

## Debra Walker King, PhD

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Gainesville, FL. 32653

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### Education

1994	Doctor of Philosophy (Interdisciplinary)
Emory University Atlanta, Georgia	African American Studies, African American Lit., Cultural Theory, Certificate in Women's Studies
1989	Master of Arts, English
UNC Charlotte Charlotte, North Carolina	
1981	Bachelor of Arts, English
North Carolina Central University Durham, North Carolina	

### Honors and Awards

- CLAS Humanities Teacher of the Year (2017)
- Recipient, 2008 American Council on Education Fellowship
- PI for \$250,000 Alfred P. Sloan Grant for Faculty Career Flexibility (2006)
- Schomburg Scholar Fellowship (Spring 1999)
- Ford Foundation Post Doctoral Fellowship, NRC (Fall 1998)
- UF College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) Achievement Award (1997, 1999)
- CLAS Teacher of the Year Award (1996-97)
- Florida Board of Regents Research Grant (1995-96)
- Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, NRC (1993-94)
- Patricia Roberts Harris Graduate Fellowship (1989-93)

### Professional Experience: Faculty

2009-Present	Full Professor UF English Department
1999-2009	Associate Professor (tenured) UF English Department
1994-1999	Assistant Professor UF English Department

1994-present  
Affiliate faculty  
UF Women Studies

1994-present  
Affiliate Faculty  
UF African American Studies

### **Professional Experience: Administrative**

2009-2010  
Associate Dean for the Humanities  
UF College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

2005-2009  
Associate Provost Academic Affairs  
and Faculty Development  
UF Office of the Provost

2003-2005  
Associate Provost Academic Affairs  
and Affirmative Action Officer  
UF Office of the Provost

Spring 2002  
Provost Faculty Fellow  
UF Office of the Provost

### **Teaching Interests**

African American Literature, Womanist Race Theory, African  
American Cultural Studies with an emphasis on women, Literary  
and Cultural Theory

### **Courses**

Cultural Diversity in the United States  
African American Literature (parts I and II)  
Toni Morrison's Womanist Thought  
Womanist Intellectual Thought  
Alice Walker's Womanist Thought

Black and White Women Writing About Race  
Nineteenth-Century African American Women  
Black Women / Black Nationalism  
Af. Am. Women and the Culture Critique  
Black Women Writers

## **Scholarship**

### *Major Research Areas:*

African American Cultural and Literary Studies, Language and Culture, Womanist  
Studies (Coalition Building, Body Politics, History and their intersections)

## Publications:

### Single Author Books

- *African Americans and the Culture of Pain*. Charlottesville: Virginia University Press, 2008.
- *Deep Talk: Reading African American Literary Names*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1998.

### Books Edited

- *Body Politics and the Fictional Double*. Editor and single author contributor. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2000.

### Book Chapters

- "The Not-So-Harmless Social Function of a Word that Wounds." in *Handbook of the Sociology of Racial and Ethnic Relations*. Hernán Vera and Joe Feagin, Eds. Springer Science +Business Media, Inc. 2007, 101-114.
- Co-author with Tace Hedrick, "Race Theory and Feminist Women of Color," in *Introducing 21st Century Criticism*. Julian Wolfreys, Ed. Edinburgh, Great Britain: UP, 2002, 57-85.
- "Writing in Red Ink," *Body Politics and the Fictional Double*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, Nov. 2000, 56-70.
- "Harriet Wilson's *Our Nig*: The Demystification of Sentiment." in *Recovered Writers/Recovered Texts*. Dolan Hubbard, Ed. *Tennessee Studies in Literature*. Vol. 38. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1997. 31-45.
- "Alice Walker," "Shug Avery," "Celie," "*The Color Purple*," "*The Third Life of Grange Copeland*," "*The Temple of My Familiar*," "*Brownfield Copeland*," "*Possessing the Secret of Joy*," "*In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens*," Entries in *the Oxford Companion to African American Literature*. William L. Andrews, Frances Smith Foster and Trudier Harris, Eds. New York: Oxford, UP, 1997. pages 749-75, 665, 121, 163-164, 725-726, 718, 107, 597, 386-387

