

# RHONDDA ROBINSON THOMAS, PHD

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## FACULTY POSITIONS

Full Professor, Department of English, Clemson University, 2021 – present  
Creativity Professorship, College of Architecture, Arts, and Humanities, Clemson University, 2020 – 2022  
Calhoun Lemon Professor of Literature, Clemson University, 2018 – present  
Associate Professor, Department of English, Clemson University, 2014 – 2018  
Assistant Professor, Department of English, Clemson University, 2008 – 2014  
Call My Name Project, Faculty Director, 2007 – present  
Visiting Assistant Professor/Postdoc, Department of English, Clemson University, Fall 2007  
Assistant Professor, Department of Communication/English, Washington Adventist University, 1990-1998

## EDITORIAL POSITIONS

Co-Chair, Committee on Scholarly Editions, Modern Language Association, Spring 2023 – present  
Editorial Board, *Early American Literature*, 2021 – present  
African American Literature Series co-editor, Clemson University Press, 2014 – present  
Editorial Board, *South Atlantic Review*, 2017 – present

## EDUCATION

PhD, English, University of Maryland, College Park, 2007  
MA, Literature, University of New Hampshire, Durham, 2000  
MS, Journalism, minor in History, University of Georgia, 1988  
BS, Communication-Journalism, Minor in English, Washington Adventist University, 1983

## SPECIAL TRAINING

Podcast Storytelling, StoryCenter (Online Workshop), February 2023  
Diversity Leadership Institute Fellow, The Riley Institute, Furman University, Greenville, SC, January – May 2022  
Digital Storytelling Workshop, StoryCenter, Berkeley, CA, July 2019  
Oral History Intensive: Reciprocity, Repatriation, and Archives, Oral History School, Hudson New York, June 2019

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century African American literature and culture, auto/biographical scholarship, African American literature and the Bible, African American historiography

## MONOGRAPHS

*Call My Name, Clemson: Documenting the Black Experience in an American University Community*, Humanities and Public Life Series, University of Iowa Press, November 2020. Winner of honorable mention in 2021 book awards by National Council on Public History.  
*Claiming Exodus: A Cultural History of Afro-Atlantic Identity, 1774-1903*, Baylor University Press, 2013.

*The Voices of Black Clemson: Silenced No More*, under contract at University of Georgia Press.

### **EDITOR OF SCHOLARLY VOLUME/EDITION**

*Rhetoric, Public Memory, and Campus History*, Clemson University Press-Liverpool University Press, 2022.

*African American Literature in Transition, 1750-1800*, vol. 1, Cambridge University Press, 2022.

Jane Edna Hunter, *A Nickel and a Prayer* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1941), Vol. 2 of Regenerations Series, Morgantown: West Virginia University Press, 2011.

### **CO-EDITOR OF ANTHOLOGY**

*The South Carolina Roots of African American Thought, A Reader*, co-edited with Susanna Ashton, Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2014.

*Completing Clemson History*, co-edited with Joshua Catalano, under contract at Clemson University Press-Liverpool University Press.

### **ESSAYS OR CHAPTERS IN SCHOLARLY COLLECTION / JOURNAL**

“The Unfinished Work of Clemson University: Full Recognition for Black Citizens in Its History,” invited essay, *Lincoln’s Unfinished Work: From Generation to Generation*, Louisiana State University Press, 2022.

“Black Life Writing and Print Culture Before 1800,” invited essay, *A History of African American Autobiography*, Cambridge University Press, 2021.

“Call My Name: Utilizing Biographical Storytelling to Reconceptualize the History of African Americans at Clemson University,” invited essay, Special Issue – Biographic Mediation: the Uses of Disclosure in Bureaucracy and Politics, *Biography*, fall 2019.

“Locating Slave Narratives,” (invited essay, *Oxford Handbook of the African- American Slave Narrative*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.

### **PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES**

“Reconstruction, Public Memory, and the Making of Clemson University on John C. Calhoun’s Fort Hill Plantation,” *American Literary History*, July 2018.

“‘Slaves of the State’: Convict Labor and Clemson University Land and Legacy,” *South Carolina Review*, Spring 2014.

“*The First Negro Priest on Southern Soil: the Rev. George Freeman Bragg, Jr. and Black Episcopalians’ Struggle in the South, 1827-1909*,” invited essay, Jubilee Edition of *Southern Quarterly*, fall 2012.

“Exodus and Colonization: Charting the Journey in the Journals of Daniel Coker, a descendant of Africa,” *African American Review*, fall 2007.

### **GUEST CO-EDITOR FOR JOURNAL**

*The South Carolina Review*: “Locating African American Literature,” themed issue of peer-reviewed journal co-edited with Angela Naimou, Clemson University Digital Press, Spring 2014.

### **WEB ARTICLES**

“Call and Respond to Call My Name, Clemson,” History@Work blog, National Council of Public History, fall 2021, <https://ncph.org/history-at-work/call-and-respond-to-my-name-clemson/>.

“Why Charleston?” *The Conversation*, June 26, 2015, <https://theconversation.com/why-charleston-43821>.

## BOOK/WEBSITE REVIEWS

*Slavery at South Carolina College, 1801-1865: the Foundation of the University of South Carolina*, (<https://delphi.tcl.sc.edu/library/digital/slaveryscc/index.html>) *South Carolina Historical Magazine*, 2017.

Celeste-Marie Bernier, *Characters of Blood: Black Heroism in the Transatlantic Imagination* (2012), *Journal of American History*, April 2013.

J. William Harris's *The Hanging of Thomas Jeremiah: A Free Black Man's Encounter with Liberty* (2009) and Jack Shuler's *Calling Out Liberty: The Stono Slave Rebellion and the Universal Struggle for Human Rights* (2009), *South Carolina Review*, fall 2010.

## DIGITAL HUMANITIES PROJECTS AND ONLINE MEDIA

*Call My Name: African Americans in Clemson University History, 1825-1973* project online launch site ([www.callmyname.org](http://www.callmyname.org)) and Facebook page ([Call My Name: African Americans in Clemson U History](#)).

