

# **John Edgar Tidwell**

Professor Emeritus of English  
University of Kansas  
tidwelje@ku.edu

## **Education**

- Ph.D., English, University of Minnesota, 1981. Diss. "Cultural Collaboration and Iconoclasm: The Literary and Cultural Criticism of Alain Locke and Sterling Brown"
- M.A., English, Creighton University, 1971
- B.A., English, Washburn University, 1969

## **Research and Other Educational Experiences**

- Fellow, Humanities Research Fellowship, Hall Center for the Humanities, University of Kansas, Spring 2006
- Non-resident Fellow, W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Research, Harvard University, 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004. (non-stipendiary appointment)
- Participant, "African American Traditions: The Legacy of the Harlem Renaissance," Penn State University, 9–13 June 1998, directed by Prof. Carl Blake
- Participant, "African American Voices: Language, Literature, and Criticism in Vernacular Theory and Pedagogy," Penn State University, 21-25 June 1994, directed by Drs. Bernard Bell and William Harris
- Visiting Fellow, Afro-American Studies, Yale University, 1985-1986
- (Auditor), NEH Summer Seminar, Atlanta University, 1979. "Alain Locke, The Harlem Renaissance, and Afro-American Culture," directed by Professor Richard A. Long

## **Teaching Positions**

- Professor Emeritus, English Department, University of Kansas, 2018- present
- Professor, University of Kansas, 2008-2018
- Associate Professor (with tenure), English Department, University of Kansas, 1999-2008
- Associate Professor (with tenure), English Department, Miami University, 1993-1999

- Langston Hughes Visiting Professor of English and African and African American Studies, University of Kansas, Spring 1994
- Visiting Scholar in English and in Ethnic Minority Studies, Kansas State University, 15-19 March 1993
- Assistant Professor, English Department, Miami University, 1987-1992
- Assistant Professor, English Department, University of Kentucky, Spring 1981-1987 (on leave 1985-1986)
- Visiting Instructor, Black Studies Program Carleton College, Spring 1979 and Fall 1977
- Teaching Associate II, Afro-American Studies Department, University of Minnesota, 1975-1978
- Instructor, English Department, Saint Olaf College, 1973-1977 (on leave 1975-1977)
- Lecturer, English Department, Creighton University, 1971-1973
- Instructor, English Department and Black Studies Department, University of Nebraska at Omaha, 1971-1973
- Instructor, Maur Hill Catholic College Preparatory School, Atchison, KS, 1968-1970

### **Honors and Awards**

- Professor Emeritus of English, University of Kansas, 2018
- Honorary Doctor of Literature, awarded by Washburn University, 17 May 2014
- Sabbatical University of Kansas, 2012-2013
- Humanities Research Fellowship, Hall Center for the Humanities, University of Kansas, Spring 2006
- Sabbatical, University of Kansas, Fall 2005
- University of Kansas, General Research Funds, summers 2000, 2001, and 2002
- Scholar-in-Residence, Johnson County Community College, Kansas City, KS, February 17-19, 1999
- Faculty Improvement Leave, Miami University, Fall 1997.
- Alumni Fellows Program, Washburn University, October 22-24, 1994.
- Alumni of Notable Achievement, College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota, selected June 1994.
- NEH Summer Stipend, awarded March 1993.
- Miami University, Grant for Research Graduate Assistant, for 1993-1994.
- NEH Travel to Collections Grant, awarded December 1992.
- Miami University, Assigned Research Appointment, Fall 1990.
- Miami University, Summer Research Appointment, 1988.

- NEH Fellowship for Independent Study and Research, 1985-1986.
- NEH Summer Stipend, 1985 (refused).
- NEH Travel to Collections Fellowship, awarded December 1983.
- American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship, Fall 1982.
- University of Kentucky Summer Faculty Research Fellowship, 1981, 1982, and 1983.
- National Fellowships Fund Award, 1978-1981 (for dissertation work).
- Jessamine Allen Dissertation Fund Award, University of Minnesota, Fall 1980.
- Putnam Dana McMillan Fellowship, University of Minnesota, Summer 1979.
- American Lutheran Church Future Faculty Fellowship, 1975-1977.

