

(179 words)

Valerie Boyd is the author of the critically acclaimed biography *Wrapped in Rainbows: The Life of Zora Neale Hurston*, winner of the Southern Book Award and the American Library Association's Notable Book Award. *Wrapped in Rainbows* was hailed by Alice Walker as "magnificent" and "extraordinary"; by the *Boston Globe* as "elegant and exhilarating"; and by the *Denver Post* as "a rich, rich read."

Formerly arts editor at *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Boyd has written articles, essays and reviews for such publications as *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Creative Nonfiction*, *The Oxford American*, *Paste*, *Ms.*, *Essence*, and *Atlanta Magazine*. She is a professor of journalism and the Charlayne Hunter-Gault Distinguished Writer in Residence at the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Georgia, where she founded and directs the new low-residency MFA Program in Narrative Nonfiction.

Boyd is currently curating and editing a collection of Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Alice Walker's personal journals, which span more than 50 years. Simon & Schuster/37 Ink will publish *Gathering Blossoms Under Fire: The Journals of Alice Walker* in 2018.

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TEACHING & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Georgia.

Associate Professor, Charlayne Hunter-Gault Distinguished Writer in Residence.

Teach upper-division undergraduate and graduate writing courses in the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication. Teaching interests include long-form journalism, arts writing, and literary and narrative journalism. Also interested in African-American history, arts and culture, as well as race and gender issues in the media. Recently established a new graduate writing program in Narrative Media Writing, utilizing the low-residency MFA model. The program offers concentrations in Narrative Nonfiction and Screenwriting, and I am the director of Narrative Nonfiction.

Antioch University—Los Angeles.

Associate Faculty Mentor, Fall 2005 to 2007.

Taught a range of graduate students in low-residency MFA program in creative writing. Specialized in teaching and mentoring creative nonfiction students, though I also mentored "genre-jumpers" concentrating in fiction and poetry.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Arts Editor, September 2001 to May 2004.

Responsible for editing the Sunday Arts & Books section of the city's primary daily newspaper, reaching more than 1 million readers weekly. Specific duties included supervising six reporters; conceptualizing and assigning stories; and editing all performing and visual arts articles and reviews for publication in various sections of the newspaper. This position called for a teaching editor, one who could coach and teach writers of various skill levels, making their work stronger for publication.

Previous positions held at The Atlanta Journal-Constitution:

Assistant Editor for Travel and Books; Book Critic, June 1999 to September 2000.

Responsible for editing stories for the Sunday Travel section and Sunday book pages. Also served as a book critic, doing occasional author interviews and writing several fiction and nonfiction book reviews monthly.

Assistant Arts Editor, 1992 to 1995.

Edited all stories for publication in the newspaper's weekly Arts section. Also responsible for writing occasional arts stories, including profiles and book reviews.

Reporter, Southern Task Force, 1991 to 1992.

Part of rotating group of reporters writing primarily about social inequities in Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

Copy Editor, Features Department, 1988 to 1992.

Copy-edited stories and wrote headlines for various feature sections of the newspaper, including daily Living section, weekly Food, Southern Culture and Arts sections.

Copy Editor, International/National Desk, 1985 to 1991.

Edited, on hourly deadlines, international and national copy from The Associated Press and other wire services, as well as from correspondents.

1998 National Black Arts Festival.

Literary Curator, December 1997 to August 1998.

Conceptualized and implemented the literary component of the 10-day celebration, attended by an estimated 1.3 million people. Specific duties included inviting and scheduling more than 65 authors for panel discussions and readings, producing a brochure outlining the festival's literary offerings, managing a sizable budget, and presenting a satisfying artistic program that was also fiscally responsible.

HealthQuest Magazine.

Co-founder and Editor in Chief, 1992 to 1997.

Responsible for directing and monitoring all editorial aspects of the bimonthly, nationally circulated health magazine. Specific responsibilities included conceptualizing each issue, developing and managing a national network of freelance writers and contributing editors, assigning and editing all articles for publication.

EightRock Magabook.

Founder, Editor and Publisher, 1990 to 1994.

Directed all aspects of the annual, nationally circulated journal of arts and culture. Specific duties included conceptualizing each issue, organizing a national network of writers, assigning stories and editing all articles for publication.

Catalyst Magazine.

Assistant Editor, 1989 to 1995.

Line-edited all manuscripts for the biannual, nationally circulated literary magazine.

BOOKS

Wrapped in Rainbows: The Life of Zora Neale Hurston.

