

# KIMBERLY R. MACK

## Curriculum Vitae

The University of Toledo  
2801 W. Bancroft Street  
Toledo, OH 43606  
419-530-4518  
kimberly.mack@utoledo.edu

### EDUCATION

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September 2015	Ph.D., English, University of California, Los Angeles Dissertation: "The Fictional Black Blues Figure: Blues Music and the Art of Narrative Self-Invention" Chair: Richard Yarborough (English) Committee: Caroline Streeter (English), Robert Fink (Musicology), James Goodwin (English)
December 2011	M.A., English, University of California, Los Angeles
December 2003	M.F.A., Creative Writing, Antioch University Los Angeles
February 1992	B.F.A., Dramatic Writing, New York University

### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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2021	University of Toledo, Department of English Language and Literature, Associate Professor of African-American Literature and History and Theory of Race in Literature. Affiliated Faculty, Africana Studies and Women's and Gender Studies
2015-21	University of Toledo, Department of English Language and Literature, Assistant Professor of African-American Literature and History and Theory of Race in Literature. Affiliated Faculty, Africana Studies and Women's and Gender Studies
2006-09	Springfield College, School of Human Services, Lecturer

### ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

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#### Books

Mack, Kimberly. *Fictional Blues: Narrative Self-Invention from Bessie Smith to Jack White*. University of Massachusetts Press, 2020.

*The Untold History of Early American Rock Criticism*, Bloomsbury Academic. (Under Contract)

*Living Colour's Time's Up*, 33 1/3 Book Series, Bloomsbury Academic. (Under Contract)

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

“She’s A Country Girl All Right: Rhiannon Giddens’ Powerful Reclamation of Country Culture.” *Uncharted Country: New Voices and Perspectives in Country Music Studies*, special issue of the *Journal of Popular Music Studies*, vol. 32, no. 2, 2020, pp. 144-161.

“‘There’s No Home for You Here’: Jack White and the Unsolvable Problem of Blues Authenticity.” *Musical Autobiographies*, special issue of *Popular Music and Society*, vol. 38, no. 2, 2015, pp. 176–193.

“*Love Story Black* and the Third Plane Novel,” *William Demby and Rome*, special issue of *African American Review*. (Under Review)

### Book Chapters

“Please Allow Me to Introduce Myself: Autobiographical Blues Self-Fashioning in ‘Sympathy for the Devil.’” *My Name is Called Disturbance’: Beggars Banquet and the Rolling Stones Rock and Roll Revolution*, edited by Russell Reising, Routledge Press, 2019, pp. 125-136.

“The Self-Fashioned American Blues Identity,” *Ralph Ellison in Context*, Cambridge University Press. (Forthcoming)

“It’s our version of *Almost Famous*: Towards a Reimagined Canon of Rock Criticism,” *Lit-Rock: Literary Capital in Popular Music*, Bloomsbury Academic. (Forthcoming)

### Book Reviews and Commentary

“Remote Intimacy: Popular Music Conversations in the Covid Era.” *Journal of Popular Music Studies*, vol. 33, no. 1, 2021, pp. 11-28.

Review of *Black Diamond Queens: African American Women and Rock and Roll* by Maureen Mahon. *Journal of Popular Music Studies*. (Forthcoming)

### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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“Johnny Rotten, My Mom, and Me” (memoir essay published in *Longreads* in February 2019)

Popular music criticism and journalism (album and live reviews, interviews, music industry-related stories, and commentary) for the following national and international publications from 2002-present:

*Hot Press*  
*Music Connection*  
*PopMatters.com*  
*No Depression*  
*Relix*  
*Amplifier*

