

MARILYN SANDERS MOBLEY, PH.D.

EDUCATION

Postdoctoral Studies

Harvard Graduate School of Education (2008); IEM

Ph.D. Case Western Reserve University (1987); English

M.A. New York University (1975); English

A.B. Barnard College for Women of Columbia University (1974);
English and Education

ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Bennett College for Women Greensboro, North Carolina

Bennett College for Women is a small, liberal arts historically Black college with an enrollment of about 660 students. Affiliated with the United Methodist Church, originally as a co-ed institution in 1873, it became a college for women in 1926. Dr. Julianne Malveaux was named the 15th president of the College in 2007, after having served as a Johnetta B. Cole Diversity Scholar, a visiting professorship named after the previous college president.

Provost, July 2007 - Present

Responsibilities as Chief Academic Officer include oversight of the curriculum for liberal arts education for over 660 students, supervision of the three division chairs in the Humanities, Social Sciences, Education, Natural and Behavioral Sciences and Math, three associate provosts (Institutional Assessment and Enrollment Management, Educational Programs and Academic Support Services, and Student Affairs), and leadership of academic initiatives in undergraduate research, faculty development, international program and global studies. As second in command of the College, my responsibilities also include representing the President on various occasions both on and off campus and at local, national, and international meetings. A member of the faculty as a tenured **Professor of English** with a leadership role that provides opportunities to teach and connect with students both in and outside of the classroom, I contribute to the development of the campus as a vibrant learning community committed to educating, celebrating and transforming women into 21st leaders and global citizens.

George Mason University Fairfax, Virginia

George Mason University is a large research public institution with an enrollment of about 30, 000 students. Recognized as one of the most diverse universities in the nation, it boasts a thriving law school, strong programs in the sciences and technology, and four campuses, including one in the United Arab Emirates.

Associate Provost for Educational Programs, July 2003 - Present

Responsibilities as associate academic officer, reporting directly to the Provost and serving on his senior staff and as a member of the President's council:

- Chaired university-wide general education standing committee of the Faculty Senate;
- Oversaw review of general education program;
- Oversaw the university catalog in terms of policy and academic integrity;
- Communicated policy decisions to Deans, Directors, Registrar, and on the Website;
- Conducted review and resolutions of student grievances and academic appeals;
- Chaired distance education advisory committee;
- Supervised the special assistant for distance and technical education for the provost;
- Supervised university student academic affairs ombudsman;
- Served as liaison to the Center for Teaching Excellence;
- Coordinated all campus activities for the Democracy Project on civic engagement;
- Assisted the provost with reappointment, promotion and tenure review of faculty;
- Represented the Office of the Provost on the Leadership Task Force, Faculty Handbook, Risk Management, Library, the university-wide Diversity Research Council, and the Campus Climate committees;
- Represented the Provost at state and Washington, DC consortium meetings of chief academic officers.

My major accomplishments as associate provost:

- Lead the review of the synthesis component of the general education curriculum;
- Developed, in conjunction with the Director of Institutional Assessment, instruments for monitoring and assessing the quality of the general education program;
- Inaugurated and named the new freshman seminar pilot—General Education Mason Seminars (GEMS) during the spring of 2007;
- Launched George Mason's participation in the American Democracy Project with a special summer session of courses on the theme of civic engagement;
- Established a "Dialogue on Democracy" series with Dr. Cornell West and others;
- Provided oversight for updating the General Education and Democracy Project websites;
- Helped coordinate the general education curriculum components of the China 1-2-1 program, including a meeting with senior academic officers from Chinese universities;
- Served as consultant for renaming the College of Nursing;
- Chaired the successful search for the Vice President for University Life;

- Chaired the successful search for the Vice President for the new campus in Ras Al Khaimah in the United Arab Emirates;
- Secured two Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (VFH) grants for a total of \$11,500 and a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant for \$176,000 on the theme of "Slavery, Literacy, and Freedom: African American Literature, Culture, and Folklore;"
- Hosted state department summer institute for 21 international faculty guests;
- Led a faculty team that was accepted to attend the general education assessment institute sponsored by the American Association for Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), which was held in May 2005 in Newport, Rhode Island;
- Funded the publication of the first African American Studies monograph series.