## Books

- (coeditor with Cheryl Brown Henderson, et al.), *Recovering Untold Stories: An Enduring Legacy of the Brown v. Board Decision*. Lawrence: University of Kansas Libraries, 2018.
- (with Carmaletta Williams, edited), *My Dear Boy: Carrie Hughes's Letters to Langston Hughes, 1926-1938*. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2013.
- (with Steven Tracy, edited with an introduction), *After Winter: The Art and Life of Sterling A. Brown*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.
- (with Mark A. Sanders, edited with an introduction), *A Negro Looks at the South*, by Sterling A. Brown. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.
- (edited with an introduction), *Writings of Frank Marshall Davis, A Voice of the Black Press*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2007.
- (with Cheryl Ragar, edited with an introduction), *Montage of a Dream: The Art and Life of Langston Hughes*. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2007.
- (edited with an introduction), *Black Moods: Collected Poems*, by Frank Marshall Davis. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2002.
- (edited with an introduction), *Livin' the Blues: Memoirs of a Black Journalist and Poet* by Frank Marshall Davis. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1992.

## Book Chapters and Editorial Work

- "Dreaming America in the New Negro Renaissance." In *Routledge History of the American Dream*. Eds. Katharina Vester and Michaela Hampf. (under consideration)
- "In Pursuit of Diversity: New Pedagogical Designs for Teaching the 'Harlem Renaissance.'" Ed. Venetria Patton. To be published by the Modern Language Association. (forthcoming)
- "As Direct as Good Blues: A Portfolio of Frank Marshall Davis." In *Poetry: A Magazine of Verse*, vol. 223, no. 3 (December 2023):243-74. This folio consists of "Weaving Jagged Words into Song" (my essay), "An Interview with Frank Marshall Davis," a sheaf of Davis poems, photos, and "Reminiscences of Father and Me" (by Beth Davis Charlton).
- (with Carmaletta M. Williams), "Love at a Distance in Selected Letters of Langston Hughes and Carrie Hughes." In *Langston Hughes in Context*. Ed. Vera Kutzinski and Anthony Reed. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2023. 42-51.
- "Racial Representation and the Performance of 1930s African American Literary History." In *African American Literature in Transition, 1930-1940*. Eds. Eve Dunbar and Ayesha Hardison. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2022. 211-237.
- "'Greatest is the Song': Blues as Poetic Communication in Early Langston Hughes and Sterling A. Brown." In *Black Poetry, Black Music: Blues and Jazz's Impact on African American Versification*. Ed. Gordon E. Thompson. Burlington, VT: Ashgate Press, 2014. 55-66.
- "In the Shadow of the Blues: Aesthetic Discoveries by Ma Rainey, Langston Hughes, and Sterling A. Brown." In *Critical Insights: Langston Hughes*. R. Baxter Miller. Ipswich, MA: Salem Press, 2013. 87-101.
- "Reading Sterling A. Brown Through the Alembic of Benjamin A. Botkin and Folk-Say." In *America's Folklorist: Benjamin A. Botkin and American Culture*. Eds. Lawrence Rodgers and Jerrod Hirsch. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2010. 168-83.
- "In Defense of African American Culture: Sterling A. Brown, Gunnar Myrdal, and *An American Dilemma*." In *After Winter: The Art and Life of Sterling A. Brown*, 209-23.
- "Frank Marshall Davis (31 December 1905-26 July 1987)." In *The Richard Wright Encyclopedia*. Eds. Jerry W. Ward and Robert Butler. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2008. 94-96.
- "The Sounds of Silence: Langston Hughes as a 'Down Low' Brother?". In *Montage of a Dream: The Art and Life of Langston Hughes*. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2007. 55-67.