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**AWARDS AND HONORS**

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2020	University of Toledo URFO Small Award
2019	University of Toledo Publication Subvention
2019	University of Toledo College of Arts and Letters Faculty Development Grant
2019	University of Toledo Office of the Provost's Faculty Professional Development Grant
2019	University of Toledo URFO Small Award
2019	University of Toledo URFO Summer Research Fellowship
2019	University of Toledo Office of the Provost's Faculty Professional Development Grant
2019	University of Toledo College of Arts and Letters Faculty Development Grant
2018	Woodrow Wilson Career Enhancement Fellowship for Junior Faculty, Alternate
2018	University of Toledo URFO Small Award
2018	University of Toledo Office of the Provost's Faculty Professional Development Grant
2018	University of Toledo Edith Rathbun Outreach and Engagement Excellence Award, Nomination
2017	University of Toledo URFO Small Award
2017	University of Toledo College of Arts and Letters Faculty Development Grant
2017	University of Toledo Kohler International Travel Grant
2016-2018	Duke University Summer Institute on Tenure and Professional Activity (SITPA) Scholar
2016	University of Toledo URFO Summer Research Fellowship
2016	University of Toledo Kohler International Travel Grant
2015	UCLA Bunche Center for African American Studies Graduate Research Travel Grant
2014-15	UCLA Graduate Division Dissertation Year Fellowship
2014	UCLA Center for the Study of Women Graduate Student Travel Grant
2014	UCLA Bunche Center for African American Studies Graduate Research Travel Grant
2013-14	Mellon-Sponsored Graduate Fellowship in Literatures in English
2013-14	UCLA English Department Dissertation Research Fellowship
2013-14	UCLA Institute of American Cultures Research Grant
2013-14	UCLA Graduate Division Travel Grant
2013	UCLA Friends of English Summer Stipend
2007, 2010	Eugene V. Cota-Robles Graduate Fellowship, UCLA Graduate Division

**INVITED TALKS**

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2021	Keynote: "That's the lady put out the 'Hound Dog'": Big Mama Thornton, Autobiographical Self-Fashioning, and the Correction of the Historical Record," American Musicological Society Meeting - Popular Music Study Group, Virtual (November 11-12 & 20-21)
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- 2021 Book Talk: *Fictional Blues: Narrative Self-Invention from Bessie Smith to Jack White*, “Say it Loud”: Black Voices in U.S. Popular Music Studies (co-organizer), Virtual (June 7)
- 2021 Old-Time Music in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Unconference 2: Race, Class, and Gender, The Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University, Virtual (March 12)
- 2021 Book Talk: *Fictional Blues: Narrative Self-Invention from Bessie Smith to Jack White*, Way Public Library, Perrysburg, OH, Virtual (January 12)
- 2020 Book Talk: *Fictional Blues: Narrative Self-Invention from Bessie Smith to Jack White*, Blues and Jazz Dance Book Club, Virtual (December 11)
- 2020 Book Talk: *Fictional Blues: Narrative Self-Invention from Bessie Smith to Jack White*, Popular Music Books in Process Series (co-organizer), Virtual (December 8)
- 2020 Keynote: “‘A Sort of Homecoming’: Finding a Sense of Rock & Roll Belonging As A Black U2 Fan,” The U2 Conference, Heartland: U2’s Looking For American Soul, An International Virtual U2 Conference For Scholars And Fans (October 22)
- 2020 “Big Mama and Amy: Autobiographical Fictions and Addictions,” Arnold Shaw Popular Music Center Lecture Series, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (March 10-11)
- 2017 “When the Blues Come to Town: U2, Gary Clark Jr., and the Blues Apprenticeship,” Everyday Humanities Series at Way Public Library, Perrysburg, OH (February 1)
- 2016 “Ralph Ellison and the 21st-Century Musical Apprenticeship,” Ralph Ellison Seminar, Library of Congress’ Ralph Ellison Reading Room, Washington, DC (June 5-7)
- 2015 “When the Blues Come to Town: U2, Gary Clark Jr., and the Blues Apprenticeship,” Bowling Green State University Ethnomusicology Department Colloquium, Bowling Green, OH (October 30)
- 2015 “Living With Music: Ralph Ellison, Gary Clark Jr., and a 21st-Century Vision of American Blues Expression,” Ralph Ellison and the Territory Symposium, Lewis and Clark College, Portland, OR (February 28)