Interim Director of African American Studies Program, 2001-2001, 2003

- Served as interim director of the interdisciplinary minor in African American Studies at the request of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences;
- Established an annual event based on the collaboration between the Department of Music and African American Studies Program for Black History Month to be held at the Center for the Arts;
- Established an African American Studies Advisory Board composed of alumni, business, civic and community leaders to increase fundraising and outreach;
- Negotiated with the Department of History and Art History to produce the first joint appointment and hire for the program through the Preparing Future Faculty Program sponsored by the Office of the Provost (partnership with Howard University designed to promote diversifying the faculty).

Founder and Director of African American Studies, 1991-1998

Responsibilities as academic leader for the University's first African American Studies program:

- Initiated and coordinated the effort to establish the interdisciplinary academic minor in African American Studies;
- Lead the program after being appointed to serve as its first director;
- Managed budget and administration of the program in consultation with the Dean;
- Planned curricular and co-curricular programs to inaugurate the minor as an official new course of study in CAS;
- Organized a lecture series in the spring and fall semesters to introduce new faculty of the minor to the students and the University community;
- Designed new courses and regularly consulted with deans, directors, department chairs, and faculty in Women's Studies and other programs and departments;
- Sponsored the production of a brochure to publicize course offerings, goals and faculty;
- Served as faculty liaison for study tour to Kenya and Tanzania (2003-2004);
- Restructured the administrative organization of the program to include a Research and Resource Center to be run by one of two Associate Directors, an Associate Director for Outreach and Community Programs, and a community advisory board;

- Established the Scholar-in-Residence Program to bring local and national scholars in African American Studies to George Mason every spring.

My accomplishments during first term as director:

- Secured space for the Research and Resource Center in the new Johnson Center, working with faculty to name the center the Paul Robeson Room;
- Developed the program with students, well-attended programs, and high visibility;
- Established and named the program newsletter—*The Griot*;
- Collaborated with the Office of Diversity Programs and Services and various departments, colleges, and centers on campus to sponsor student-centered and community programs;
- Invited such scholars as Harry Belafonte, Johnnetta B. Cole, James Cone, Angela Davis, Michael Eric Dyson, Henry Louis Gates, Danny Glover, Julianne Malveaux, Ali Mazrui, Randall Robinson, and Cornel West to campus to enhance the profile of the program and to introduce students to scholars, leaders, and activists.

American Literature Association

President of the Toni Morrison Society, 1997-2001/Advisory Board Member, 2001-Present

Served as the second president of this 501© (3) organization that began under the auspices of the American Literature Association:

- Planned, organized, and coordinated various professional meetings, conferences, programs and events for this organization of scholars and the community of readers devoted to the work of Toni Morrison;
- Served as a charter member of the Society, which was organized in 1993, before Ms. Morrison won the Nobel Prize;
- Hosted executive committee retreats for strategic planning;
- Contributed to formation and leadership of the Advisory Board of the Society.

My major accomplishments:

- Planned the second biennial conference in Lorain, Ohio, titled “Toni Morrison and the Meanings of Home;”
- Coordinated the 70th birthday tribute to Toni Morrison, a \$250,000 event held at the New York Public Library on 5th Avenue;
- Generated donations from Oprah Winfrey and American Express, and support from Henry Louis Gates and Jessye Norman, who served as honorary co-chairs of the event, which was a 500 person black-tie affair that brought scholars, writers, artists, civic and business leaders together with the national and international community of readers who are Morrison devotees;
- Selected the theme and helped to organize “Toni Morrison and the Politics of Learning,” which was the theme of the third biennial conference, held in Washington, DC;
- Assisted with planning an international scholars’ roundtable in Paris on the occasion of Toni Morrison’s exhibit, “The Foreigner’s Home” at the Louvre in 2006.