- "The Subversive Vision of Frank Marshall Davis." Intro. to *Writings of Frank Marshall Davis: A Voice of the Black Press*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2007. xiii-xxxii.
- "Sterling A. Brown" and "Frank Marshall Davis." Online essays. Posted on BlackPast.org.
- "Gordon Parks and the Unending Quest for Self-fulfillment." In *John Brown to Bob Dole: Movers and Shakers in Kansas History*. Ed. by Virgil Dean. Lawrence: The University Press of Kansas, 2006. 293-305.
- "Sterling A. Brown" and "Frank Marshall Davis." Online essays. *The Literary Encyclopedia* [litencyc.com].
- "Weaving Jagged Words into Song." Intro. to *Black Moods: Collected Poems, by Frank Marshall Davis*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2002. xxi-lxv.
- (editor and contributor), "Plateaus of Uncertainty: Symposia on Legacies and the Future of the Race." My essay "Coming of Age in a Land of Uncertainty" and audience responses to it appear in *Cottonwood* 56 (Fall 2000): 43-59.
- (with Robert Hemenway, Valdenia Winn, and Carmaletta M. Williams) "The Legacy of the Harlem Renaissance: A Symposium," *Cottonwood* 57 (Spring 2001): 45-61.
- (compiler and contributor), "The Future of the Race: A Symposium," *Kansas English* 85.1 (Spring 2000): 69-82.
- (compiler and, with Cheryl Lester, co-introducer), "Frank Marshall Davis and the Chicago Black Renaissance," special issue of *The Langston Hughes Review* 14. 1 & 2 (Spring / Fall 1996).
- "The Critical Realism of Sterling A. Brown," forthcoming in *The Critical Methods of Africa America*, edited by R. Baxter Miller.
- "Exclusivity or Expansion: Canon Formation and the Black Literature Anthology," forthcoming in *The Critical Methods of Africa America*, edited by R. Baxter Miller.
- "Reliving the Blues: Frank Marshall Davis and the Crafting of a Self." Intro. to *Livin' the Blues*, by Frank Marshall Davis. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1992, pp. xiii-xvii.
- (contributing editor), "From Renaissance to Mid-Forties," *African American Literature*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1992, pp. 379-451.
- (contributing editor), "Sterling A. Brown," *Heath Anthology of American Literature*, 1st ed., vol. 2, edited by Paul Lauter, et al. Lexington, MA: DC Heath Publishers, 1990, pp. 1519-1521. Rpt. in 2nd ed., vol. 2, 1994, pp. 1656-71. Rev. and rpt. in 3rd ed., vol. 2, 1998, pp. 1655-70. Rev. and rpt. in 4th ed., vol. 2, 2002, pp. 1640-42. Rev. and rpt. in 5th ed., vol. D, 2006, pp. 1561-62. See also my "Sterling A. Brown," in *Instructor's Guide for the Heath*

- Anthology of American Literature*, ed. Judith A. Stanford. Lexington, MA: DC Heath Publishers, 1990, pp. 476-79. Rpt. in 2nd ed., edited by John Alberti, 1994, pp. 575-78. Rev. and rpt. in 3rd ed., edited by John Alberti, 1998, pp. 582-85.
- (guest editor and contributor), "Oh, Didn't He Ramble: Sterling A. Brown (1901-1989)," special section of *Black American Literature Forum* 23.1 (1989): includes my introduction (p. 89) and my essay "Sterling A. Brown Remembered" (109-111).

### **Critical Essays, Interviews, Bibliographies, etc.**

- "The United States vs. Sterling A. Brown: An Essay." In *The Langston Hughes Review (A Special Issue on Sterling A. Brown)*. Ed. Tony Bolden. (forthcoming)
- "The United States vs. Sterling A. Brown: A Blog." <https://blogs.loc.gov/folklife/2023/11/the-united-states-vs-sterling-a-brown-john-edgar-tidwell/>
- "The Hard Kind of Courage: Labor and Art in Selected Works by Langston Hughes, Gordon Parks, and Frank Marshall Davis." *Kansas History* 36.3 (Autumn 2013): 158-71.
- "Clarifying Philosophy: Sterling A. Brown and the Nonviolent Action Group" (an interview). In *After Winter*, 379-96.
- "Sterling A. Brown." In *Oxford Bibliographies in American Literature*. Eds. Jackson Bryer and Paul Lauter. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013. [www.oxfordbibliographies.com/obo/page/american-literature/](http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/obo/page/american-literature/)
- "Weaving Strange Garments: Jazz in the Poetry of Frank Marshall Davis." *Brilliant Corners: A Journal of Jazz and Literature*, 6.1 (Winter 2001): 31-39.
- "Coming of Age in a Land of Uncertainty." *Cottonwood* 56 (Fall 2000): 43-59.
- (with Theodore H. Genoways). "Two Lost Sonnets by Sterling A. Brown." *Callaloo*, 21.4 (Fall 1998): 741-44. Reprinted in *After Winter*, 105-10.
- "Double Conscious Brother in the Veil: Toward an Intellectual Biography of Sterling A. Brown." *Callaloo*, 21.4 (Fall 1998): 931-39.
- (with John S. Wright). "Steady and Unaccusing: An Interview With Sterling A. Brown." *Callaloo*, 21.4 (Fall 1998): 811-21. Reprinted in *After Winter*, 353-63.
- "Alternative Constructions to Black Arts Autobiography: Frank Marshall Davis and 1960s Counterculture." *CLA Journal* 41.2 (1997): 147-60.
- "Two Writers Sharing: Sterling A. Brown, Robert Frost, and 'In Divés's Dive.'" *African American Review* 13.3 (Fall 1997): 399-408.