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

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### Conference Panels/Symposium Organized

- 2021 IASPM-US Plenary: “Calling All Music Writers! Diversity and Inclusion at the IASPM-US Annual Conference,” The International Association for the Study of Popular Music Conference, Virtual (May 19-22)—Chair: Kimberly Mack (University of Toledo); Panelists: Kwame Harrison (Virginia Tech), Eric Hung (Independent Scholar), Kathy Meizel (Bowling Green State University), Kathryn Metz (Oberlin College and Conservatory), Tiffany Naiman (Stanford University), Elijah Wald (Independent Scholar)

- 2020 “The Futures of the Study and Teaching of Literature and Music,” Modern Language Association Conference, Seattle, WA (January 9-12)—Chair/Panelist: Herman Beavers (University of Pennsylvania); Panelists: Kimberly Mack (University of Toledo); Brandy Underwood (University of California, Los Angeles)
- 2019 “Decolonizing Forms: 20th-Century African American Life Writing,” American Studies Association Conference, Honolulu, HI (November 7-10)—Chair/Commentator: Craig Howes (University of Hawai’i at Mānoa); Panelists: Nathalie Aghoro (Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt); Laila Amine (University of Wisconsin, Madison); Co-Organizer/Panelist: Kimberly Mack (University of Toledo); Co-Organizer/Panelist: Melanie Masterton Sherazi (California Institute of Technology)
- 2018 “I Got a Lust for Life”: The Unique Words and Sounds of Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI; Toledo Lucas County Public Library and the Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH (January 20, 2018)—Creator/Lead Organizer: Kimberly Mack (University of Toledo); Co-Organizer: Mysoon Rizk (University of Toledo); Co-Organizer: Joshua Duchan (Wayne State University)
- 2014 “Stomp, Swerve, Rattle, and Roll: Fun and Pleasure as Political Resistance in American Blues Music,” American Studies Association Conference, Los Angeles, CA (November 6-9)—Chair: Daphne Brooks (Yale University); Commentator: Adam Gussow (University of Mississippi); Panelists: Mark Anthony Neal (Duke University), Sonnet Retman (University of Washington), RJ Smith (Independent Scholar), and Kimberly Mack (UCLA)

### Papers Presented

- 2021 IASPM-US Plenary: “Calling All Music Writers! Diversity and Inclusion at the IASPM-US Annual Conference,” The International Association for the Study of Popular Music Conference (organizer, chair), Virtual (May 19-22)
- 2021 IASPM-US Roundtable: “Country Music, Who *Are* You?,” The International Association for the Study of Popular Music Conference, Virtual (May 19-22)
- 2021 “‘It’s our version of *Almost Famous*, huh?’: Towards a Reimagined Canon of Rock Criticism,” Pop Conference, Virtual (April 22-24)
- 2020 “Please Allow Me to Introduce Myself: Autobiographical Blues Self-Fashioning in ‘Sympathy for the Devil,’” Modern Language Association Conference, Seattle, WA (January 9-12)
- 2020 “‘I was astounded at what I heard’: Robert Johnson and the Blues-Rock Memoir,” Modern Language Association Conference, Seattle, WA (January 9-12)
- 2019 “Decolonizing the As-Told-To Autobiography: A Texas Bluesman’s Resistive Autobiographical Narrative,” American Studies Association Conference, Honolulu, HI (November 7-10)