*Convict Labor and Clemson*, [Academic Minute](#).

*The Jane Edna Hunter Project* website ([www.jehproject.com](http://www.jehproject.com)) and Facebook page ([The Jane Edna Hunter Project](#)).

## EXHIBITS

*The Black Experience in the South Carolina Upstate from Enslavement to Desegregation*, traveling museum exhibition that tells the stories of six generations of African Americans at Clemson University and the interconnected stories of African American residents and institutions in local communities, forthcoming in 2023.

*Call My Name: The Making of the Black Clemson Community* exhibition preview, February 2020 – August 2021, Cooper Library, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Clemson University, Clemson, SC.

*In Their Steps*, photographs that trace the pathways of enslaved Africans and African Americans throughout the African Diaspora. *Race and the University: A Campus Conversation*, Lee Hall, Acorn Gallery, Clemson University, November 10-14, 2014.

## PLAY PERFORMANCE

*The Call My Name Project* play, developed in collaboration with The Tectonic Theater Project, New York City, and with the support of the College of Architecture, Arts, and Humanities; the Office of the Provost; the Department of Performing Arts; the Department of English; Global Black Studies Program; and the Humanities Hub at Clemson University. Staged Readings, Bellamy Theater, Brooks Center for Performing Arts, Clemson University, Clemson SC, January 2023

## RESEARCH GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, GIFTS, AND AWARDS

### *External Sponsored Research*

Clemson University African American History Video Project, National Park Service, \$55,625, May 2024.

Writer-in-Residence (2 weeks), Serenbe Art Farm, Palmetto, GA, August 2023 and November 2023.

Black Heritage Trail, co-directed with Shelby Henderson, City of Seneca, and Angela Agard, City of Clemson, Call My Name Coalition/Clemson University, Mellon Foundation, \$3.44 million 3-year grant, January 2023.

- Reconstructing the Black Archive: South Carolina as Case Study, 1739-1895*, co-director with Susanna Ashton, and Kaniqua Robinson and Gregg Hecimovich of Furman University, National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute grant, \$587,811, October 2022.
- My STEM My Story*, co-PI with Renee Lyons and Corliss Outley, National Science Foundation, \$1,916,958 3-year grant, August 2022.
- Oconee County and Pickens County African American Heritage Sites Database, Planning Grant, SC Humanities, \$2,000 matching grant, December 2021 – August 2022.
- Exploring America's Stories in the Clemson Landscape: An NEH American Rescue Plan Grant, co-PI with Lee Morrissey and David Marcus, National Endowment for the Humanities, \$199,967, October 2021.
- CARES Act Grant, with co-PI Lee Morrissey, to fund post-doctoral position for 2020-2021 academic year, National Endowment for the Humanities, \$30,000, June 2020.
- Public Humanities Exhibitions: Implementation Grant, with co-PI Lee Morrissey, "The Black Experience in the South Carolina Upstate from Enslavement to Desegregation," National Endowment for the Humanities, \$400,000, April 2020.
- Common Heritage Grant, with co-PI Lee Morrissey, Digitizing African-American Heritage in the Greater Clemson, South Carolina, Community, National Endowment for the Humanities, \$11,165, December 2018.
- African American History, Culture and Digital Humanities Scholar, University of Maryland, Spring 2019.
- Whiting Foundation Public Engagement Fellowship, *Black Clemson: From Enslavement to Integration*, a traveling museum exhibition, \$50,000, Fall 2018.
- Creating Humanities Communities Challenge Grant, "Call My Name," with co-PI Lee Morrissey director of the Clemson University Humanities Hub, National Endowment for the Humanities, \$30,000 (over 5 years), August 2017.
- Matching Planning Grant, "Black Clemson," South Carolina Humanities, \$2,000, July 2017.
- Gift, Clemson University Foundation, *Call My Name: African Americans in Early Clemson University History, 1825-1973* project, October 2018 (\$10,000), July 2017 (\$25,000) and November 2014 (\$50,000).
- Fellow, "Hearing the Inarticulate: Ethics and Epistemology in the Archives," Seminar and Writing Retreat, Prindle Institute for Ethics at DePauw University, June 2016. (Covered all expenses + \$500 stipend).
- Tuition Scholarship, Digital Humanities Summer Institute, "Geographical Information Systems in the Digital Humanities" course, University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, June 2014. (Covered 80% of tuition).
- Matching Grants, Pendleton Foundation for Black History and Culture and the Pendleton Historic Foundation, Jane Edna Hunter documentary, April 2014 (\$2,500 each).
- Fellow, National Endowment for the Humanities Institute, *African-American History and Culture in the Georgia Lowcountry*, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, June 2013 (\$2,100).
- Project Start-up Grant, Jane Edna Hunter Documentary, South Carolina Humanities, December 2012 (\$2,000).
- Fellow, National Endowment for the Humanities Institute, *The Role of Place in African American Biography*, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, North Adams, MA, June-July 2011 (\$3,300).
- Clemson University Team, Transforming Community Project National Workshop, Emory University, Atlanta, February 2011. (Covered hotel, per diem, and registration expenses)
- Other Sponsored Research*
- Recurring Funds, The Call My Name Project, Clemson Athletics, \$30,000 annually, 2024

Recurring Funds, The Call My Name Project, College of Architecture, Arts, and Humanities, Clemson University, \$5,000 annually, 2022-2024

Grant, The Voices of Black Clemson, play production, Office of the Provost and College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities, Clemson University (\$20,000 each = \$40,000), Spring 2021.

Matching Grant, *Call My Name: African Americans in Early Clemson University History, 1825-1973* project, Office of the Provost, Clemson University, December 2017 (\$60,000) and November 2014 (\$50,000).

Diversity Incentive Grant, Contemplative African American Heritage Tour of Clemson University, Office of Inclusion & Equity, Clemson University, 2016-2017 academic year (\$5,000).

Humanities Advancement Board Grant, *Mapping the Clemson Story: Reconnecting Time and Place through Historical Narrative Project*, with co-PI David White – Research Professor of Electrical and Computing Engineering, October 2014 (\$3,750).