Cleveland State University

Cleveland, Ohio

**Program Coordinator of the Afro-American Cultural Center and
Assistant Director of the Black Studies Program, 1980-1981**

- Planned, organized, and administered special and ongoing academic, cultural, and artistic programs for the Afro-American Cultural Center at Cleveland State University;
- Coordinated academic activities (including a film series, colloquium series, and various seminars);
- Represented the center on local radio and television programs;
- Coordinated art exhibits and lectures;
- Wrote press releases and designed public relations brochures;
- Served as Black Studies Department representative for university-wide Five-Year Plan;
- Appointed to teach Afro-American literature in the CSU English Department;
- Served as liaison between the Center and the Cleveland metropolitan community.

George Mason University

Associate Professor of English and African American Studies, 1992-2007

- Taught undergraduate and graduate courses on African American literature, the Harlem Renaissance, Black Women Writers, Black Autobiography, recent American fiction, global voices in literature, the Black Church in Black Literature, and on Toni Morrison;
- Taught undergraduate and graduate courses in Women's Studies and Cultural Studies;
- Chaired search for joint faculty appointment in Psychology and African American Studies;
- Served on the executive committee of African American Studies to shape policy, advise the director, and serve as liaison between the program and the Office of the Provost.

Assistant Professor of English, 1988-1991

Howard University

Washington, DC

Assistant Professor of English, 1987-1988

FELLOWSHIPS/GRANTS

Virginia Foundation for the Humanities Grant 2003, 2004

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute, 2004-2005
George Mason Faculty Research Leave, 2003-2004 (Deferred)
George Mason Faculty Research Leave, 1995-1996
Black Women and Work Project, 1995-1998
Ford Foundation Research Project, 1995
George Mason University Summer Research Award, 1991
Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship, 1989-1990
National Endowment for the Humanities Award, 1989
Howard University Faculty Research Grant, 1988

AWARDS

Toni Morrison Society Bench by the Road Award, 2003
George Mason Faculty Research Leave, 2003-2004 (Deferred)
Phi Beta Delta International Honor Society, 2003
George Mason University Margaret C. Howell Diversity Award, 2002
Scholar-in-Residence, NY Council for the Humanities Teacher Institute at Bard College, 2002
African American Studies Sojourner Truth Award, 2000
Toni Morrison Society Authors Award, 1998
Golden Key National Honor Society, GMU Chapter, 1994
Consortium of Doctors Honoree, 1994
Faculty of the Year, GMU Chapter Omega Psi Phi, 1991
Commendation for Academic Excellence (CWRU) 1987
CWRU Graduate Alumni Award, 1985
CWRU Graduate Teaching Assistantship, 1982-1983
University of Michigan Rackham Fellowship, 1982

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

The Toni Morrison Society (Advisory Board Member & Former President)
American Literature Association
Modern Language Association
American Association of Christian Counselors

CONFERENCES

American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Florida, February 2005 (Panelist).
Second Annual Black Issues in Higher Education National Conference, Leadership Plenary with James Renick and Marvalene Hughes, May 2005 (Speaker).

Black Issues in Higher Education 20th Anniversary Conference “Benchmarks and Barriers for People of Color in Higher Education,” June 2004 (Panelist).

American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Summer Meeting, Albuquerque, New Mexico, July 2004 (Panelist).

American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Summer Meeting, Salt Lake City, Utah, July 2004.

African American Literature and Culture Society, Salt Lake City, Utah, October 2000 (Panelist).

Toni Morrison Society Second Biennial Conference, Lorain, Ohio, September 2000 (Moderator).

Association of Black Sociologists, Washington, DC, August 2000 (Panelist).

Modern Language Association, Chicago, Illinois, 1999 (Panelist).

American Literature Association, San Diego, California, 1998.

SCHOLARSHIP

Publications / Books

Tragedies of Life by Gertrude Pitts and George Sampson Brite and Case 999 – A Christmas Story. New York: G.K. Hall, 1996. Edited volume for Schomburg Series on Black Women Writers, 1910 - 1940. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., general editor.

Folk Roots and Mythic Wings in Sarah Orne Jewett and Toni Morrison: The Cultural Function of Narrative. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University, 1991. Reprint in paperback, 1994.