Biography published by Scribner to wide critical acclaim in January 2003. Reviewed on the cover of *The New York Times Book Review* and *The Washington Post Book World*. Winner of the 2003 Southern Book Award, the Georgia Author of the Year Award and the American Library Association Notable Book Award.

Gathering Blossoms Under Fire: The Journals of Alice Walker.

I am currently working with Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alice Walker to curate and edit this collection of her personal journals. Across five decades of journal entries—1962 to the present—Walker offers a passionate, intimate record of her development as an artist, activist and intellectual. To be published in 2017 by Simon & Schuster, *Gathering Blossoms Under Fire* will be an intimate self-portrait of a key literary figure of the 20th century, as well as an extraordinary book of social history, told through the lens of one remarkable life.

SELECTED ARTICLES, ESSAYS & REVIEWS

Journal Articles & Book Chapters

"In Conversation: On Writing the Life of Zora Neale Hurston." A chapter in *The Inside Light: New Critical Essays on Zora Neale Hurston* (Praeger Publishers, 2010), edited by Deborah G. Plant.

"'She was just outrageously brilliant': Toni Morrison remembers Toni Cade Bambara." Exclusive interview with Nobel Laureate Toni Morrison, published as a chapter in *Savoring the Salt: The Legacy of Toni Cade Bambara* (Temple University Press, November 2007), edited by Linda J. Holmes and Cheryl A. Wall.

"The Origins of a Classic." Essay commissioned by HarperCollins Publishers as the after-word for a new 2006 paperback edition of Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

"She Was the Party." Biographical essay on Zora Neale Hurston, commissioned by HarperCollins Publishers as the postscript for a new 2006 paperback edition of Hurston's autobiography, *Dust Tracks on a Road*.

"Enter the Negotiators." Journal article exploring Hurston's experience as a student at Barnard College, in *The Scholar & Feminist Online*, Volume 3, Number 2, Winter 2005. Published by the Barnard Center for Research on Women. Special issue, *Jumpin' at the Sun: Reassessing the Life and Work of Zora Neale Hurston*, was inspired by the October 2005 Virginia C. Gildersleeve Conference of the same name.

"Black and Blue." A chapter on the story behind Toni Morrison's novel *The Bluest Eye*. Published in the *Children's Literature Review*, Vol. 99, October 2004.

"Zora Neale Hurston: The Howard University years." *The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education*, Number 39, Spring 2003.

"In search of Alice Walker." *Step Into a World: A Global Anthology of the New Black Literature*. Edited by Kevin Powell. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 2000.

"In search of Alice Walker, or, Alice doesn't live here anymore." A long-form immersion-journalism piece about Eatonton, Ga., Walker's hometown. *Creative Nonfiction*, Issue 12: Emerging Women Writers II, Fall 1998.

"The Ritual." *African-American Review: Black South Issue, Part 1 of 2*. Indiana University Press, 1993.

"Three." *In the Tradition: An Anthology of Young Black Writers*. Edited by Kevin Powell and Ras Baraka. New York: Harlem River Press, 1992.

Magazine Articles, Essays & Reviews

"Where I'm From," a personal essay on growing up in Atlanta in the shadow of the missing and murdered children's crisis of the late 1970s. *Atlanta* magazine, February 2012.

"Mad About Madea," a reported essay about the range of opinions on African-American images in the work of filmmaker Tyler Perry. *Atlanta* magazine, September 2011.

"'The Help,' a feel-good movie for white people," a critical essay on the popular film "The Help." ArtsCriticATL.com, August 2011. Essay was widely quoted and linked to from various sites, including *New York Magazine*, *The Miami Herald*, MSNBC.

"Cassandra Wilson: Mississippi Queen," a Q&A with the acclaimed jazz vocalist. *Paste* magazine, June 2008.

"Dusted Off: Revisiting Toni Morrison's *Sula*," a review / re-assessment of the classic 1973 novel. *Paste* magazine, July 2007.

"Their Eyes Were Watching..." a story about the making of the television adaptation of Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Featuring interviews with the film's executive producer, Oprah Winfrey, and its lead actor, Halle Berry. *Essence* magazine, March 2005.

"Sweet Home Georgia." Review of Pearl Cleage's *Some Things I Never Thought I'd Do*. *Ms.* magazine, Fall 2003.

"Zora & Me: Writing the Life of a Literary Legend." *The New Crisis*, January / February 2003.

"The Writer's Life: Telling Zora's Story." Essay for magazine published by Borders Books & More. *Inside Borders*, February 2003.