Lightsey Fellowship, Jane Edna Hunter Project, College of Arts, Architecture, and Humanities, Clemson University, Spring 2013 (\$4,000).

URGC Project Completion Grant, Themed Issue of *South Carolina Review*, College of Architecture, Arts, and Humanities, Clemson University, Spring 2013 (\$3,000).

College Research Grant, College of Architecture, Arts, and Humanities, Clemson University, 2013 – 2014, 2010 – 2011 (\$3,000 each).

Faculty Research Completion and Support Award, Department of English, Clemson University, January 2013 (\$750) and February 2012 (\$808).

Diversity Incentive Grant, Chief Diversity Office, Clemson University, January 2013 (\$1,600).

Project Grant, African American Documentary: The Jane Edna Hunter Story, Pearce Center for Professional Communication, Clemson University, Summer 2013 and Summer 2012 (\$1,000 each).

Research Travel Grant for Creative Inquiry Team, Humanities Advancement Board, College of Architecture, Arts & Humanities and Department of English, Clemson University Foundation, February 2012 and Fall 2008 (\$3,000 each).

Project Grant, *The South Carolina Roots of African American Thought, A Reader*, Pearce Center for Professional Communication, Clemson University, Fall 2011 (\$1,000).

Women's Studies Travel Grant, Clemson University, Summer 2008 (\$500).

### *Awards*

UNITE Award, Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) and Clemson Athletics, 2023.

Fresh Voices in the Humanities award, South Carolina Humanities, 2022.

Class of 1939 Award for Excellence, Faculty Senate, Clemson University, 2021.

Senior Researcher of the Year, Clemson University, 2021.

Senior Researcher of the Year, College of Architecture, Arts, and Humanities, Clemson University, 2021.

Honorable Mention for *Call My Name, Clemson: Documenting the Black Experience in an American University Community*, 2021 Book Awards, National Council on Public History, February 2021.

Algernon Sydney Sullivan Non-Student Award, given in recognition of the recipient's influence for good, excellence in maintaining high ideals of living, and service before self, Clemson University, Student Affairs Division, April 2020.

Preserving Our Places in History Project Award for *Call My Name*, South Carolina African American Heritage Commission, February 2020.

Holman Research Award for outstanding and extraordinary achievement during past three years, Department of English, Clemson University, Spring 2020.

Clemson University Research, Scholarship and Artistic Achievement Award, Spring 2019.  
James E. Bostic, Jr. Diversity and Inclusive Excellence Award, Chief Diversity Office, Clemson University, October 2015 (\$1,000).

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

### *Chair*

- “Diversifying Scholarly Editions,” roundtable, Modern Language Association, New Orleans, January 2025.
- “Archival Research Methods and Strategies for Documenting Historic Cemeteries,” facilitated conversation, co-chair, Historic Cemeteries and the University: The Power of Place and Community virtual symposium, October 2021
- “Slavery, Its Legacies, and the Built Landscape of South Carolina Universities,” Architectures of Slavery: Ruins and Reconstructions, Panel facilitator, College of Charleston, October 2019.
- “Early American Literature in Transition I,” SEA2019, Eugene, OR, February 2019.
- “Clemson University Confronts its Past,” Slavery, Resistance and Community, Slave Dwelling Project Conference, Middle Tennessee State University, October 2018.
- “Retain or Remove?: Memorialization of Slaveholders, Supremacists, and Segregationists at Clemson University,” Roundtable Moderator/Presenter, Universities, Slavery, Public Memory, and the Built Landscape Symposium, University of Virginia, October 2017.

### *Respondent*

- “Taking Stock of 18th-Century African American Literature in Transition,” Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture, June 2017.

### *Panelist*

- “Common Study: Making Public Humanities,” roundtable, Modern Language Association Conference, San Francisco, January 2023.
- “Uncovering, Preserving, Sharing and Celebrating Local African American History,” International Town and Gown Conference, Clemson University, Clemson, SC, June 2022.
- “Literatures of Reconstruction and their Resonances for the Present,” roundtable, Modern Language Association, Washington, DC, January 2022.
- “Historically White Colleges and Universities Confront their Racial Pasts” roundtable [session cancelled due to COVID-19], National Council on Public History Conference, Atlanta, March 2020.
- “Routes and Roadblocks: Considerations of Home, Migration, and Belonging in Publicly Engaged Humanities Projects,” Panelist, National Humanities Conference, Honolulu, HI, November 2019.
- “Creating Humanities Communities’ NEH Challenge Grant: ‘Call My Name’ at Clemson University, South Carolina,” Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes Conference, Dublin, Ireland, June 2019.
- “Call My Name: Using Digital Storytelling to Commemorate the Contributions of Black Americans in Clemson University History,” Intentionally Digital, Intentionally Black Conference, University of Maryland, October 2018.
- “Unremembering the “Controversial” Stories of Enslaved Peoples on John C. Calhoun’s Fort Hill Plantation,” for the (Re)Presenting and (Re)Constructing the Silences and Stories of Bondage: Slavery, Memory, and Public Spaces Panel, Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora Conference, Seville, Spain, November 2017.