- Rpt. *Poetry Criticism*, vol. 55. Detroit: Thomson-Gale Publishers, 2004. 134-41. Rpt. In *After Winter*, 81-93.
- "'I Was a Weaver of Jagged Words': Social Function in the Poetry of Frank Marshall Davis." *The Langston Hughes Review* 14. 1 & 2 (Spring/Fall 1996): 65-78.
  - "Brown, Sterling A.," "Davis, Frank Marshall," and "Slim Greer." *Oxford Companion to African American Literature*. Eds. William L. Andrews, et al. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997. 104-106, 202-203, and 673 respectively.
  - "'The Summer of '46': Sterling A. Brown Among the Minnesotans," *Black Heartland*, 1.1 (Spring 1996): 27-41.
  - "Ad Astra Per Aspera: [The Kansas Roots of] Frank Marshall Davis," *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains*, 18.4 (Winter 1995-1996): 270-82.
  - "Recasting Negro Life History: Sterling A. Brown and the Federal Writers' Project," *The Langston Hughes Review* 12.2 (Summer-Winter 1995): 77-82.
  - "The Art of Tall Tale in [Sterling A. Brown's] Slim Greer Poems," *Cottonwood Magazine* 38/39 (Summer/Fall 1986): 170-176. Reprinted in *After Winter* as "Slim Greer, Sterling A. Brown, and the Art of Tall Tale," pp. 149-56.
  - "Frank Marshall Davis." *Afro-American Writers from the Harlem Renaissance to 1940*. Vol. 51 of *Dictionary of Literary Biography*. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1987, 60-66.
  - "Interview With Frank Marshall Davis." *Black American Literature Forum* 19.3 (1985): 105-108. Rpt. in *Black Literature Criticism*. Detroit: Gale Research, Inc., 1992, 522-25.
  - (with John S. Wright). "Alain Locke: A Comprehensive Bibliography of His Published Writings." *Callaloo* Nos. 11-13, 4.1-3 (1981): 175-92. Rpt. in *Bulletin of Bibliography* 19.2 (1985): 95-104.
  - (with John S. Wright). "Sterling Brown." *Callaloo* Nos. 14 & 15, 5.1-2 (1982): 13.
  - "Interview With Amiri Baraka." *Minnesota Daily*, 21 October 1980: 7.
  - "Ishmael Reed: Modern Mythmaker: An Essay and Interview." *Minnesota Daily*, 2 April 1979: 12-13.
  - "Language Arts From a Black Perspective." *Outreach: Newsletter of Minnesota University's Afro-American Studies Department* 2.1 (1976): 4-5.
  - "Teaching Minority Literatures: A Report." *Minnesota English Journal* 11.1 (1975): 14-16.