"Black and blue: An unforgettable literary debut, *The Bluest Eye* was Toni Morrison's attempt to expel the despair of a generation." *Book* magazine, January / February 2003.

"Goin' South: Reflections on Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*." *Book* magazine, July / August 2002.

"The Last Word: An interview with Toni Morrison on editing Toni Cade Bambara's last novel." *Ms.* magazine, August / September 2000.

"Finding Southern Comfort." Essay on personal experiences as a daughter of the American South. *The Oxford American*, Number 26, March-May 1999.

"American Beach's compelling history." Review of Russ Rymer's *American Beach: A Saga of Race, Wealth, and Memory*. *Emerge* magazine, November 1998.

"Men in shadow of Naylor's women." Review of Gloria Naylor's *The Men of Brewster Place*. *Emerge* magazine, May 1998.

"Connections: Looking for Alice." Essay on Alice Walker and her complicated relationship with her hometown, Eatonton, Ga. *Ms.* magazine, March / April 1998.

Selected Newspaper Articles & Reviews

"Morrison explores many brutal shades of slavery." Review of Toni Morrison's *A Mercy*. *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Nov. 9, 2008.

"Portrait of an artist at war with himself." Review of Arnold Rampersad's *Ralph Ellison: A Biography*. *Los Angeles Times*, May 6, 2007.

"Maryanne Vollers on 'Lone Wolf' Eric Rudolph." Book review of *Lone Wolf: Eric Rudolph—Murder, Myth, and the Pursuit of an American Outlaw*. *Los Angeles Times*, Nov. 26, 2006.

"'I Wanted to Reinvent' Civil Rights Era," a Q&A with author and actress Denise Nicholas about her novel, *Freedom Road*. *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Oct. 14, 2005.

"Cosmic jump shots: Risky stories touch on themes of mortality, basketball." Review of John Edgar Wideman's *God's Gym*. *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Feb. 6, 2005.

"'Love' wears many guises over decades of fraught relationships." Review of Toni Morrison's novel *Love*. *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Oct. 26, 2003.

"Growing up in a tense, fearful time in Atlanta." Review of Tayari Jones' *Leaving Atlanta*. *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Sept. 22, 2002.

"Looking at Lady Day: 'Mystery' delves beyond singer's mythic persona." Review of Farah Jasmine Griffin's *If You Can't Be Free, Be a Mystery: In Search of Billie Holiday*. *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, June 17, 2001.

"A pioneering businesswoman: Descendant reveals C.J. Walker's road to civil rights activity, philanthropy." Review of A'Lelia Bundles' *On Her Own Ground: The Life and Times of Madam C.J. Walker*. *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Feb. 11, 2001.

"Passionate 'Fisher' gets reader hooked." Review of Paule Marshall's *The Fisher King*. *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Nov. 19, 2000.

"Walker looks 'Forward': Candid conversations reveal glimpses of the author." Review of Alice Walker's *The Way Forward Is With a Broken Heart*. *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Oct. 8, 2000.

"Flowing 'Water' with a few pebbles." Review of Helen Elaine Lee's *Water Marked*. *The Washington Post*, Nov. 23, 1999.

"Wideman's writings court basketball, real life." *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Nov. 1, 1998.

"Cleage novel soaring as Winfrey pearl." *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Oct. 27, 1998.

"Faith in herself." Review of Gayl Jones' *The Healing*. *The Washington Post Book World*, March 1, 1998.

"Zora & me: Atlanta biographer describes her quest to tell Hurston's story." *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Jan. 25, 1998.

"Her Emancipation Proclamation." Review of Jill Nelson's *Straight, No Chaser*. *The Washington Post Book World*, Oct. 5, 1997.

“ ‘Exhale’ is here, but wait goes on for black women.” *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Dec. 17, 1995.

“Poet Maya Angelou prays for right words for inauguration.” *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Jan. 8, 1993.

“Global Volunteers bring help home to dirt-poor town: They make repairs, build friendships.” *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Nov. 6, 1991.

“Women filmmakers on calling the shots.” *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, June 11, 1989.

“After decades of urging poetic justice, Sanchez still writing tales of joy, pain.” *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Aug. 26, 1988.

“Making black movies: Atlanta nurtures emerging independent directors.” *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Feb. 21, 1988.

SELECTED PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

I have been invited to lecture at many universities, conferences and libraries. Following is a list of recent or representative presentations.

“How to Write a Book Proposal That Sells—Without Selling Out.” Invited to present this interactive workshop at the 2014 Conference of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association. Chicago, Aug. 24, 2014.

