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Columbia Theological Seminary
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EDUCATION:

The University of Pittsburgh
Dissertation: "The Institutionalization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church" Ph.D., Sociology, 1997

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
Dissertation: "Strategic Planning in Small African American Churches" D.Min., Parish Focus, 1993

Savannah College of Art and Design
Proposed Thesis Topic: Faith in Sweet Auburn: A Photographic Journey M.F.A., Candidate, 2016

The University of Dubuque Theological Seminary
Concentration: Black Theology/African American Church M.A., Religion, 1990

California State University at Sacramento
B.A., Political Science with honors, 1988

American River Junior College
A.A., Social Science with honors, 1985

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Peachtree Associate Professor of Evangelism and Church Growth, Columbia Theological Seminary
2011 to Present

Affiliate Associate Professor of Society, Religion and Africana Studies, Fuller Theological Seminary
2011 to 2013

Associate Professor of Society, Religion, and Africana Studies, Fuller Theological Seminary
2005 to 2011

Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Augusta State University
1998 to 2005

Visiting Faculty, Fuller Theological Seminary
Summer 2000

Scholar in Residence, Penn State University
Summer 1998

Assistant Director, Black Church Program, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
1997 to 1998

Teaching Fellow, University of Pittsburgh
1995 to 1997

Adjunct Faculty, Community College of Allegheny County
1995 to 1998

COURSES TAUGHT:

- Reaching Young Adults in the Digital and Media Age
- Sharing the Gospel via Storytelling and Multimedia
- Introduction to Black Theology
- Theology and Hip Hop Culture
- Urban Evangelism
- African American Religions
- African Roots of Black Theology
- Leading, Growing and Developing the 21st Century Church
- History of the Black Church
- Introduction to African American Studies
- Urban Sociology
- Urban Social Problems
- Sociology of Religion
- Social Movements
- Sociology of Hip Hop
- Social Problems
- Introduction to Philosophy
- World Religions
- Urban Ministry and Community Development
- Introduction to Sociology
- Sociology of Organizations
- Race and Ethnicity
- Theological Grounding for the Virtual Church
- 21st Century Evangelism
- From Ministry to Mission

PUBLICATIONS:

Books, Chapters, Refereed Articles:

The Re-Radicalization of Black Theology: Africana Theology. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, Forthcoming, 2016.

Co-author with Justin West. *The Future of the Church: An Invitation to Dialogue.* Valley Forge: Judson Press, April, 2014.

“The Hip Hop Church Ain’t Big Mamma’s Church: The Faith Remixed” In *The Future of the Faith.* Edited by Ryan Bolger. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2012.

“The African American Churches Challenge to Evangelicalism.” In *Aliens in the Promised Land.* Edited by Anthony Bradley. Phillipsburg: P & R Publishers, 2012.

“Gangsta Rap Made Me Do It: What’s Really Going On?” In *Keep Your Head Up: America’s New Black Christian Leaders, Social Consciousness, and the Cosby Conversation*. Edited by Anthony Bradley. Wheaton: Good News Publishers, 2012.

Hip-Hop Redemption: Finding God in the Music and the Message. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011.

“From Black Theology and Black Power to Afrocentric Theology and Hip Hop Power: An Extension and Socio-re-theological-conceptualization of Cone’s Theology in Conversation with the Hip Hop Generation.” *Black Theology: An International Journal*, Fall 2010.

Leading Your African American Church Through Pastoral Transition. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 2010.

“The Re-Radicalization of Black Theology: From Cone to Kemet.” *The A.M.E. Church Review* 124, no. 416, 2009: pp. 43-58.

Co-author with Benjamin Stephens. *Jay Z to Jesus: Reaching and Teaching Young Adults in the African American Church*. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 2009. (I am the first author.)

“From a Firm Foundation to a Settled Future: The Bishops’ Council and the Role of Education 1880-1908, Part III.” *The A.M.E. Church Review* 124, no. 405, 2007: 41-71.