## Book and Essay Reviews

- *Selected Letters of Langston Hughes*, eds. Arnold Rampersad and David Roessel. *American Studies Journal*, 55.4-56.1 (2017): 223-24.
- *Letters from Langston Hughes: From the Harlem Renaissance to the Red Scare and Beyond*, eds. Evelyn Louise Crawford and MaryLouise Patterson. *The Journal of American History* (March 2017): 1072-74.
- *Frank Marshall Davis: The Fire and the Phoenix (A Critical Biography)*, by Kathryn Takara and *The Communist: Frank Marshall Davis: The Untold Story of Barack Obama's Mentor*, by Paul Kengor. *African American Review* 46.2-3 (Summer/Fall 2013): 535-40.
- *Street Fam*, by Jason J. Williams. *African American Review* 44.1-2 (Spring-Summer 2011): 306-10.
- *The Florida Negro: A Federal Writers' Project Legacy*, ed. Gary W. McDonogh, *The Journal of American History* (September 1994): 780-81.
- *Blues, Ideology, and Afro-American Literature: A Vernacular Theory*, by Houston Baker, Jr. *South Atlantic Review* 52.3 (1987): 141-43.
- *The Sage in Harlem: H.L. Mencken and the Black Writers*, by Charles Scruggs. *Black American Literature Forum* 20.3(1986): 341-44.
- *Arna Bontemps--Langston Hughes Letters: 1925-1967*, ed. Charles Nichols. *Minnesota Daily*, 5 May 1980: 12. Rpt. as "Two Writers Sharing." *Callaloo* Nos. 11-13, vol. 4, nos. 1-3 (1981): 215-17.
- *When Harlem Was in Vogue*, by David Levering Lewis. *Minnesota Daily*, 21-26 September 1981, sec. 2: 18.
- "The Birth of a Black New Criticism." Rev. of *Afro-American Literature: The Reconstruction of Instruction*, eds. Dexter Fisher and Robert Stepto. *Callaloo* No. 7, vol. 2, no. 3 (1979): 111-14.
- *The Collected Poems of Sterling A. Brown*, by Sterling A. Brown. *Minnesota Daily*, 16-20 March 1981: 19, 27.
- *The Correspondence of W.E.B. DuBois*, Vol. 3, ed. Herbert Aptheker. *Minnesota Daily*, 21 July 1980: 8. Rpt. as "A Long and Illustrious Career," in *Callaloo* Nos. 8-10, vol. 3, nos. 1-3 (1980): 221-24.
- *The Journey Back: Issues in Black Literature and Criticism*, by Houston Baker, Jr. *Minnesota Daily*, 7 July 1980: 6.
- *Chant of Saints: A Gathering of Afro-American Literature, Art, and Scholarship*, eds. Michael S. Harper and Robert Stepto and *From Behind the Veil: A Study of Afro-American Narrative*, by Robert Stepto. *Minnesota Daily*, 7 April 1980: 9. Rpt. as "Afro-American



- Literature Reinterpreted," in *Callaloo* Nos. 8-10, vol. 3, nos. 1-3 (1980): 233-36.
- *Selected Poetry of Amiri Baraka / LeRoi Jones*, by Amiri Baraka. *Minnesota Daily*, 31 March 1980: 16.
  - *Amiri Baraka / LeRoi Jones: A Quest for a "Populist Modernism,"* by Werner Sollors. *Minnesota Daily*, 11 February 1980: 9.
  - *Yardbird Lives*, ed. Ishmael Reed. *Minnesota Daily*, 29 January 1979: 15, 19.
  - *Zora Neale Hurston: A Literary Biography*, by Robert Hemenway. *Minnesota Daily*, 30 May 1978: 12, 16.

### **Papers at Academic and Professional Meetings**

- Panelist, "Rewriting America: A Symposium on the Federal Writers' Project." Library of Congress, 16 June 2023.  
<https://guides.loc.gov/2023-federal-writers-project-symposium/about>
- "Looking South to a Very Old Place." In *Life and Lore of Sterling A. Brown: Celebrating Poetry, Prose, and Music*. Williams College, 20 October 2022.
- Panelist, "Documenting Slavery: The Impact and Import of the Federal Writers' Project Slave Narratives." Co-Sponsors Center for Brooklyn History and the NEH Summer Institute on the New Deal Era's Federal Writers' Project, 26 July 2021.
- "Contesting Racial Misrepresentation: Sterling A. Brown and the Federal Writers' Project." In NEH Summer Institute on the New Deal Era's Federal Writers' Project, 29 July 2021.
- Panelist, "He, Too, Sang America: A Roundtable Discussion by Historians and Writers on the Importance of Langston Hughes." In "Remembering Langston Hughes: His Art, Life, and Legacy Fifty Years Later." Princeton University, 10-11 November 2017.
- (with Carmaletta M. Williams), "Agony and Ecstasy: Recovering Family in *My Dear Boy*." College Language Association, 27 March 2014.
- Moderator and panelist, "Colleagues and Comrades: Friendships of the Chicago Black Renaissance," College Language Association, 29 March 2012.
- "Discovering the Soul of a People: Sterling A. Brown and the Interviews with Ex-Slaves." In the *Soul of a People: Voices From the Writers' Project* series, Macalester College, 23 September 2009.
- "(Re-)Writing the Past and Future: Sterling A. Brown and the Sankofa Spirit." College Language Association, 31 March 2012.