- 2019 Pop Conference Roundtable: "Raise Your Voice: Music and Mass Violence," MoPOP Pop Conference, Seattle, WA (April 11-14)
- 2019 "The Self-Making of a Blueswoman: *The Color Purple's* Squeak and the Power of Autobiographical Narrative," The Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States Conference, Cincinnati, OH (March 21-24)
- 2018 "'And what you leave behind you don't miss anyway': U2's *Pop* and the Pop Art Aesthetic," The U2 Conference, Belfast, Ireland (June 13-15)
- 2018 "*Love Story Black* and the Third Plane Novel," William Demby International Symposium, University of Rome, La Sapienza, Rome, Italy (May 31-June 1)
- 2018 "Living With Music: Ralph Ellison and the 21st-Century Musical Apprenticeship," The Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States Conference, Las Vegas, NV (May 3-6)
- 2018 "She's A Country Girl All Right: Rhiannon Giddens' Powerful Reclamation of Country Culture," The International Association for the Study of Popular Music Conference, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN (March 8-11)
- 2017 "Ralph Ellison's Musical Pedagogies," The International Ralph Ellison Symposium, Oxford University, Oxford, England (September 28-30)
- 2016 "Creating Order Out of Disorder: Robert Johnson's Auto/Biographical Subversions," Modernist Studies Association, Pasadena, CA (November 17-20)
- 2016 "99 Problems and Tidal is One: Jay-Z, the Class Wars, and Authentic Activism," The International Association for the Study of Popular Music, Calgary, Alberta (Canada) (May 28-30)
- 2016 MELUS Women of Color Caucus Forum: "Doing the Literature": Making the Literature Engage with Contemporary Social Movements," The Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States Conference, Charleston, SC (March 3-6) – Invited Moderator/Panelist
- 2015 "Big Mama Thornton, Esther Phillips, and Oral History's Transgressions," EMP Pop Conference, Seattle, WA (April 16-19)
- 2015 "Autobiographical Migrations: *The Color Purple*, *Corregidora*, and the Perilous Road to Self-Invention," The Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States Conference, Athens, GA (April 9-12)
- 2014 "That Natural Blues Man Look": Black Elvis and the Demythologization of the Black Blues Figure," American Studies Association Conference, Los Angeles, CA (November 6-9)
- 2014 "The Politics of Silence and the Withheld in Blues Autobiography," The Futures of American Studies Institute, Hanover, NH (June 16-22)

- 2014 “‘What Did I Do to Be So Black and Blue?’: Ralph Ellison, Mississippi Ham Rider, and the Search for an Individualized Blues Identity,” American Literature Association Conference, Washington, DC (May 22-25)
- 2014 “‘I Respect the Art of the Show’: Jack White and the Art of Self-Invention,” Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference, Chicago, IL (April 16-19)
- 2014 “The Space Between: The Politics of Silence in American Jazz and Blues Fiction,” The Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States Conference, Oklahoma City, OK (March 6-9)
- 2013 “From ‘Sunday Bloody Sunday’ to ‘Angel of Harlem’: Irishness, American Blackness, and U2’s Authentic Performativity,” The U2 Conference, Cleveland, OH (April 26-27)

### CAMPUS TALKS

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- 2021 “Shug, Big Mama, and Amy: Autobiographical Fictions and Addictions,” Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, Featuring Feminist Faculty lecture series, University of Toledo, Toledo, OH (Date TBD)
- 2021 Book Talk: *Fictional Blues: Narrative Self-Invention from Bessie Smith to Jack White*, Department of English Language and Literature, University of Toledo, Virtual (January 29)
- 2016 “When the Blues Come to Town: U2, Gary Clark Jr., and the Blues Apprenticeship,” The Humanities Institute, College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences, University of Toledo, Toledo, OH (March 24)
- 2015 “‘Trouble in Mind’: 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Autobiographical Black American Female Blues Expression,” UCLA Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies Circle of Thought Series, Los Angeles, CA (May 11)
- 2015 “The Long Journey Home: Black Blueswomen’s Autobiographical Self-Invention in Contemporary American Blues Fiction,” UCLA English Department Spring Athenaeum, Los Angeles, CA (April 22)

### MEDIA APPEARANCES

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Interview about book *Fictional Blues* by Nikesha Elise Williams for podcast series *Black & Published*. Posted on July 6, 2021. Archived at: <https://blackpublished.buzzsprout.com/1607503/8513869-correcting-the-record-with-dr-kim-mack>.