“Nimrod and Dead Prez: Walking Like a Warrior.” In *African American Religious Life and the Story of Nimrod*. Edited by Anthony Pinn and Allen Callahan. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.

“Building a Firm Foundation: Complexity in Search of Security and Establishment of the AME Church, 1860-1872, Part II.” *The A.M.E. Church Review* 133, no. 404, 2006: pp. 29-49.

The Gospel Remix: Reaching the Hip Hop Generation. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 2007.

“Loss of African Centeredness in the African Methodist Episcopal Church: Leaders, Leadership, Transition and Loss: The Next Generation of AMEC Leaders 1839-1860.” *The A.M.E. Church Review* 122, no. 401, 2006: pp. 12-37.

“Teaching African American Religions at a Traditionally White Institution in the South.” In *Mining the African American Motherlode: Teaching African American Religions*. Edited by Theodore Trost and Carolyn M. Jones. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.

“Rap, Religion and New Realities: The Emergence of a Religious Discourse in Rap Music.” in *Noise and Spirit: The Religious Sensibilities of Rap Music*. Edited by Anthony Pinn. New York: NYU Press, 2004.

I Ain't Afraid to Speak Mind: Old School Meets New School. Augusta, GA: Unity Council Inc. Press, 2003.

“The Demise of Rap Music: From Resistance to Rhetoric.” In *Ideaz: An Interdisciplinary Social Science and Humanities Journal* 12, no 1, 2002: 17-37.

“Bringing Africa Black to Augusta: A Public Diary of a Private Journey.” In *The Augusta Focus* 21, no. 1065, 2002: 1-6.

TELEVISION PRODUCTION:

Produced, Directed, Shoot and Edited, *Our Experience: From Israel to Palestine – The Story of the 46th Delegation of Interfaith Peace-builders.* Documentary, Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasting Network, October 2013.

Produced, Directed and Edited, *She is The Pastor: A Profile of Women in Ministry.* Documentary, Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasting Network, March 2013.

SERVICE TO THE ACADEMY:

Columbia Theological Seminary:

Basic Degrees Committee: 2011 to 2012

Education and Technology Committee: 2011 to present

Curriculum Review Committee: 2011 to 2013

Admissions Committee: 2012 to present

Lifelong Learning Committee: 2012 to present

Advisor, African Student Heritage Association: 2012 to present

Fuller Theological Seminary:

Chair, Masters Programs Academic Affairs Committee: 2010 - 2011

Center for Advanced Theological Studies, Affiliate Faculty Member: 2010 to 2011

Chair, African American Church Studies Curriculum Committee: 2005 to 2011

Acting Chair, Ministry Division: 2009 to 2010

President's Cabinet (Faculty Senate Representative): Fall 2009

Academic Affairs Committee: 2005 to 2011

School of Theology Assessment Committee: 2005 to 2011

School of Theology Admissions Committee: 2005 to 2010

Alumni and Church Relations Committee: 2005 to 2009

Dean's Cabinet: 2005 to 2011

Ministry Division: 2005 to 2011

American Academy of Religion, Music and Religion Consultation: 2005 to 2011

Augusta State University:

Web-CT Vista Steering Committee: 2003 to 2005
Arts and Sciences Student Research Committee: 1999 to 2003
Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee: 1999 to 2003; Chair: 2001 to 2002
Departmental Representative, Advising Edge: 2000 to 2005
Faculty Awards Committee: 1999 to 2003
Sociology Department – Part-time Faculty Coordinator: 2001 to 2004
University System of Georgia – Africa Council: 2002 to 2004

Memberships:

American Academy of Religion
Society of Photographic Educators
American Sociological Association
National Council for Black Studies

PASTORAL EXPERIENCE:

Executive Pastor, First African Methodist Episcopal Church, Los Angeles, California

December 2008 to 2011

- Led in the management of staff and a 5.5 million dollar budget
- Supervised and directed young adult ministry
- Supervised and directed youth church
- Coordinated church ministries
- Directed Christian education, evangelism and outreach
- Taught weekly Bible study and preached in regular rotation