- “Teaching the Literatures of the American Civil War,” invited panelist, Modern Language Association Conference, Philadelphia, January 2017.
- “Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Public Memory and Commemoration of Racial Violence: Convict Labor and the Building of Clemson University,” invited panelist, Southern Historical Association Conference, St. Petersburg Beach, FL, November 2016.
- “Recovering Jane Edna Hunter Digitally,” Teaching Recovered Women Writers: Digital Options Roundtable, invited panelist, American Literature Association Conference, San Francisco, May 2016.
- “Campus History as Public History,” Working Group, National Council of Public Historians Conference, Baltimore, March 2016.
- “Of Slaves, Sharecroppers, and Convict Laborers: Unsettling Clemson University’s Public History,” 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Black Lives Matter: Unsettling Interventions in African American Literary and Cultural Studies Panel, C19 Conference, Pennsylvania State University, March 2016.
- “Like Father, Like Daughter: The Impact of John C. Calhoun’s ‘Slavery as Positive Good’ Ideology on Anna Calhoun Clemson, Mistress and Education Philanthropist,” International Conference on Women, Religion and History, The Oxford Round Table, Harris Manchester College, the University of Oxford, Oxford, England, July 2015.
- “Plantation House or Historic Home? Remembering the ‘Controversial’ History of Masters Calhoun and Clemson’s Fort Hill at Clemson University,” National Council on Public History Conference, Nashville, TN, April 2015.
- “Reconstructing 19<sup>th</sup>-Century African American Life in Upcountry South Carolina through the Archives,” African American Expression in Print and Digital Culture Conference, University of Wisconsin, September 2014.
- “Locating Slave Narratives,” Reframing Slave Narratives—A Roundtable in Honor of William L. Andrews, C19 Conference, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, March 2014
- “Slaves, Sharecroppers, and Convicts: Recovering the Story and Legacy of Slavery in the Making of Clemson University,” RCID Research Forum, Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina, March 2014.
- “The Pit or Prosperity?: *The Christian Recorder*, African-American Josephs, and the American Dream in the Nadir” for Literary Crossroads: African American Literature and Christianity panel, Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago, January 2104. (Declined, scheduling conflict).
- “From John C. Calhoun’s Fort Hill Plantation to Clemson College: The Legalities of the Legacy of Slavery and the University of Upstate South Carolina,” American Society of Legal History Conference, Miami, November 2013.
- “Lincoln—Pharaoh or Moses?: Henry Turner, John Rock, and Robert Smalls Re-envision the Civil War,” Association for the Study of African American Life and History Conference, Jacksonville, Florida, October 2013.
- “Racial Leadership and the Place of African Americans: The Joshua-Mosaic Model in an American Promised Land,” The Collegium for African American Research Conference, Agnes Scott College, Decatur, Georgia, March 2013.
- “The South Carolina Roots of Black Female Social Activism: Mary McLeod Bethune, Septima Clark, Marian Wright Edelman, and Jane Edna Hunter,” Association for the Study of African American Life and History Conference, Pittsburgh, September 2012.
- “A Literary Scholar Digs Up Du Bois’ Past: Integrating Place into the African American Literature Classroom,” In Search of W.E.B. Du Bois, Great Barrington’s Native Son panel, College Language Association Conference, Atlanta, March 2012.

- “African American Writers and the King James Bible,” invited panelist, The King James Bible and its Cultural Afterlife Conference, The Ohio State University, May 2011. (Declined due to scheduling conflict.)
- “From John C. Calhoun’s Plantation to Clemson College: Recovering History in Plain Sight,” University Land and Slavery: the Soul of Clemson panel, Slavery and the University: History and Legacies Conference, Emory University, February 2011.
- “The Economics of Social Welfare: White Philanthropists, Black Donors, and Jane Edna Hunter’s Phillis Wheatley Association,” Association for the Study of African American Life and History Conference, Raleigh, NC, September 2010.
- “The Power of Everyday Liminal Space in African American Migrations from Slavery to Freedom,” Power and Place in African American History, 4<sup>th</sup> Annual New Perspectives on African American History and Culture Conference, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, February 2010.
- “Maria as Moses: Reconsidering the Writings of Maria Stewart through the Lens of Exodus.” Northeast Modern Language Association Convention, Boston, February 2009.
- “Afro-Atlantic Joseph: Quobna Cugoano’s *Thoughts and Sentiments* Regarding Slavery and Home in an English Egypt.” College Language Association Conference, Charleston. April 2008.

### **INVITED LECTURES, PANELISTS AND RESPONSES (SPONSOR PAID FOR ALL EXPENSES)**

- Invited Panelist:* “Journey to the International African American Museum and Beyond,” Bernard Powers, Willie T. Smith Lecture Series, The Delta Beta Boulé of the Upstate South Carolina, University of South Carolina Upstate, May 24, 2024.
- Invited Speaker:* “The Lynching of Willie Earle,” *Just Sharing: Building Community through Stories of Our Past*, Francis Marion University, Florence, SC, May 21, 2024.
- Invited Panelist:* “Organizations Supporting the Creation and Circulation of Knowledge,” American Council of Learned Societies/National Endowment for the Humanities, virtual, May 13, 2024.
- Invited Speaker:* Keynote for “Recovering Auraria’s Past: Building a Digital Tour of a Displaced Neighborhood and Reckoning with Campus History,” University of Colorado-Denver, March 27, 2024
- Invited Speaker:* “Variations on a Theme: Evoking Call and Response for Call My Name,” Reynolds Homestead and Virginia Tech, March 11-13, 2024.
- Invited Speaker:* “‘Slavery a Positive Good?’: Resistance within the Enslaved Community at John C. Calhoun’s Fort Hill Plantation,” *Just Sharing: Building Community through Stories of Our Past*, Drayton Plantation, Charleston, SC, February 11, 2024.
- Invited Panelist:* “The Invisible Campus Comes to Light,” Visibility, Social Mobility, Success for Women’s Leadership Conference, Agnes Scott College, October 2023.
- Invited Panelist:* “Truth and the Revelation of Freedom,” Juneteenth GVL, Greenville, SC, June 2023
- Invited Panelist:* “Archives and Special Collections,” Anti-Racism Webinar Series, Virtual Library of Virginia, October 2022
- Invited Panelist:* “Remedying the Silences of the Archive in Biographical Studies,” Picture a Scholar, Women’s Celebration Month Program, Clemson University, March 2022.
- Invited Panelist:* “Micah 6:8: Remembering! Increasing Empathy & Healing Trauma through Untold Black Stories,” Zoom, Loma Linda University, February 2022
- Invited Keynote Speaker:* “Call My Name, Clemson; or, Whose Name(s) are You Calling?” Council of Ethnic Participation Pre-Conference, Association for the Study of Higher Education, October 2021