“A Life of Scholarly Service.” Presented the 2014 UNCF-Mellon Rudolph P. Byrd Distinguished Lecture to the international community of young UNCF-Mellon scholars. Emory University, Atlanta, June 5, 2014.

“Zora Neale Hurston: Excavating a Literary Life.” Delivered co-keynote address (with acclaimed journalist Cokie Roberts) for the Pioneer Institute’s Women’s History Month program, “Remember the Ladies: Women in U.S. History, Literature and Schooling.” Boston, March 24, 2014.

“Zora Neale Hurston and the Making of an American Classic.” Zora Neale Hurston Annual Writer’s Conference. Keynote speaker. Bethune-Cookman University School of Arts and Humanities. Daytona Beach, Fla., Feb. 1, 2013.

“Their Eyes Were Watching God” Conference: Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Publication in Zora Neale Hurston’s Hometown. Invited plenary speaker, panelist. Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities, Eatonville, Fla., Sept. 20-21, 2012.

“Teaching Hurston From K to College.” Keynote speaker / master teacher at the “Landmarks of American History” symposium sponsored by the Florida Center for Teachers and the Florida Humanities Council. Rollins College, Winter Park, Fla., June 2012.

“Their Eyes at 75.” Invited speaker for event marking the 75th anniversary of the publication of Zora Neale Hurston’s seminal novel, “Their Eyes Were Watching God.” University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo., March 16, 2012.

"Don't Go Chasing Waterfalls: The Story of Black Women in Hollywood." Invited speaker for Black History Month presentation at Christopher Newport University, Newport News, Va., Feb. 13, 2012.

"Modern Masters." Invited speaker for university-wide literary series. Loyola University of Maryland, Baltimore, Md., Feb. 6, 2012.

"Exploring the Inside Light: Teaching Hurston." Keynote speaker/master teacher at the "Landmarks of American History" symposium sponsored by the Florida Center for Teachers and the Florida Humanities Council. Rollins College, Winter Park, Fla., June 2011.

"An Inspired Relationship." Invited speaker for Big Read event sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts. Columbus Public Library, Columbus, Ga., Feb. 5, 2010.

"Everybody's Zora." Invited panelist for 21st Annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities, Eatonville, Fla., Jan. 28, 2010.

"Zora Neale Hurston and the Eatonville Experience." Invited speaker for grand opening event at Eatonville Restaurant, Washington, D.C., Nov. 15, 2009.

"Zora Neale Hurston and the Inside Light." Invited speaker for Big Read event sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts. Houston Public Library, Houston, Texas, Oct. 31, 2009.

"Their Eyes Were Watching Hurston." Invited speaker for Big Read event sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts. Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn., Oct. 23, 2009.

"Drenched in Light: Teaching Hurston." Keynote speaker at the "Landmarks of American History" symposium sponsored by the Florida Center for Teachers and the Florida Humanities Council. Rollins College, Winter Park, Fla., June 2009.

"Zora Neale Hurston and the Inside Light." Invited speaker and panelist, "Zora Fest '09," the fifth annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival in Fort Pierce, Fla., April 2009.

"Book Proposal Boot Camp: How to Write a Proposal That Sells Without Selling Out." Designed and taught this intensive, interactive two-day workshop to give adult students the tools, knowledge and confidence needed to complete a strong, viable proposal for a nonfiction book. Sponsored by Moksha Unlimited and Charis Circle; presented at the offices of *Paste* magazine. July 2008.

Keynote speaker, "Zora Fest '08: The Harlem Renaissance," the fourth annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival in Fort Pierce, Fla., March 29, 2008.

"Writing the Novelist's Life." Invited lecture for the Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass., Oct. 25, 2007.

"Their Eyes Were Watching...Hurston." Invited lecture for the Charleston County Big Read, a community-wide reading initiative focusing on *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Part of the National Endowment for the Arts' nationwide Big Read, designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. Charleston County Public Library, Main Branch, Oct. 6, 2007.

"Understanding Zora Neale Hurston's Legacy." Invited keynote lecture for Detroit's Big Read, a community-wide conversation about *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Part of the National

Endowment for the Arts' nationwide Big Read initiative. Detroit Public Library, Main Branch, Sept. 22, 2007.

"The Power of Janie: Reflections on *Their Eyes Were Watching God*." Convened panel discussion marking the 70th anniversary of Zora Neale Hurston's classic novel. National Black Arts Festival, Atlanta, July 21, 2007.