Selected Articles in Refereed Journals and Books

“Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*: Disturbing Domestic Tranquility.” In *Scandalous Fictions: The Twentieth-Century Novel in the Public Sphere*. Edited by Jago Morrison. Palgrave, 2006. Essay that interrogates the ways in which Morrison’s novel (in a unique collection of essays about books that both recorded and created scandalous responses in the public sphere with their publication) continues a rich tradition of fiction written to speak back to social, political and cultural issues.

“Spaces for Readers: The Novels of Toni Morrison.” In *The Cambridge Companion to the African American Novel*. Cambridge University Press, 2003. Adapted from book-in-progress.

“Labor Above and Beyond the Call: A Black Woman Scholar in the Academy,” in *Sister Circle: Black Women and Work*. Edited by Sharon Harley and the Black Women and Work Collective. Rutgers, 2002.

“Telling Stories: A Cultural Studies Approach to *Tar Baby*.” *Approaches to Teaching Toni Morrison*, edited by Nellie M. McKay. New York: MLA, 1997.

“The Politics of Representation: Black Middle Class Identity in the Novels of Toni Morrison.” In *Research on Race and Ethnic Relations* Vol. 8, ed. Rutledge M. Dennis. Greenwich: JAI Press, 1995.

“Mayakovsky in Harlem: Black America through Russian Eyes.” *The Mayakovsky Centennial: 1893-1993*, edited by Anne Perryman and Patricia J. Thompson. New York: Lehman College, 1994.

“A Different Remembering: Memory, History, and Meaning in Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*.” In *Modern Critical Views: Toni Morrison*, edited by Harold Bloom. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1990.

Selected Reviews and Miscellaneous Publications

“*Black Women in the Academy: Promises and Perils*, edited by Lois Benjamin. Book review for the *Journal of Negro of Negro Education*.” Fall 1998.

“Review of *I Will Survive*.” Book review of disco star Gloria Gaynor’s autobiography for *Emerge* Magazine, June 1997.

“Shovelfuls of Love.” Review of *The Ditchdigger’s Daughters*. *The Washington Post*, 11 May 1995, Book World section.

“Taboo Discourse as Hot Commodity: A Review of Spike Lee’s *Jungle Fever*.” *So to Speak: A Feminist Journal of Art and Language*. GMU, Spring 1992.

“When and Where They Entered.” Review of *The Schomburg Library of Nineteenth Century Black Women Writers*, edited by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., *The Women’s Review of Books*, 5 (July 1988): 5-7.

Work In Progress

Spaces for the Reader: Toni Morrison’s Narrative Poetics and Cultural Politics; working title for book-length study of Morrison’s work.

The Strawberry Room: Reflections on Places Where a Woman Finds Herself—essays about a black woman’s journey from the personal and family trauma of divorce to spiritual recovery.

“Genre, Race and Gender: Black Women Essayists,” in the *Cambridge Guide to African American Women Writers*, edited by Angelyn Mitchell and Danille Taylor, Cambridge University Press, 2008.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Associate Minister, Ebenezer Baptist Church of Occoquan in Woodbridge, Virginia. Called to the ministry in September of 2001 and licensed to preach in November 2002. Assigned to the Christian Counseling ministry and licensed as a Christian counselor through the American Association of Christian Counselors. Founded the grief recovery support ministry. Called upon to preach and speak at other churches, at women’s retreats, and for various organizations and community groups, 2002-present.

Guest Scholar/Panelist, “Deconstructing Diversity in the Academy: The Subtext of Inclusion,” Oxford Women’s Leadership Roundtable, Oxford, English, August 6-11, 2006.

Guest Scholar, Language Matters II: Reading and Teaching Toni Morrison, Summer Workshop for Teachers, sponsored by National Endowment for the Humanities at Toni Morrison Society 4th Biennial Conference “Sites of Memory,” Northern Kentucky University, July 9-17, 2005.

Consultant, National Geographic Society, Publications Administration. Reviewed and offered substantial commentary on the draft and final manuscript of *Africana Woman: Her Story through Time*, written by Dr. Cynthia Jacobs Carter, April through August 2003.