- Invited Respondent:* “Legacies of American Slavery: Reckoning with the Past,” Workshop, Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at Yale University, September 2021
- Invited Workshop Facilitator:* “Call My Name: Using the Archives and the Internet to Enhance Public Engagement Black History Projects,” A Day of Training, Networking and Readyng our Repositories! Workshop, South Carolina State Historical Records Advisory Board, South Carolina Department of History and Archives, Columbia, SC, September 2021
- Invited Panelist:* “History of Slavery at the University of Georgia: Virtual Symposium on Recognition, Reconciliation, and Redress,” roundtable, University of Georgia, April 2021.
- Invited Panelist:* “Telling Truer Stories: Restorative Stories beyond the COFC,” Virtual Critical Conversations about Racial Healing Series, Center for the Study of Slavery in Charleston, College of Charleston, April 2021
- Invited Keynote Speaker:* “Black Female Founders in Clemson University History, from Africa to America: Call Their Names,” Virtual Women’s History Month, Clemson University, March 2021.
- Invited Keynote Speaker:* “What’s in a Name? The Power of Storytelling,” Virtual Black History Month Program, Bertha Lee Strickland Cultural Museum, Seneca, SC, February 2021
- Invited Speaker:* Virtual Harrington Symposium on Race at the University, University of Delaware, September 2020.
- Invited Keynote Speaker:* “Call My Name: A Living Archive for Black Lives Research at Clemson University,” Triangle Research Libraries Network Annual Meeting, July 2020
- Invited Speaker:* “Reconstruction, Public Memory, and the Making of Clemson University on John C. Calhoun’s Fort Hill Plantation,” Wofford College, (rescheduled for 2021-2022).
- Invited Speaker:* “The Power of Calling a Name,” TEDx Greenville (SC), March 2019.
- Invited Panelist:* “Reparations, Repatriation, and Redress Symposium,” Race, Indigeneity, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Initiative, University of Minnesota, November 2018.
- Invited Presenter:* “African American Heritage at Clemson University,” Alliance to Advance Liberal Arts Colleges Workshop, Furman University, July 2018.
- Invited Panelist:* “Slavery & the University,” *Race, Memorialization and Memory* Conference, Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, Brown University, May 2018.
- Featured Speaker:* “Call My Name: African Americans in Early Clemson University History,” Seeking Abraham: Furman Taskforce on Slavery and Justice/The Furman Humanities Development, Furman University, Greenville, SC, November 2017.
- Symposium Presenter:* “Reconstruction, Black Labor, and the Making of Clemson University John C. Calhoun’s Fort Hill Plantation,” University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, October 2017.
- Keynote Speaker:* “Communicating Black Clemson’s Complex History,” Carolinas Communication Association Conference, Clemson University, Clemson, SC, September 2017.
- Featured Panelist:* “Innovative Approaches to Commemoration, Race, and Place: A Conversation with Rhonda Robinson Thomas,” Southern States Communication Association Conference, Greenville, SC, April 2017.
- Series Speaker:* “Of Slaves, Sharecroppers, and Convict Laborers: Unsettling Clemson University’s Public History,” Democracy Then and Now Series, University of Maryland, November 2016.
- Featured Speaker:* “Adobe Spark as Storytelling Platform for *Call My Name*,” EDUMAX, Adobe MAX: A Creativity Conference, San Diego, CA, November 2016
- Respondent:* “The Use of the Bible in the Americas by Colonizers and Colonized Peoples,” The Bible, Empire and Reception History Conference, Atlanta, November 2015.

*Series Speaker:* “From Maid to Millionaire: An African American Story of ‘The Help’ at Cleveland’s Phillis Wheatley Association,” Engaged Citizenship Common Experience Speakers Series, University of Illinois-Springfield, February 2013.

### **AFRICAN AMERICAN BURIAL GROUND IN WOODLAND CEMETERY PROJECT, CLEMSON, UNIVERSITY**

- Coordinator of programming, 2-day Research Symposium
  - Fall 2024 – Theme TBD
  - Fall 2023 – Commemoration and Memorialization of Historic Cemeteries
  - Fall 2022 – Historic Cemeteries in Cultural Contexts, Local to Global
  - Fall 2021 – Historic Cemeteries and the University: the Power of Place and Community (virtual)
- Tour Facilitator
  - Golden Tigers, May 2022 and May 2023
  - Young Clemson Alumni, March 2022
  - Office of the Provost, Clemson University, October 2022
  - Historic Preservation Programs, Clemson University and University of Georgia, February 2022
  - University School of the Lowcountry, students and teachers, February 2022
  - Virtual tour and discussion, Brandeis Marin (San Rafael, CA) 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Students, April 28, 2021
  - Civil Engineering Undergraduate Students, Clemson University, Clemson, SC, April 2021
  - President’s Leadership Institute, Clemson University, February 11, 2021
- Cemetery Tours facilitated with research team: June 13, 2021; February 28, 2021; October 25, 2020

### **CALL MY NAME: AFRICAN AMERICANS IN EARLY CLEMSON UNIVERSITY HISTORY RESEARCH PROJECT**

#### *Consulting*

- Virginia Tech Working Group for Reynolds Homestead Project, June 12-13, 2023
- History, Race, and Memory at Elon University Project, Elon University, April 28, 2022, and April 10 and 22, 2021
- Race and Reconciliation, Texas Christian University, December 2021
- Applied Humanities Course, University of Arizona, January 20, 2022, August 31, 2021
- Morris Street Cottages Project, Anderson, SC, 2020 to 2021
- AMST 2259/ARCH 2500, The Good, Bad, and the Ugly: Designing America’s Difficult Past University of Virginia, J-Term, January 2021

#### *Playwright Residencies for Call My Name Play*

- Tectonic Theater Project
  - 4-day playwright residency, July 2024
  - 2-week playwright residency, New York, Summer 2023
  - 2-week playwright residency, New York, Fall 2022
  - 2-week playwright residency, New York, Summer 2022
  - 3-day workshop, Clemson University, Summer 2022