"Writing Lives From the Twentieth Century: Literature, Art, and the Spiritual Self." Panelist at the College Language Association National Conference, Miami, Fla., April 19, 2007.

"How to Write and Sell a Book Proposal Without Selling Out." Interactive workshop taught at the 2007 Women, Action and the Media Conference, sponsored by the Center for New Words, Cambridge, Mass., March 30, 2007.

"Telling the Life as a Story: On Zora Neale Hurston." American Literature Association conference on biography, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, Dec. 8, 2006.

"Living Life as a Big Idea: The Case of Zora Neale Hurston." Idea Festival, Louisville, Ky., Oct. 14, 2006.

"Southern Voices." Panel discussion with biographers of Harper Lee and Eudora Welty. Celebration of Books. Tulsa, Okla., Sept. 30, 2006.

"History as Narrative." Panel discussion at the Eighth National Black Writers Conference, Medgar Evers College (CUNY), Brooklyn, N.Y., April 1, 2006.

"Biography as a Spiritual Endeavor: Excavating the Life of Zora Neale Hurston." Presented at Yale University's Literary Biography conference, New Haven, Conn., Oct. 13, 2005.

"Journalists, Historians and the Battle for Biography's Soul." Organized and moderated panel discussion at the 2005 convention of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, San Antonio, Texas, Aug. 10-13, 2005.

"The Same Story Twice: Bringing *Their Eyes Were Watching God* to Television." Organized and moderated panel discussion at the 2005 National Black Arts Festival, Atlanta, July 23, 2005.

Keynote speaker, "ZoraFest: A Homecoming," the 2005 Zora Neale Hurston Festival in Fort Pierce, Fla., May 12-15, 2005.

"Biography Lives," a panel presentation at the 6th Annual Lee County Reading Festival in Fort Myers, Fla., sponsored by the Lee County Library System, March 19, 2005.

"Zora Neale Hurston: Front Porch Lies, Contemporary Truths," a panel discussion at Rutgers University-Newark, March 5, 2005.

"Excavating Hurston's Life." Invited lecture presented at the Live Oak Public Library, Savannah, Ga., Feb. 7, 2005.

"Zora Neale Hurston: Revisiting the Woman and Her Work." Featured speaker, Hurston biography panel, televised throughout the Orlando metro area. 16th annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities, Winter Park, Fla., Jan. 28, 2005.

"Writing the Life of Zora Neale Hurston." A moderated online discussion with educators and high school students from around the country, sponsored by the College Board, Nov. 16, 2004.

"Why Hurston Still Matters." Keynote address at the 21st Annual Network National Conference, Miami, Fla., Nov. 12, 2004.

"The Biographer's Art." Invited lecture presented to more than 200 students and English Department faculty members at Georgia State University, Atlanta, Nov. 11, 2004.

"Zora Neale Hurston: Before and After the Harlem Renaissance." Lecture presented at Xavier University of New Orleans, as part of its Co-Curricular Enhancement Series; sponsored by the Xavier University Endowment for the Humanities, Oct. 28, 2004.

"Literary Tastes: A Notable Books Breakfast." Invited speaker, along with Pulitzer Prize winner Edward P. Jones, at the awards ceremony for the American Library Association's prestigious Notable Book Awards, Orlando, Fla., June 27, 2004.

"Finding the Cosmic Zora." Featured speaker at the American Library Association 2004 Annual Meeting at Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, June 27, 2004.

"Zora and Langston." Invited lecture presented at Emory University symposium, "Langston Hughes: Poet of the People," Atlanta, April 14, 2004.

"How Hurston's Life Informed Her Art." Keynote address to culminate Read Together Palm Beach County, a community-wide literacy effort. West Palm Beach, Fla., April 2004.

Panelist, "A Writer's Profile: Zora Neale Hurston," a discussion of the author's life and work, at the Tennessee Williams Literary Festival, New Orleans, March 2004.

Panelist, Women of Washington book discussion, Washington, D.C., March 2004. Other panelists were Azar Nafisi, best-selling author of *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, and Ann Gerhart, author of *The Perfect Wife: The Life and Choices of Laura Bush*. (Also broadcast on C-SPAN.)

Writer in Residence, UNCW Writers' Week, sponsored by the Creative Writing Department at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington, Wilmington, N.C., March 2004. Met one-on-one with graduate students about their nonfiction works in progress; also gave public reading from *Wrapped in Rainbows* and a lecture on nonfiction writing.

