-present.

Creative Writing (fiction and poetry).

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

African American History: The Slave Trade to the Present.

Black Theology and Religion.

African Literature.

Literature of the Modern World.

SAMPLE OF COURSES DESIGNED AND TAUGHT

At UL-Lafayette:

Faith, Conjure, and Resistance in African American Narrative Works.

Representation, the Blues, and Ethnic American Writing (graduate seminar).

Southern Literature

African American Liberation Tales.

The Colo(u)red World (Modern Fiction).

The Black Writer in the Diaspora.

Toni Morrison and August Wilson.

Graduate Fiction Workshop.

Other Voices: Black, Red, and Brown (Modern Fiction.)

Introduction to Creative Writing.

At Other Universities and Colleges:

American Literature Survey II (1865-1945).

American Literature: Modernism and Beyond.

Cross-Cultural Encounters in American Literature.

African Literature.

Contemporary World Literature.

African American Literature (graduate seminar and undergraduate course).

African American Woman Writers.

African American Liberation Tales.

Blues and American Literature (graduate seminar and undergraduate course).

Ritual and Renewal in African American Literature (graduate seminar).

Signifyin' Black Texts (graduate seminar).

Black Chicago Literature.

The African American Writer and the City.

Various Poetry and Fiction Workshops.

SELECTED COMMUNITY AND CIVIC ACTIVITIES

Professional Consultant, Significant Voices Literary Reading Series, Lafayette, LA (2002-present).

Profiled, "Faces to Watch," *Times of Acadiana*, Lafayette, LA, January 1, 2003.

Guest Columnist, *Times of Acadiana*, Lafayette, LA, October 16, 2002.

Guest Columnist, *Times of Acadiana*, Lafayette, LA, June 5, 2002.

Discussion Group Leader, Lafayette Reads Ernest J. Gaines's *A Lesson Before Dying*, Lafayette Middle School, Lafayette, LA, March 21, 2002.

Chair, Chicago Bulls/CharitaBulls Scholarship Committee, 2001-2002.

Workshop/Presentation, Jetson Correctional Institute, Baton Rouge, LA, July 19, 1995.

Outstanding Service Award, Scenic High School Festival of Arts, Baton Rouge, LA, July 12, 1995.

Meet the Author Activity, Scenic High School, Baton Rouge, LA, April 27, 1995.

Reading/Discussion, Meet the Author Week, Louisiana Training Institute, May 10, 1994.

Read-In, East Baton Rouge Parish Library, February 14, 1994.

Outstanding Service Award, Scenic High School, Baton Rouge, LA, April 19, 1993.

Reading,/Discussion, Meet the Author Week, Louisiana Training Institute, May 6, 1993.

Lecturer and Discussion Leader, "The Third World: Mirror for Humankind" (Readings in Literature and Culture Series), Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. Baton Rouge, October 12-November 16, 1992.

Literary Advisory Committee, Chicago Office on Fine Arts, 1988-90.

Panelist, *Dial-A-Poem, Chicago!*, 1984-89.

Poet in the Schools. Chicago Public Schools. 1982-88.

Founder and Executive Director, Lawndale Renaissance/Bluesville, Inc., Chicago, IL, 1982-87.

Coordinator, Lawndale Renaissance Creative Writing Workshops, Chicago, IL, 1983-86.

Coordinator, City Songs Creative Writing Workshop (with Sandra Cisneros), 1981-82.