- Organizer and Panelist, "Regenerating the Art and Life of Sterling A. Brown," Association for the Study of African American Life and History, 2 October 2009.
- "Fictitious Negroes, Negro Fictions, and Sterling A. Brown's Quest for Authenticity on the Federal Writers' Project." Paper in "Art, Culture, and Government: The New Deal at 75," at the Library of Congress, 14 March 2008.
- "Sterling A. Brown, Langston Hughes, and the Cult of Unintelligibility." Paper in Langston Hughes Festival, at City College of New York, 26 October 2007.
- "Langston Hughes and the Sounds of Silence." Paper in American Literature Association, 26 May 2007.
- "How Can We Use Literature in History Instruction?" Invited paper in "American Rights and Race Relations: The Legacy of Brown vs. Board of Education." Washburn University, 30 June 2005.
- "The New Negro Renaissance of Langston Hughes and Frank Marshall Davis." Invited paper in "Coping With Change: The U.S. and Kansas During the 1920s and 1930s." Kansas State Historical Society, 23 June 2005.
- "Frank Marshall Davis: An Exile in Hawaii?" Invited paper in Forging Links: Black Issues in the 21st Century Conference at University of Hawaii, 20 November 2004.
- "Frank Marshall Davis, Kansas's Most Famous Unknown Poet." Paper in Kansas History Teachers Association at University of Kansas, 5 April 2003.
- "Redeeming Kansas: Novel Approaches to Old Ideas." Paper in Conference on New Literacies at University of Kansas, 22 February 2003.
- "Frank Marshall Davis and the Cultural Life of Black Chicago." Paper in Hull House Conference, University of Illinois at Chicago, 13 April 2002.
- "Private Life, Private Lies: Frank Marshall Davis, Langston Hughes, and the Problem of Self-Representation." Paper in "Let America Be America Again: An International Symposium on the Art, Life, and Legacy of Langston Hughes," 8 February 2002.
- "Jazz in the Poetry of Frank Marshall Davis." Invited paper presented in University of Kansas Multicultural Literary Institute, 18 July 2001.
- "Sterling A. Brown and the Black Tradition in College Education." Invited paper presented at President's Investiture at Bowie State University, 10 May 2001.
- "From 'Folk-Say' to 'Living People Lore': The Folkloric Relations of Benjamin A. Botkin and Sterling A. Brown," University of Nebraska at Lincoln Symposium on B.A. Botkin, 2 February 2001.

- [with Mark Sanders] "Fierce Listening: Sterling A. Brown and Southern Black Voices," Modern Language Association, 28 December 2000. Re-presented at College Language Association, 19 April 2001.
- [convener] "Redrawing the Boundaries of Black Literature and Culture" session, Modern Language Association. 29 December 1998.
- "Double Conscious Brother in the Veil: Toward an Intellectual Biography of Sterling A. Brown," Sterling A. Brown Conference, Howard University, 14 February 1997.
- [convener and commentator] "The Black Arts Movement, Recuperative Strategies, and *The Man Who Cried I Am*" session, Midwest Modern Language Association, November 1996.
- "A Message to Michael, In Appreciation," Celebrating Harper: A Conference and Festival in Honor of Michael S. Harper, October 24-27, 1996, Bowdoin College
- [convener and commentator] "Frank Marshall Davis and the Chicago Black Renaissance" session, Midwest Modern Language Association, November 1994.
- "Frank Marshall Davis and 1960s Counterculture." Paper presented at the Modern Language Association, 27 December 1993.
- "Recovering a Lost Son: Frank Marshall Davis and his *Living the Blues*." Invited paper presented in Lecturers and Readers series at University of Kansas, 11 March 1993.
- "'The Summer of '46': Sterling A. Brown Among the Minnesotans." Paper presented at Black Heartland Conference, Washington University, St. Louis, MO, 23 March 1991.
- "Recasting Negro Life History: Sterling A. Brown and the Federal Writers' Project." Paper presented at the Modern Language Association, 29 December 1989.
- "Racial Art or Race Relations: The Challenge of Teaching Black Literature." Invited paper presented in the Kentucky Humanities Summer Seminar at Centre College, 25 June 1987.
- "Black Literary Criticism and the Changing Shape of Commitment." Invited paper delivered at Vassar College, 6 February 1986.
- "Sterling A. Brown's Negro Caravan: A Consideration." Invited paper presented at Wesleyan University, 19 November 1985.
- "The Critical Realism of Sterling A. Brown." Invited paper presented in the Critical Theory Forum at University of Louisville, 15 February 1985.
- "Taking Poetry to the People." Paper delivered at Association of Departments of English (ADE) meeting, 14 July 1984.
- "Sterling Brown: Editor on Negro Affairs." Paper delivered at Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, 22 October 1982.