- 5-day workshop, Clemson University, Spring 2022

*Presentations about Call My Name Project*

- Reynolds Homestead, Critz, VA, March 2024.
- President's Leadership Institute, Clemson University, August 2024, August 2023, August 2022, February 2021, August 2019 and 2018, and September 2017
- School of Nursing, Clemson University, May 2023
- College of Behavioral Science and Health Science, Clemson University, April 2023
- Black History Month Luncheon, sponsored by Bertha Lee Strickland Cultural Museum, Seneca, SC, presentation – 2023, 2022, 2020
- Police Training: Local Black Clemson History, City of Clemson, SC, August 2022
- Graduate Public Humanities Workshop, Rutgers University, April 7, 2022
- Black History Month Programs, Clemson University, February 2022, 2021, 2020
- Board of Trustees Research and Economic Development Committee, Clemson University, January 21, 2022
- Everland Community in Patrick Square, January 2022
- Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, January 2022
- RALI, Clemson Home, Clemson University, January 2022, January 2021, August 2019 and 2018
- Blue Key Society, Clemson University, October 2021, February 2021, October 2020
- National Pan Hellenic Council Week, Clemson University, September 2021
- League of Women's Voters, Clemson, SC, Chapter, March 2021
- Black Graduate Student Association, Clemson University, March 2021
- Extension Emerging Leadership Initiative, Clemson University, March 2021, December 2018
- Peer Leadership, Clemson University, May 2021, 2020
- Student Alumni Council, Clemson University, October 2020
- Rotary Club, Clemson, SC, August 2020
- University Research, Scholarship and Artistic Achievement Award Dinner (one of four professors selected to talk about research projects for which we received awards), Clemson University, December 2019
- The Kwanzaa Show, sponsored by the Pendleton Foundation for Black History and Culture, Pendleton High School, Pendleton, SC, December 2019
- American Humanist Association, Clemson, SC, February 2019
- AnMed Health North Campus, Anderson, SC, February 2019
- Let's Talk Race, Clemson, Clemson Area African American Museum, Clemson, SC, September 2018
- Clemson Abroad and Institute for Study Abroad, Clemson University, March 2018
- P.A.W. Journey, Clemson University Football Team, February 2018
- Clemson University Undergraduate Student Senate, November 2017
- Diversity Curriculum & Pedagogy Lab, School of Education, Clemson University, November 2017
- Men of Color Summit, sponsored by Clemson University's Office of Inclusion & Equity, TD Convention Center, Greenville, SC, April 2017
- Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Clemson, SC, May 12, 2015 and April 8, 2016
- Clemson United Methodist Church, Clemson, SC, April 6, 2016
- Clemson Sertoma Club, Clemson, SC, February 16, 2016

- Invited speaker for “Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memories,” Black History Month Program sponsored by FBI Columbia, Brookland Baptist and Conference Center, Columbia, SC, February 2016

*Black Heritage Trail Project*

- Call My Name Edutainment, February 2024
- Sounds of Call My Name: Black Musicians in Clemson University History, September 2023

*CMN African American Heritage Tours of Clemson University*

- Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated 50<sup>th</sup> reunion, April 2024
- CU Grow, April 2024, August 2023
- Chi Zeta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi, Inc. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, April 2024
- Clemson Development, February 2024
- Clemson Human Resources Staff, December 2023
- 1889 Donors, October 2023
- Hopewell Plantation – descendant of enslaved, October 2023
- Clemson Black Alumni Association, Homecoming, October 2023
- Memorial Designer/Architect Michael Murphy, Memorialization Presentation and Discussion, June 2023 (virtual)
- Golden Tigers, Clemson University, June 2023, June 2024
- NARST Sandra K. Abell Institute for Doctoral Students, June 2023
- Japan Society for the Promotion of Science visitor, Clemson University, March 2023
- Black History Month program, Gantt Multicultural Center, Clemson University, February 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, and 2018
- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. Reunion, Clemson University, February 2023
- Fort Hill Plantation House staff and guides, Clemson University, February 2023
- Undergraduate Student Association Freshman Council, Clemson University, February 2023, October 2018 and October 2017
- Sociology Service-Learning students, Clemson University, February 2023
- Architect Mario Gooden, Memorialization Presentation, Clemson University, January 2023
- South Carolina Housing Officers Association, November 2022
- Creative Inquiry Team, Clemson University, October 2022
- Class of 1939, Clemson University, October 2022
- Introduction to Student Affairs Class, Clemson University, September 2022
- Peer Wise Summer Program, Clemson University, July 2022
- Summer Start Program / First-Year Academic Programs, June 2022 and June 2021
- Counseling and Psychological Services, Clemson University, September 2023, May 2022
- Tectonic Theater Project, New York, May 2022 and March 2022
- Humanities Hub Board, Clemson University, March 2022
- Orientation Ambassadors, Clemson University, March 2023, March 2022
- Young Alumni, Clemson University, March 2022
- Freshmen Council, Clemson University, March 2022
- Cru, Campus Ministry, Clemson University, March 2022
- College of Agricultura, Forestry, and Life Sciences, Clemson University, February 2022
- iCar students and faculty, Clemson University, November 2021
- Clemson Residents, September 2021

- Pan Hellenic Week, Clemson University, September 2021
- Commission on the Black Experience, Clemson University, June 2021
- Plan Administrators, Division of Inclusion & Equity, Clemson University, August 2021
- Heritage Runs, Clemson Athletics (women's basketball, soccer, volleyball, and rowing teams), fall 2020
- Harvey and Lucinda Gantt Multicultural Center staff, February 2020
- Extension Emerging Leadership Initiative, Clemson University, September 2019
- IMPACT program, Clemson University, August 2019
- Staff Appreciation Week, Clemson Home, Clemson University, September 2018
- Clemson Undergraduate Student Association Cabinet, November 2017
- Contemplative African American Heritage Tour, October 2016 and March 2017
- Greater Clemson Music Festival, April 2015 and April 2016
- The Slave Dwelling Project Encampment at Clemson, former site of Fort Hill Plantation Slave Quarters, April 2016
- Leading for Environment and Future Living Learning Community (LEAF), Clemson University, April 2016
- Clemson Black Student Union, March 2016
- Clemson University administrators, January 2015 and March 2015