### Articles and Reviews:

- "Boundary Breaking Courage," review of *Southern History Across the Colorline* by Neil Painter and *South of Tradition* by Trudier Harris-Lopez, *Southern Literary Journal*. Spring 2005. Vol. 37.2: 145-151.
- Review of *Recovering the Black Female Body: Self Representations by African American Women*. Michael Bennett and Vanessa D. Dickerson, Eds. *African American Review*. 2002. Vol. 36.1: 150.
- Review of *the Critical Response to Gloria Naylor*. Eds. Sharon Felton and Michelle C Loris. *African American Review*. 1999. Vol. 33.3: 543-45.
- Review of Karla Holloway's *Codes of Conduct: Race Ethics and the Color of Our Character*, *Gainesville Sun*, Jan. 21, 1996.
- Review of John Lowe's *Jump at the Sun: Zora Neale Hurston's Cosmic Comedy*. *African American Review*. 1996. Vol. 30.3: 481.
- "Just Can't Find the Words: How Expression is Achieved." *Philosophy and Rhetoric: A Quarterly Journal*. 1991. Vol. 24.1: 54-72.

- “Reading the ‘Deep Talk’ of Literary Names and Naming.” *Names: The Journal of the American Name Society*. 42:3 (Sept 1994): 181-199.

### **Invited Lectures, Conferences, Interviews & Presentations (selected)**

- Interviewee in the special issue of *CLAJ*, "'We Were Not Invented Yesterday': Conversations on Being Black Women in English."
- “African Americans and the Culture of Pain: the Lecture,” Invited lecturer, Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) Educational Seminar 2016, Charles R. Drew University Los Angeles, California. (Sept 9-10, 2016).
- “The Globalization of Womanist Intellectual Thought,” Undergraduate class. Shanghai University, Shanghai, China. June 2015.
- “In My Skin,” Symposium Lecture. Shanghai University, Shanghai, China. June 16, 2015.
- “Alice Walker’s Womanism,” Invited graduate class lecture, Nanjing Normal College, Nanjing, China. June 25, 2015.
- “Sankofa!” Keynote Address. University of Florida. Black History Week Opening Ceremony. January 30, 2015.
- “What if this Was My Last Lecture,” University of Florida MLK Week Kick-off Ceremony. January 13, 2015.
- “Why I Wrote *African American’s and the Culture of Pain*.” Georings Author’s Speaker’s Series. 2008.
- “The Mythico-Ritual Logic and Technology of Blackpain,” School of Literature, Communication and Culture. Invited Lecture. Georgia Institute of Technology. November 26, 2007.
- “From Shakespeare and Morrison to You,” Keynote Address. Sante Fe Community College, College Achievement Program, Closing Award Ceremony. Office of Diversity, Division of Student Affairs. August 9, 2007.
- “Nigga, Please’: Call’n and Claim’n Words that Hurt,” Session Title: From Bebop to Hip Hop: New Languages and Cultures,” College Language Association Conference, Athens Georgia. April 8, 2005.
- “Callin’ and Claimin’ Words that Hurt.” Paper presented at the Fourth Annual Conference of the Center for the Study of Race and Race Relations. Gainesville, Florida. March 28, 2003.
- Alumni Speaker, 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of African American Studies at Emory University, February 2002.
- “Rising to the Occasion: A Treatise on Being the Best of the Best,” Keynote Speaker, Beta Eat Sigma Honor Society. University of Florida, November 18, 2001.
- “Defining Black Pain as a Cultural Metaphor,” Schomburg Library Fellows Speaker’s Series, New York, February 1999.
- Session Moderator and Speaker. “Race in the Classroom.” 1998 Ford Conference of Fellows. Irvine, California. October 15-17, 1998.
- “Writing the Body, Reading the Flesh: Images of Captivity in Black Women’s Novels.” UF Women’s Studies Speaker’s Series. March 4, 1996.
- “Names and Naming in African American Literature.” UF Women’s Studies Speaker’s Series. February 22, 1995.

- “The Story of A God”: Reading Names in Zora Neal Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Session Title: Language, Literature and Linguistics. 1995 Conference of Ford Fellows. Washington, DC. October 13, 14 1995.
- “Don’t Call Him Boy, Girlfriend: Names and Naming in African American Literature.” Modern Language Association of America Conference. Toronto, Canada, December 1993.
- “Callin’ Her Out Her Name: Names and Naming in Dessa Rose” Session Title: “Language and Style in the Works of J. California Cooper, Sherley Anne Williams and Alice Childress.” College Language Association Conference, Daytona Beach, Florida, April 1-3, 1993.
- “*Our Nig*: The Demystification of Sentiment.” Session Title: “Nineteenth Century Afro-American Narratives.” College Language Association Conference, Knoxville, Tennessee, April 9-11, 1992.
- “Raising the Spirit: African American Women’s Fiction as Film.” Session Title: “Dismantling the Veil: The Poetics of Cultural Redefinition in Black Film, Fiction, and Drama.” College Language Association Conference, Columbia, South Carolina, April 17-20, 1991.
- “Teaching Transitional Students: Survival Strategies and Communication Skills.” Session Title: “English and Other Life Skills.” College Language Association Conference, Columbus, Ohio, April 18-21, 1990.