- "Sterling Brown: Patron Saint of Literary Criticism." Paper delivered at Brown University, 30 April 1981.

## Public Lectures

- "Good Trouble or Disturbing the Peace? The Importance of Humanities in Distressing Times." In Speaker's Bureau, Humanities Kansas (formerly Kansas Humanities Council), at multiple sites, 2020-2024.
- "Dreams of Freedom: Commemorating Sixty-Nine Years of Brown." Invited speech for "Brown v. Board: The Voices Carry." Topeka, 13 May 2023.
- "The Labor of Art and the Art of Labor." Invited Lecture at the Ulrich Museum of Art at Wichita State University, 17 October 2012.
- "American Dream and Dreaming America: Barack Obama and the Pursuit of Self." Invited lecture in Kansas Center for the Book series on *Dreams from my Father*, at Lawrence Public Library (1 February 2010) and Pittsburg Public Library (15 February 2010).
- "When Freedom Changed America." In Speaker's Bureau, Kansas Humanities Council, at multiple sites, 2005-2010.
- "*Dreams from my Father*: A Commentary." Invited Black History Month talk at Independence Public Library, 12 February 2010.
- "Something Semple: The Expressive Power of Langston Hughes." Invited introduction to a script-in-hand reading of Hughes's Semple stories at the Brown Foundation in Topeka, 18 October 2009.
- "More Than Scissors and Glue: Editorial Labor as Art and Scholarship." Invited presentation for the KU English Department's Academics Anonymous series, 2 April 2009.
- "King, Obama, and the Legacy of Change." Invited presentation at the annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration in Coffeyville, KS, 17 January 2009.
- "Something Semple: The Power of Langston Hughes." Invited introduction to a script-in-hand reading of Hughes's Semple stories in Kansas City Public Library, 14 January 2007.
- "Against the Odds: Writers Growing up Black in Kansas." In the Speaker's Bureau, Kansas Humanities Council, at multiple sites, 1996-2005.
- Talk About Literature in Kansas (TALK) program for Kansas Humanities Council / Humanities Kansas, wherein I led discussions of various texts, such as *The Fire Next Time*, *Beloved*, *Go Tell it on the Mountain*, and *Sag Harbor*, since 1996.
- "Images of Affirmation in the Work of Gordon Parks." Invited paper presented in the Second Annual Gordon Parks Celebration at Ft. Scott Community College, 7 October 2005.

- "Gordon Parks's *Learning Tree* Experience." Invited lecture in "The Gordon Parks Celebration of Culture and Diversity" at Fort Scott Community College, 8 October 2004.
- "Frank Marshall Davis." Paper presented in Kansas Art and Popular Culture Seminar, University of Kansas Art History Department, 4 October 2004.
- "My *Learning Tree* Experience, or Lessons Learned from my Boyhood on West Pine Street." Keynote address at Independence (KS) Homecoming, 10 July 2004.
- "Celebrating Black History Through Gordon Parks." Invited lecture for GEAR-UP Program, Parsons High School, Parsons, KS, 16 February 2004.
- "Gordon Parks's *Learning Tree* Experience," Invited lecture in Black History Month Program at Hutchison (KS) Community College, 20 February 2004.
- "Coming of Age in a Land of Uncertainty." Invited lecture for Life Enrichment Program, Bethel College, Newton College, Newton, KS, 3 March 2004.
- "A Blues Perspective: The Subversive Vision of Frank Marshall Davis." Invited lecture at Emporia State University, 12 March 2003.
- "To Thine Own Self Be True: The Quest for Self-Knowledge in Gordon Parks's Autobiographical Narratives." Invited Lecture in the Beach series. Kansas State University, 9 February 2003. Revised and presented at A Celebration of Gordon Parks at University of Kansas, 22 February 2003.
- "Composite Portrait: Sterling A. Brown and the Problem of Representation on the Federal Writers' Project." Invited Presentation, Spencer Museum of Art. 30 October 2002.
- "Against the Odds: Writers Growing Up Black in Kansas." Lecture for the Speakers' Bureau of the Kansas Humanities Council, 2000-2003.
- "Plateaus of Uncertainty: Symposia on Legacies and the Future of the Race." Series of presentations as Scholar-in-Residence, Johnson County Community College. 17-19 February 1999.
- "Sterling A. Brown, His Life and Achievements." Invited presentation, Library of Congress. 24 October 1998.
- "Double Conscious Brother in the Veil." Lecture, Miami University English Department Faculty Seminar Series, 25 March 1997.
- "Weaving Jagged Words: Frank Marshall Davis and the Writing of Self-History." Invited Lecture, The Center for Biographical Research, 17 July 1996, University of Hawaii.
- "Vision and Revisions: The Changing Shape of the Harlem Renaissance." Lecture, Miami University Art Museum Series, 22 February 1995.