#### *Interviews*

- "Care for Me," Part 2, *Reconcile This*, Race & Reconciliation Initiative, Texas Christian University, January 25, 2022
- "It Was Written," Part 1, *Reconcile This*, Race & Reconciliation Initiative, Texas Christian University, December 20, 2021
- "Calling Every Name in Clemson History," Clemson University Alumni Association, Facebook Live, February 2021
- "Call My Name, Clemson with Dr. Rhondda Thomas – Episode 133," Podcast, LibraryVoicesSC, South Carolina State Library, January 2021
- Interview, Wake Up With WURD with Solomon Jones, WURD Radio, Philadelphia, PA, April 2020

#### *Call My Name Book Talks/Readings*

- Juneteenth Festival, Clemson University, June 2023
- "The African American Experience at Two South Carolina Universities: A Book Talk," Black History Month Program, Clemson University, Clemson, SC, February 2022
- Clemson Honors College, Summer and Fall 2021
- *Spectrum* magazine, Washington, DC, April 2021 (virtual)
- Black History Month Celebration, Harvey and Lucinda Gantt Multicultural Center, Clemson University, February 2021 (virtual)
- Obermann Center, University of Iowa, moderated by Professor Hilary Green and including contributors to the book Eric Young, Thomas Marshall III, and Monica Williams-Hudgens, November 2020 (virtual)

#### *Co-sponsored Events*

- Blacksmith Demo and African American Heritage Garden Discussion, Black Heritage Trail and Clemson School of Architecture

- Sounds of Call My Name, Black Heritage Trail, and Black Graduate Student Association, September 2023
- Juneteenth Festival, Call My Name Coalition, Clemson University, June 2023
- Call My Name 5K, Clemson Athletics, Clemson University, February 2023

**THE SOUTH CAROLINA ROOTS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN THOUGHT:** *book talks*

- Furman University, Greenville, SC, April 2015
- Avery African American Research Center/College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, February 2015
- President's Program, Roundtable for African American Concerns, South Carolina Library Association Conference, Columbia, SC, October 2014

**A NICKEL AND A PRAYER, SCHOLARLY EDITION, BY JANE EDNA HUNTER:** *book talks*

- Seneca L & C Club, Seneca, SC, March 2015
- Hunter's Store, Pendleton District Commission, Pendleton, SC, February 2015
- Pendleton Foundation for Black History and Culture, Pendleton, SC, April 2014
- Pendleton Historic Foundation, Black History Month Program, January 2014
- Riverside Middle School, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Classes, Pendleton, SC, April 2013
- Pendleton Historic Foundation, Ashtabula Plantation, Pendleton, SC, March 2013
- Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, Anderson, SC, January 2013
- Induction of Jane Edna Hunter into the Anderson (SC) County Hall of Fame, October 2012
- Daughters of the American Revolution, Seneca, SC, October 2012
- Phillis Wheatley Association, Centennial Celebration, Cleveland, June 2012
- Pendleton Historic Foundation, Annual Meeting, Woodburn Plantation, Pendleton, SC, May 2012
- Women's History Month Program, Visitor Center Auditorium, Clemson University, March 27, 2012
- United Way African American Leadership Luncheon, Black History Month program, Anderson, SC, Feb. 2012
- Anderson County Museum, Anderson, SC, February 2012
- Anderson County Public Library, Anderson, SC, Feb. 2012
- World of Energy, Duke Energy, Seneca, SC, Feb. 2012
- Jane E. Hunter's Birthday Anniversary Celebration, Historic Silver Spring Baptist Church, Pendleton, SC, Dec. 2011
- Women in Leadership, Clemson University, September 2010
- Women's Studies Forum, Clemson University, Clemson, SC. January 2008

**GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AND MENTORING**

Dissertation Committees

William Slater, member, Clemson University, Department of Forestry, projected graduation 2024

David Whaley, chair, *Closing The Achievement Gap for Minoritized Students from Rural Communities in West Texas*, RCID, Clemson University, graduated 2023

Amy Tobin, member, *Alone in Appalachia: Held Hostage by Religious Rhetoric in God's Country*, RCID, Clemson University, projected graduation 2025

### Master's Thesis Committees

- Samuel Adewumi, chair, Department of English, 2024-2025
- Malaysia Barr, "Home on the Phone?: How Black Students at a PWI Use Digital Space to Form Community," member, Department of Communication, Clemson University, 2023-2024
- Mary Frankovich, "They don't need men and they don't need God!: The Liberatory Possibilities of Waywardness in Toni Morrison's *Paradise*," director, Department of English, Clemson University, 2020-2021
- Kaitlyn Samons, "Those Who Spectate Are Bound to Murder," member, Department of English, Clemson University, Spring 2020
- Sherman Jones, "How the Tiger Keeps Its Stripes: A Case Study of Black Student Involvement and Retention at Clemson University," third chair, Department of Communications, Clemson University, Spring 2020
- Teneshia S. Head, "From Overt Contentment to Hidden Space: Examining the Portrayal of Gender Fluidity in Naylor's *Bailey's Café* and Walker's *The Color Purple*," chair, Spring 2016
- Justin Holiday, "Raising Specters: Queer Reclamation in Toni Morrison's *A Mercy*," co-chair, member, Department of English, Clemson University, Spring 2015
- Cameron Whiteside, "Night's End" (Creative Writing thesis), member, member, Department of English, Clemson University, Spring 2014
- Candace Wiley, *Purple Skin, Yellow Flesh* (Creative Writing thesis), member, member, Department of English, Clemson University, Summer 2009

### Master of Arts in English Oral Exam Committees

- Erin Medlin, member, Spring 2011
- Lisa Vandenbossche, member, Spring 2010
- Fredrika Salley, member, Spring 2010

### Undergraduate Honors Thesis Committees

- Brendan McNeely, Remember the Fallen: Selective Memory, Black Soldiers, Confederate Nostalgia, and the Great War, chair, Spring 2019
- Julia "Katy" Coon, Reconceptualizing Home Through Networked Relations in *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi, member, Spring 2017
- Samuel Wilkes, "Ah Wantah Cross Jurden in Uh Calm Time": Race, Gender, and Mobility in Zora Neale Hurston's "Sweat," member, 2015-16