#### **National Conference Organization and Leadership**

- Planning Committee. American Council on Education Fellows Conference (2009-2011)
- MLA Delegate Assembly Member, representing Region V (2004-2006)
- Conference Organizer and Co-Chair. 1997 Ford Conference of Fellows. Washington D.C. Theme: “The Power of Diverse Unity.” October 16, 17 1997
- Planning Committee. 1998 Ford Conference of Fellows. Irvine, California. October 16, 17 1997
- Planning Committee. 1996 Ford Conference of Fellows. Irvine, California. Theme: Mobilizing Our Collective Intellectual Power. October 4, 5 1996
- Session Chair. “African and African American Drama.” Comparative Drama Conference. University of Florida, March 22-25, 1995
- Session Chair and Respondent. Session Title: “Teaching African American Literature: Problems, Politics, and Pedagogy.” College Language Association Conference, Durham, North Carolina, April 13-16, 1994

#### **Selected University of Florida Service**

Department:

English Department Council (2016-present)  
 Search Committee (1997, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2016-17)  
 Tenure and promotion Committee (elected 2012- 2015)  
 General Education Committee (1995-2003; present)  
 Undergraduate Studies Curriculum Committee (1994-2000)  
 English Society Faculty Advisor (1996-1998)  
 Lecturers' Committee (1994-1995)

College:

African-American Studies Affiliate Faculty (1994-Present)

Women's Studies Affiliate Faculty (1994-Present)  
College Curriculum Committee (2009-10)  
Search Committee for CLAS Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs (2004)  
Search Committee for Director of African American Studies (2004)  
Search Committee for Associate Dean for Minority Affairs (2003)  
Search Committee Dean College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (2000-01)  
2 and 4-Year Scholar Selection Committee (2000, 2002, 2003)  
Women's Studies Curriculum Committee (2001)  
Women's Studies Executive Board (1996-1999)  
"Teacher of the Year" Evaluation Committee (1997-98)

University:

University Curriculum, Committee (2009-10)  
University of Florida NCAA Recertification Steering Committee.—Chair,  
Equity & Student Welfare Committee (2006-07)  
Minority Retention and Recruitment Council -Ex-Officio (2004-2006)  
Title IX Committee (chair 2004-2007)  
Affirmative Action Council -Ex-Officio (2004)  
Minority Mentor Program Council -Ex-Officio (1997-2000, 2004-2006)  
Provost Committee on Diversity (2004)  
Search Committee for Dean of Health and Human Performance (2004)  
Committee on the Collections, Harn Museum of Art (2004-2007)  
Research Liaison for Presidential Task Force on Strategic Planning (2002)  
University Center for Excellence in Teaching Executive Board (1998-2002; Ex-  
Officio (2004)  
Minority Mentor Program Cluster Leader  
Managing and coordinating the group activities of faculty and students  
assigned to them (1997-2000, 2006-07)  
UF Women's Studies Executive Board (1995-2000)  
University Minority Mentor Program Mentor (1996-99)

Community:

Ordained Itinerate Deacon of the AME Church (2017-present)  
East Gainesville Alliance (2004-05)  
Board of Directors, Gainesville Council on the Status of Women (1995-98)  
Gainesville Council on the Status of Women, Ed. Com. co-chair (1996-98).

**Other Professional Service (Selected)**

- Reader *National Political Science Review* (2017)
- Reader The Ohio State University (2017)
- Reader. *Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture and Society* (2014)
- Reader. Ashgate Publishing (2012, 2013)
- Reader. University of Illinois Press (2012, 2013)
- Reader. *Multimedia Journal of Black Studies* (2012)
- Reader. University Press of Florida (1995, 2002)
- Reader. Oxford, UP (2000, 2001 )
- Reader. *Names: A Journal of Onomastics* (1995, 1996, 2001)
- Reader: Outside tenure reviewer. Smith College (2013)

- Reader: Outside reviewer. SUNY, Albany, Women's Studies. (2007)
- Reader: Outside reviewer. Penn State University, English Dept. (2006)
- Reader: Outside reviewer. Univ. of Oklahoma, English Dept. (2003)
- Reader: Outside reviewer. Louisiana State Univ., English Dept. (2001)
- Reader. *Feminist Studies* (1998)

### **Organization Affiliations**

- College Language Association
- Modern Language Association