Co-Chair, Toni Morrison Society 70th Birthday Tribute for Toni Morrison. Coordinated, as president of the TMS, the planning, fundraising, public relations and program for this gala for the Nobel Laureate at the New York Public Library in New York City, February 2002.

Featured Alumna, “Beloved Endeavor.” Feature story on work as a scholar, author, and President of the Toni Morrison Society in *CWRU Magazine*, the alumni Magazine of Case Western Reserve University, Fall 1999, Vol.12, No.1, pp.28-29.

Moderator, “America’s Role in Africa Today,” co-sponsored by the African Student Association and the Office of International Programs and Services at George Mason University, featuring Randall Robinson, Director of Transafrica, on April 9, 1996.

Co-Chair, “Behind Bars: Prisons and Communities in the United States,,” the Annual Spring Symposium sponsored by the Center for the Study of the Americas, March 29-30, 1996.

Panelist, “The Diane Rehm Show,” Discussion of *Waiting to Exhale* by Terry McMillan on WAMU (88.5) Radio, February 16, 1996.

Facilitator, "A Day of Dialogue: Building Bridges with Reliable Information," program sponsored by the National Conference (formerly known as the National Conference of Christians and Jews) and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government in Washington, DC, designed to bring journalists, news managers and members of diverse groups together to discuss common concerns about media coverage, December 1, 1994.

Symposium Organizer, "Toni Morrison and the Politics of Word-Work," Co-Sponsored by the George Mason University of African American Studies Program and the Toni Morrison Society and held on the campus of George Mason University featuring Nellie McKay as keynote speaker, Michael Awkward, Herman Beavers, Carolyn Denard, Karla F.C. Holloway, Deborah E. McDowell, and Eleanor Traylor as panelists, with Eve Hawthorne and Claudia Tate as moderators, November 18-19, 1994.

Associate Editor, *Feminist Studies*, 1992-1994.

Secretary, "Afro-American Women Writers (1945-1960) Section," NEMLA Convention, Wilmington, Delaware, March 31, 1989.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Virginia Women's Network, February 2005.

American Council on Education's Center for Advancement of Racial and Ethnic Equity and the Office of Women in Higher Education, a forum for women of color in leadership roles in the academy. Brown University, November 4-6, 2004.

Women in Higher Education Leadership Forum at the American Council on Education, December 2003.

American Association of State Colleges and University, "Preparing Citizens for Our Democracy: The Role of Universities in Civic Engagement." Academic Affairs Summer Meeting, Snowbird, Utah, August 2003.

Black Women and Work Project, under the auspices of Afro-American Studies at University of Maryland, College Park and the Ford Foundation, September 1995 - June 1998.

The English Institute, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, August 1989, 1991, 1992.

American Studies Association Annual Convention, Miami Beach, Florida, October 27-30, 1988.

Literary Criticism Seminar, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., June 23-24, 1988.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Commencement Keynote Speaker, Roosevelt High School, Cramton Auditorium, Howard University, June 12, 2007.

Board Member, Insight PreLaw Program, a non-profit organization established to prepare secondary and undergraduate students for the rigors of law school and to increase the amount of diversity in the educational pipeline of the legal profession, 2004-present.

Guest Speaker, George Mason Speakers Bureau, on race, gender issues, diversity, literature, culture and other issues of interest to Northern Virginia community audiences, 1992-present.

Guest Speaker, Public and Private Schools, 1991-present. Lecture/Performance of "Black Voice from Spiritual to Rap: A Program of African American Poetry," which features poetry, music, song, audience participation, all in the context of a lecture on the continuum of the African cultural expressive tradition in the African Diaspora and in the United States. Includes both context and critique of hip-hop culture. Presented for Black History Month programs and throughout the year.

Parent Program Coordinator, Potomac Valley Chapter, Jack & Jill of America, Inc, 1991-1993.

Human Relations Committee Chair, Executive Board, Hoover Middle School PTA, 1990-1993.

Member, Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority, Inc., 1977-present.

REFERENCES

Available upon request.