- "Social Function in the Poetry of Frank Marshall Davis." The Annual Langston Hughes Lecture, 2 March 1994, at the University of Kansas.
- "Recovering Kansas' Lost Son: Frank Marshall Davis and his *Livin' the Blues*." Lecture, University of Kansas Medical Center, 28 April 1994.
- "Recovering a Lost Son: Frank Marshall Davis and his *Livin' the Blues*." Lecture, Wichita State University, 22 April 1994.
- "An Evening of *Livin' the Blues*." A Reading and Lecture, Terra Nova Bookstore, Lawrence, KS, 20 April 1994.
- "Frank Marshall Davis, Ad Astra Per Aspera." Invited Kansas Day lecture, Washburn University of Topeka, 27 January 1994.
- "The Critical Realism of Sterling A. Brown." Peale Gallery Library series, University of Kentucky, 6 February 1987.
- "A Short History of Black Poetry," four lectures in Taking Poetry to the People series, co-sponsored by University of Kentucky English Department and city of Lexington, KY, Spring 1984.
- "Making the World a Better Place." Keynote Address at First Independence, Kansas, Black Homecoming, 2 July 1983.

### Miscellany

- "It's Time to Re-Read *The Learning Tree*." *Kansas Humanities* (Topeka: Kansas Humanities Council) XLV.no. 2 (Spring 2021):4-5.
- "Pandemic, Interracial Strife, and the Saving Grace of Humanities" (5 June 2020): <https://humanitieskansas.org/get-involved/kansas-stories/the-big-idea/pandemic-interracial-strife-and-the-saving-grace-of-humanities>
- "An Incident in the Life of Langston Hughes." *Kansas Humanities* (Topeka: Kansas Humanities Council) XLII. no.1 (Winter 2017).
- Co-producer, *Langston's Lawrence*, 2017, a 10-minute documentary film: [www.vimeo.com/201186960](http://www.vimeo.com/201186960)
- "Sterling A. Brown," Modern and Contemporary American Poetry Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC), 2015: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B6mjgDaqJRmsdHpUZ1NPSkJUNIE&authuser=0/>
- (with Carmaletta M. Williams), "My Dear Boy: An Interview" on "The Not so Late Show," channel 6, in Lawrence, KS (9 April 2014).

### Administrative Experience

- Project Director, "Reading and Remembering Langston Hughes," University of Kansas, 2001-2002
- Director, American Minority Studies, St. Olaf College, 1973-1974

- Acting Chair, Black Studies Department, University of Nebraska at Omaha, 1972-1973
- Director, Atchison Neighborhood Center, Atchison, KS, 1969-1970

### **Professional Services**

- Consulting Editor, *Langston Hughes Review*, 2022-
- Manuscript reviewer, *Twentieth Century Literature*, 2014-2016
- Manuscript reviewer, *Publication for the Modern Language Association*, 2011 and 2012
- Panelist, Fellowships Committee, Schomburg Research Center, February 2008
- Reviewer, Promotion and Tenure candidate at Miami University, Summer 2007
- Manuscript Reviewer, *African American Review*, 1994- present
- Manuscript Reviewer, University of Tennessee Press, 2000-2001
- Editorial Consultant, Prentice-Hall Publishing Company, 1999
- Manuscript reviewer, *Callaloo*, 1997
- Resident Scholar, "Crossing Boundaries/Making Connections: African American and American Culture," Kansas Humanities Council, Spring 1996
- Panelist, Literature, Languages, and Humanities Committee, Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowships Program, National Research Council, March 1995 and March 1996
- Reviewer, Reference Materials Program, Division of Research Programs, National Endowment for the Humanities, November 1994
- Manuscript Reviewer, *Callaloo*, 1997

### **Professional Memberships**

- Modern Language Association
- College Language Association
- The Langston Hughes Society