Director of Ecclesia / Executive Pastor, The City of Refuge Church, Gardena, California

December 2007 to December 2008

- Supervised and planned worship services
- Developed Office of Ministry Development
- Served as lead manager for congregation/church life
- Supervised fifty employees (ten direct reports)
- Supervised over 25 ministries/leaders
- Directed quarterly Empowerment Saturday Workshops

Minister to Young Adults, First African Methodist Episcopal Church, Los Angeles, California

August 2005 to November 2007

- Taught weekly Bible Study
- Developed Young Adult Ministry Leadership Team
- Implemented the Hip Hop Project

Director of Ministry Development, Beulah Grove Baptist Church, Augusta, Georgia

August 1998 to 2005

- Taught weekly Wednesday Bible Study classes
- Evaluated employees and ministers
- Organized and taught Leadership Training classes
- Served on Pastoral Cabinet
- Supervised 85 ministries
- Directed quarterly Ministry Development workshops

- Initiated and developed The Leadership Institute
- Resolved ministry conflicts
- Developed ministry health model
- Organized annual ministry recruitment fairs
- Designed aggressive evangelism plan that resulted in church growth of over 2,000 members in the six years

Pastor of Education and Evangelism, Macedonia Baptist Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

May 1997 to July 1998

- Designed and implemented evangelism plan which resulted in the growth of 435 new members in one year
- Taught Christian Education classes
- Developed church logo and marketing plan
- Participated in the development of church strategic plan
- Preached and taught Bible Study as assigned

Senior Pastor, Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

November 1994 to May 1997

- Quadrupled active membership
- Doubled annual budget
- Wrote grants and secured funds for the development of The Family Life Center

Senior Pastor, Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania

November 1993 to November 1994

- Organized and led planning conferences; wrote strategic plan
- Developed model youth programs with 80% increase in participation
- Membership increase of over 50%

Pastor, Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church, Clearfield, Pennsylvania

February 1991 to November 1993

- Developed long-term strategic plan
- Membership increase of over 75%
- Completely renovated facility

Associate Pastor, Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Sacramento, California

June 1985 to January 1988

- Developed model youth ministry
- Taught Sunday School and Bible Study

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE:

Assistant Dean, African American Church Studies Program, Fuller Theological Seminary

2005 to 2011

- Led in successful ten-year reaccreditation as a member of the Assessment Committee
- Faculty Representative of Academic Restructuring Team
- Member of School of Theology Academic Leadership Team as a member of The Dean's Cabinet
- Established Fund-Raising Advisory Board
- Completed curriculum audit
- Re-structured African American Church Studies concentration/program
- Increased number of students in the program

- Enhanced student services capacity for African American students

Assistant to the President for Social Equity, Clarion University of Pennsylvania

1992 to 1994

- Served on President's Cabinet with the vice presidents of the university
- Served on meet and discuss team with seven unions
- Participated in the management of a 39.5 million dollar budget and over 550 employees
- Implemented Affirmative Action Plan
- Ensured compliance with the letter and spirit of all Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity laws
- Trained and empowered university community in the areas of diversity and tolerance

Director of Minority Student Affairs, Clarion University of Pennsylvania

1990 to 1992

- Established the Office of Minority Student Affairs
- Developed programs that resulted in recruitment and academic success of minority students
- Developed programs that resulted in increased retention of African American faculty and staff

Director of Minority Student Affairs, University of Dubuque

1988 to 1990

- Developed numerous academic programs that empowered minority students
- Increased graduation rates of students
- Created new approach to student development that resulted in increased student retention

PRESENTATIONS:

- 2015 "Teaching through Art: Activism in the Classroom" American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA
- 2013 "Dyson Rules: The Pedagogy of Michael Eric Dyson" Black Religious Scholars, Baltimore, MD
- 2013 "Socio-Theological Ethnography: The Watkins Approach to the Study of Hip Hop Culture" American Academy of Religion, Baltimore, MD
- 2012 "Hip Hop, Theology and the Future of the Church" Howard Thurman Lecture at Candler School of Theology, Atlanta, Georgia
- 2011 "The Virtual Becomes the Real via a Connected Africa and African Diaspora as Africana Theology Becomes Public Theology: A Method of Sharing Our Story and Recovering Our History Real Virtually" American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, CA
- 2010 "From Black Theology to Africana Theology: A Methodological Shift in the Construction of an African-Centered Theology" American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA

- 2010 “Understanding the Real that is Virtual: Theological Education in the Age of the Internet – Clicking In and Clicking Over” Warren Lecture at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary Dubuque, IA.
- 2009 “From Black Theology and Black Power to Afrocentric Theology and Hip Hop Power: An Extension and Socio-re-theological-conceptualization of Cone’s Theology in Conversation with the Hip Hop Generation” American Academy of Religion Montreal, Canada.
- 2009 “An Africana Theological Framework for Doing Black Theology” American Academy of Religion – Western Region, Santa Clara, CA.
- 2008 “Preaching to the Hip Hop Generation” Styberg Preaching Institute Lecture Garrett Theological Seminary Evanston, IL.
- 2008 “The Re-Radicalization of Black Theology.” American Academy of Religion San Diego, CA.
- 2008 “Hip-Hopcrypha Hip Hop as Sacred Text.” American Academy of Religion San Diego, CA.
- 2007 “Lady Sings the Blues: From Ma Rainey to Lauryn Hill – Blues Queens in Dialogue with Hip Hop Divas.” American Academy of Religion – Western Region, Berkeley, CA.
- 2007 “Just What the Doctor Ordered.” Martin L. King Jr. Lecture, Claremont School of Theology, Claremont, CA.
- 2006 “A Father’s Story: Reaching the Hip Hop Generation.” National Church Leaders Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC.
- 2006 “It’s Dark and Hell is Hot: Exodus through the eyes of DMX.” American Academy of Religion – Western Region, Claremont, CA.
- 2005 “The Loss of African Centeredness in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.” American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2004 “The Revolutionary Rap of Dead Prez: The New Black Nationalism.” National Council of Black Studies, Atlanta, GA.
- 2003 “Teaching for the Inclusive Classroom.” American Sociological Association, Atlanta, GA.

- 2003 “The Black Nationalist Urge in Rap Music.” National Council for Black Studies, Atlanta, GA.
- 2002 “WEB DuBois: Soul-to-Soul.” American Academy of Religion, Toronto, Ontario.
- 2002 “Another Look at Tupac Shakur: Rap, Politics and Rhetoric.” Association of Black Sociologists, Chicago, IL.
- 2002 “Looking Backward: C. Eric Lincoln, Black Nationalism, Black Identity, and Black Religiosity.” Association of Black Sociologists, Chicago, IL.
- 2001 “Looking Backward: C. Eric Lincoln, Black Nationalism, Black Identity, and Black Religiosity.” American Academy of Religion, Denver, CO.
Note: Accepted for presentation.
- 2001 “Teaching to Transgress: A Grassroots Approach that Leads to an Inclusive Classroom.” American Sociological Association, Garden Grove, CA.
- 2001 “Rasta Time: The Parallels between Rastafarianism, Neo-Black Nationalist Religious Movements, Rap and the Raging Next Generation.” Association of Black Sociologists, Garden Grove, CA.
- 2000 “Rap Religion: Shadows of a New Religious Movement.” Southeast Commission for the Study of Religion, Atlanta, GA.
- 1999 “The New Paradigm for an Indigenous Black Theology of the ’Hood: Method, Praxis, and the Implications of Theological Ethnography.” American Academy of Religion, Nashville, TN.
- 1999 “The Demise of Rap Music: From Resistance to Rhetoric.” American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL.
- 1998 “A Black Theology for the Future: Reflections on *My Sister, My Brother*.” American Academy of Religion, Orlando, FL.
- 1998 “The Black Theology of the ’Hood.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Montreal, Canada.
- 1998 “Applied Sociology and the Black Church: Opportunity and Challenges.” Society for Applied Sociology, Denver, CO.
- 1998 “Lost in Space: The Religious Space of the ’Hood.” American Academy of Religion – Eastern Region, Toronto, Canada.