Podcast Segment: *All Music is Black Music*. Guitar Gods with St. Vincent. SiriusXM, Pandora, and Stitcher. Posted on June 29, 2021. Archived at: <https://pandora.app.link/GtoJG5B9thb>.

Interview about book *Fictional Blues* by Andy Boyd for podcast series *New Books in Performing Arts*. Posted on February 5, 2021. Archived at: <https://newbooksnetwork.com/fictional-blues>.

Interview about book *Fictional Blues* by Todd L. Burns for *Music Journalism Insider*. Posted on December 20, 2020. Archived at: <https://musicjournalism.substack.com/p/kimberly-mack-interview>.

Quoted in “Ma Rainey Is Best Known as a Pioneer of the Blues. But She Broke More Than Musical Barriers” by Andrew R. Chow. *Time*. December 18, 2020. Archived at <https://time.com/5923096/ma-rainey-true-story/>.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **University of Toledo**

2021	Studies in the Work of An American Author: Ralph Ellison
2021	Contemporary African American Autobiographical Narrative
2021-22	Writing Workshop in Nonfictional Prose
2019-21	English Honors Seminar
2018	Whose Blackness is it Anyway? Race, Identity, and Authenticity in Post-Soul African American Literature and Culture
2017-20	American Minority Writers: 20 <sup>th</sup> -Century African American Literature
2017-19	African American Women Writers
2017	Studies in the Work of an American Author: Alice Walker
2016-22	Contemporary Literary Theories & Criticism
2016-20	Blackness in 20 <sup>th</sup> - and 21 <sup>st</sup> -Century African American Literature
2016	The Autobiographical Impulse in 20 <sup>th</sup> -Century American Blues Literature, Drama, and Music
2015-18	African American Writers-Pre-20 <sup>th</sup> Century
2015-16	Writing About Literature

### **University of California, Los Angeles**

#### Courses Designed and Taught as Instructor

2012-13	Rolling Crowdaddys!: Rock Music and the Emergence of Rock Journalism in the 1960s
2010	Critical Reading and Writing: There’s No Place Like Home: Cultural Assimilation, Citizenship, and the Search for Self
2009	Critical Reading and Writing: Immigration, Forced Exile, and Assimilation

#### Courses Taught as Section Leader

2011-13	America in the Sixties
2010	The American Political Novel
2009	Shakespeare
2008	The American Novel



Teaching as a Graduate Student Mentor

2009-14      UCLA Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies Summer Humanities  
                  Institute

**Antioch University Los Angeles**

2005-07      Educational Foundations  
2006          Style and Argument  
2004-07      Academic Writing  
2006-07      Journeys in Creative Non-fiction  
2005-06      Mixed Genre Creative Writing Seminar  
2005          The Unexpected Arts of Los Angeles  
2004-05      Describing the Wordless in Words: How to Write Effectively about Music  
                  Performance

**Springfield College**

2006-09      Communication Skills I  
2006-09      Integrative Core Seminar I: Education, Oppression, and Social Intervention  
2009          Critical Thinking Through Literature  
2006-08      Creative Writing for Social Change  
2008          The Study of Theatre and Drama in Expressing Social Change and Social Justice  
2007          Film as a Narrative Art  
2006-07      Library Research Methods  
2006          Communication Skills II  
2005          Writing for Human Services (graduate course)  
2004          Music and Empowerment

**National University**

2006-15 - Month-Long On-site and Online Courses Taught Multiple Times

Effective College English I, Effective College English II, Advanced Composition, Information Literacy  
and Report Writing, Information Literacy, Fundamentals of Linguistics