### Faculty Mentor for Freshman Composition Instructors

- A. D. Carson, 2016 – 2017
- Cameron Whiteside, 2013 – 2014
- Candace Wiley, 2008 –2009
- Bridget Jeffs, 2009 – 2010

### ACADEMIC SERVICE AT CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

- Chair, Memorial to Black Laborers Project, 2024 – present
- Member, Libraries Advisory Committee, 2024 – present
- Member, Graduate Admissions & Continuous Enrollment Committee, 2023-2026
- Member, Arts and Humanities Literature Committee, Department of English, May 2022 – present

Coordinator of Research and Community Engagement, Woodland Cemetery Historic Preservation Project, Clemson University Board of Trustees, 2021 – present  
 Member, Legacy Council, Woodland Cemetery Historic Preservation Project, 2020 – present  
 Global Black Studies Advisory Board and Curriculum Committee, 2014 – present  
 Search Committee Chair – Post-1900 African American Literature Assistant Professor, Department of English, 2023 –2024  
 Community Engagement Coordinator, Woodland Cemetery Historic Preservation Project, Clemson University Board of Trustees, 2020 – 2021  
 Chairman, CAAH Inclusion and Equity Plan Task Force, 2018 – 2020  
 Tenure, Promotion, and Reappointment Committee, Department of English, 2018 – 2020  
 Council for Diversity and Inclusion, CAAH representative, 2017 – 2020  
 Seneca River Bottoms Visioning Committee, 2019 – 2020  
 Chairman, Clemson University Commission on the Black Experience, 2018 – 2020  
 Clemson History Implementation Committee, 2016 – 2018  
 First-Year Composition Committee, Department of English, spring 2018  
 Faculty Senator, 2016 – 2017  
 Chairman, Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity & Inclusion, 2016 – 2017  
 Search Committee Chair – Environmental Literature Assistant Professor, Department of English, 2016 – 2017  
 Commissioner, President’s Commission on the Status of Black Faculty and Staff, 2015 – 2018  
 Campus Planning Task Force Committee, 2015 – 2017  
 CAAH Race and the University Couse Suite, Fall 2015 and Fall 2016  
 Sabbatical Committee, Department of English, 2015 – 2016  
 Clemson 2020 Forward Committee, Graduate Studies, January – May 2015  
 Faculty-in-Residence, Clemson Housing & Dining, 2014 – 2017  
 Co-chair, CAAH Race and the University: A Campus Conversation, 2013 – 2016  
 Clemson Campus Climate Committee, Chief Diversity Office, 2013 – 2015  
 Curriculum Committee, Department of English, 2013 – 2014  
 Faculty Activity System (FAS) Review Committee, 2013 – 2014  
 External Review of Athletic Academic Support Services, Spring 2013  
 CAAH Arts and Humanities Faculty Council, 2012 – 2016  
 Diversity Committee, 2012 – 2013  
 Calhoun Honors College Committee, 2012 – 2014  
 Freshman Summer Reading Program Facilitator, fall 2012  
 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Integration Committee, 2011 – 2013  
 Chairman, Sophomore Literature Committee, Department of English, 2010 – 2014  
 Clemson University Academic Council, 2010 – 2013  
 Contributing Editor, *South Carolina Review*, 2009 – 2016  
 Women’s Studies Committee, 2009 – 2014  
 Coordinator of Race, Rhetoric, and Theory Reading Group, 2009 – 2010  
 One-Clemson Facilitator, Gantt Center for Student Life, 2008 – 2009

### **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE**

Distinguished Scholar, PJ Patterson Institute for Africa Caribbean Advocacy, The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica, May 2024 – present  
 Fellowship Review Panel for American Literature, National Endowment for the Humanities, May-June 2024



Member, Warehouse Theater Board, Greenville, SC, August 2023 – present  
 Member, South Carolina State Board of Review for the National Register of Historic Places, 2022 – present  
 Chair, Call My Name Coalition, Clemson, SC, 2017 – present  
 Reviewer, “Learning from Legacies of Phillis Wheatley Peters” Project, Texas Christian University and University of Georgia, 2023-2024  
 Commissioner, South Carolina African American Heritage Commission, 2022 – 2023  
 Architecture Student Emmet Till Memorial Final Projects Reviewer, School of Architecture, Professor Michael Murphy, December 2022  
 Grant Reviewer, American Council of Learned Societies, January 2022  
 Respondent, Community Engagement Fellows Zoom Convening, Whiting Foundation, May 2022 and 2021  
 Board Member, Morris Street Cottages Project, Anderson, SC, 2019 – 2021  
 Manuscript Reviewer
 

- University of North Carolina Press, spring 2022
- University of Virginia Press, fall 2021
- Temple University Press, fall 2017
- *American Periodicals*, Special Issue in Black Periodicals Studies, spring 2015
- *Religion & Literature*, fall 2014
- University of South Carolina Press, fall 2014
- *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*, spring 2014
- *Southern Quarterly*, fall 2012
- University of Mississippi Press, fall 2011

 Member, Upstate Historic Preservation Society, Clemson, SC, 2020 – 2022  
 Advisory Board member, George and Roszena Shaw Housing Center, Clemson, SC, 2020 – 2021  
 Documentary Consultant, *Jane Edna Hunter: Fearless*, 2011 – 2018  
 Dead Horse Productions, Anderson, SC, and Pendleton Historic Foundation, Pendleton, SC  
 Summer Camp Writing Instructor, Anderson County Museum, Anderson, SC, 2012 – 2014  
 Book Club Facilitator, Let’s Talk About It, sponsored by South Carolina Humanities, Seneca (SC) Public Library, fall 2011 – 2015  
 Board of Directors, Clemson Area African American Museum, Clemson, SC, 2008 – 2009  
 Research Assistant for P. Gabrielle Foreman, Penguin Edition of Harriet E. Wilson’s *Our Nig; or, Sketches from the Life of a Free Black* (1859, 2005), 2003 – 2004

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Adventist English Association  
 African American Intellectual History Society  
 Modern Language Association  
 National Council on Public History (NCPH)