"Writing Southern Intrigue," a panel presentation at the 11th annual *St. Petersburg Times* Festival of Reading. St. Petersburg, Fla., November 2003.

"Sharp Shadows, High Lights, and Smudgy In-Betweens": Narrating the Life of Zora Neale Hurston. Part of the Virginia C. Gildersleeve Conference at Barnard College, "Jumpin' at the Sun: Reassessing the Life and Work of Zora Neale Hurston," with keynote speaker Alice Walker. New York, October 2003.

"Writing the Writer's Life," a presentation at the 2003 Southern Festival of Books. Nashville, Tenn., October 2003.

Featured speaker at The Mount's "Women of Achievement" lecture series. Part of the Edith Wharton Restoration Project. Lenox, Mass., July 2003.

"Reading History, Writing History," a panel presentation at the Southern Conference on Women's History. University of Georgia, Athens, June 2003.

Lecturer, "After Hours" series for students and faculty at the University of North Carolina. Charlotte, N.C., February 2003.

"From Journalist to Author," a lecture to undergraduate, graduate students and faculty at the Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University. Evanston, Ill., February 2003.

"Open Book" lecture, Harold Washington Library. Discussion with high school students to benefit Open Book, a well-respected youth literacy program. Chicago, February 2003.

Simon & Schuster Diversity Council. Book talk and discussion with employees at the major publishing house. New York, February 2003.

"The Future of Black Writing," a panel presentation as part of an annual Celebration of Black Writing. Art Sanctuary, Philadelphia, February 2003.

"Writing Hurston's Life," a book talk and discussion, Howard University. Washington, D.C., January 2003.

"A Glance From God," a book talk and discussion, Enoch Pratt Library. Baltimore, Md., January 2003. (Presentation was taped by Book-TV and has aired several times on C-SPAN.)

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Awarded a 2014-2015 Research Fellowship from the University of Georgia's Willson Center for Humanities and Arts. This university-wide fellowship offers a one-semester course release for research on the collection that I am editing, *Gathering Blossoms Under Fire: The Journals of Alice Walker*.

Received the 2014 Virginia Mary Macagnoni Prize in Innovative Research for current work on *Gathering Blossoms Under Fire*.

Awarded 2010-2011 fellowship from the James Weldon Johnson Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies at Emory University. For research utilizing material from Emory's Alice Walker Archive.

Received a 2007 fellowship from the University of Georgia's Willson Center for the Humanities and Arts for research on ongoing book project, *Spirits in the Dark: The Untold Story of Black Women in Hollywood*.

Wrapped in Rainbows: The Life of Zora Neale Hurston named by the Georgia Center for the Book as one of the "25 Books That All Georgians Should Read."

Winner of a 2004 Notable Book Award from the American Library Association.

Winner of the 2004 Georgia Author of the Year Award in nonfiction.

Wrapped in Rainbows awarded the 2003 Southern Book Award for best nonfiction of the year.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & SERVICE

University of Georgia Press.

Served a three-year term as a member of the Editorial Board of the largest and oldest publisher in the state, which currently publishes 75-80 new books a year and has 1000 titles in print.

ArtsATL.

Current member of the Board of Directors for this online publication, founded by former arts critics of *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

Alice Walker Literary Society.

Founding officer of international organization of Alice Walker scholars and enthusiasts. The AWLS was instrumental in convincing Walker to place her archive at Emory University in Atlanta.

Southern Literary Trail.

Member of Board of Directors for this regional organization, which celebrates the work of writers of classic Southern literature in Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi.

SheWrites.

Served as a judge for this online organization's 2010 Passion Project, a writing contest for emerging women authors of nonfiction.

Hurston/Wright Foundation.

Judge in the 2010 nonfiction category for the organization's prestigious Legacy Awards, which reward excellence among published authors of African descent. Also served as a judge for the 2003 awards; former member of the foundation's board of directors.

National Book Critics Circle.

Served a three-year term (2005-2007) as one of 24 elected board members of this national organization and as a judge for its prestigious National Book Critics Circle Awards.

Atlanta Reads: One Book, One Community.

Member of Steering Committee (2006-2008) formed by Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin to implement a citywide book club to popularize the discussion of literature.

George A. and Eliza Gardner Howard Foundation of Brown University.

Evaluated applications for the foundation's 2005-2006 fellowships in the fields of literary criticism, film criticism and translations into English.

EDUCATION

Goucher College.

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Nonfiction Writing, 1999.

Northwestern University.

Bachelor of Science, Medill School of Journalism, 1985.