**ACADEMIC SERVICE**

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Service to Profession

2021-22      Member, Program Committee, 2022 International Association for the Study of  
                  Popular Music (IASPM-US) Conference  
2021          Co-Organizer, International Association for the Study of Popular Music (IASPM-US)  
                  Research Seminar, "Say it Loud": Black Voices in U.S. Popular Music Studies  
2020-21      Co-Organizer, Popular Music Books in Process Series, a collaboration between the  
                  *Journal of Popular Music Studies*, the International Association for the Study of  
                  Popular Music (IASPM-US), and the Pop Conference

- 2020 Conference Coordinator, The U2 Conference, Heartland: U2's Looking For American Soul, An International Virtual U2 Conference For Scholars And Fans
- 2019-21 Elected Member, Executive Committee, International Association for the Study of Popular Music (IASPM-US)
- 2017-22 Member, MELUS Women of Color Caucus Coordinating Committee
- 2016-22 Member, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, International Association for the Study of Popular Music (IASPM-US)
- 2015-16 Member, Program Committee, 2016 International Association for the Study of Popular Music (IASPM-US & Canada) Conference

#### Departmental/University Service

- 2020-21 Member, College of Arts and Letters Diversity and Inclusion Committee
- 2020-21 Board Member, University of Toledo Roger Ray Institute for the Humanities (RRIH)
- 2020-21 Member, University of Toledo Department of English Language and Literature Inclusion Committee
- 2020-21 Member, University of Toledo Department of English Language and Literature Graduate Literature Committee
- 2019-21 Honors Advisor and Chair, University of Toledo Department of English Language and Literature Departmental Honors Committee
- 2019-20 Member, University of Toledo Department of English Language and Literature Faculty Search Committee
- 2019-20 Member, University of Toledo Department of English Language and Literature Ad-Hoc Outreach Committee
- 2018-20 Member, University of Toledo Department of English Language and Literature Curricular Committee
- 2018-19 Member, University of Toledo Department of English Language and Literature Faculty Search Committee
- 2017-21 Library Acquisitions Officer, University of Toledo Department of English Language and Literature
- 2016-21 Member, University of Toledo Department of English Language and Literature Summers Lecture Committee
- 2015-19 Member, University of Toledo Department of English Language and Literature Departmental Honors Committee
- 2015-18 Member, University of Toledo Department of English Language and Literature Graduate Studies Committee
- 2015, '17, '19 Guest Speaker, Ph.D. Application Panel, University of Toledo Department of English Language and Literature
- 2014 Moderator, Navigating the Academies: Humanities/Social Sciences Panel, UCLA Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity Graduate Welcome Day
- 2014 Guest Speaker, Living in Los Angeles Panel, UCLA New Graduate Student Orientation
- 2013 Guest Speaker, Graduate Student Funding Panel, UCLA English Department
- 2012 Guest Speaker, UCLA Academic Advancement Program (AAP) Graduate School Panel
- 2010 Guest Speaker, UCLA Summer Programs for Undergraduate Research (SPUR) Graduate School Panel
- 2006-09 Member, Springfield College Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) Committee and WAC Coordinator
- 2008-09 Chair, Springfield College Academic Standards Committee
- 2006-09 Member, Springfield College Undergraduate Admissions Committee

2006-09 Member, Springfield College Graduate Project Committee  
2006, 2008 Member, Springfield College Assistant Dean/Campus Director Search Committee  
2007 Member, Springfield College Coordinator for Student Services Search Committee  
2004-06 Member, Antioch University Los Angeles Academic Writing Course Placement Committee

**RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS**

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20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>-century African American literature, 20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>-century ethnic American literature; 20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>-century American literature, race, autobiography, popular music, popular music criticism, performativity and performance, passing, English composition, creative writing

**LANGUAGE**

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French (advanced reading and translation)

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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Modern Language Association  
The Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States  
The Ralph Ellison Society  
International Association for the Study of Popular Music (US Branch)  
American Studies Association  
International Auto/Biographical Association  
The African American Intellectual History Society  
Association of Literary Scholars, Critics, and Writers  
Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present