- 1997 “Organizing the Unorganized: The Black Church in the ’Hood.” American Humanist Sociologists, Pittsburgh, PA.
- 1997 “J. Deotis Roberts and a Paradigm for a Black Theology of Dialogue: Implications for a Black Inner City Street Corner Theology.” American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, CA.
- 1997 “The Black Church and Urban Sociology: Taking It to the Streets.” Society for Applied Sociology, Chicago, IL.
- 1997 “The Role of the African American Church in Present Day Social Change.” American Sociological Association, Toronto, Canada.
- 1997 “Bridging the Gap Between Black Theology and the Theology of the ’Hood.” American Academy of Religion – Eastern Region, Buffalo, NY.
- 1997 “The Historical Role of the African American Church and Its Future Implications: Black to the Future.” National Conference of African American Culture and Heritage, Indiana, PA.
- 1996 “Keeping the Christian in Christian Community Development.” Christian Community Development Association, Pittsburgh, PA.
- 1994 “Reaching the Unreachable in an Urban Context: The New Urban America.” The African Methodist Episcopal Church – Episcopal Ministers Conference, Cincinnati, OH.
- 1992 “The Star Strategic Planning Model: The African American Church in the 21st Century.” African Methodist Episcopal Church – Summer Institute, Wilberforce, OH.
- 1992 “African American Student Retention on Predominantly White Campuses” Mid-Atlantic College and University Housing Officers, Lock Haven, PA.
- 1992 “African American Students: Success, Stamina and Survival.” Pennsylvania Black Conference of Higher Education, Harrisburg, PA.
- 1991 “The African American Success Tradition in Higher Education.” Pennsylvania Black Conference of Higher Education, State College, PA.

AWARDS, GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS:

Savannah College
of Art and Design

Honors Scholarship and Educators Scholarship

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| Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasting | Support for production of documentary Israel to Palestine: Our Story / Our Experience, Summer 2013 |
| Greater Atlanta Presbytery | Grant support to study with Interfaith Peace Builder 46 th Delegation, Summer 2013 |
| Columbia Theological Seminary | Study Grant: Egypt Study and Research, Summer 2012 |
| Fuller Theological Seminary | Study Grant: Egypt Study and Research, Summer 2008 |
| University Technology Grant | Technology Upgrade and Improvement, 2003-2004 |
| Fulbright Hayes Fellowship | Ghana Study and Research Seminar, Summer 2003 |
| University System of Georgia | Chancellor's Award, 2001-2002 East Africa: Culture, Environmental Conservation, Economic, Political and Social Development in Kenya and Tanzania – Faculty Development Seminar, Summer Governor's Teaching Fellowship, 2000-2001 |
| Wabash Teaching Fellowship: | Mining the African American Motherlode – Book Project, 2001–2003 |
| National Lilly Foundation | Lilly Teaching Fellowship: Mining the African American Motherlode, 1999-2000 |
| Augusta State University | BellSouth Faculty Development Colloquium, 1998-1999. Five Faculty Research and Development Grants, 1998-2002 Most Valuable Faculty, Student Ambassador Board, 1999-2000 |
| The University of Pittsburgh | Summer Research Grant, 1996-1997 Summer Research Grant, 1995-1996 W.E.B. DuBois Scholar Fellowship, 1994-1995 |

Additional Publications/Newspaper Articles:

2006 Editorial, “White Men, Power, Privilege and the Disrespect of Black Women.” *LA Focus* 11, Issue 4 (May).

1996. “Truth or Tradition: Pastoring in the 21st Century Church.” *The Christian Recorder* (Nashville, TN).

1990. “All I Wanted Was Two Black Baby Dolls.” *The Telegraph Herald* (Dubuque, IA)