

## **GERALD EARLY**

Merle Kling Professor of Modern Letters

Washington University

Department of English

Campus Box 1122

One Brookings Drive

Washington University

St. Louis, Missouri 63130

Or

Director

Center for the Humanities

Campus Box 1071

One Brookings Drive

Washington University

St. Louis, Missouri 63130

(314) 935-5576 office

(314) 963-0267 home

(314) 962-0887 home fax

<glearly@artsci.wustl.edu> e-mail address

### **Home Address:**

53 Jefferson Rd.

Webster Groves, Missouri 63119

### **Interests**

19th and 20th century African American and American literature

American and African American children's literature,

African Americans and War

American popular culture including popular music and sports

### **Education**

Ph.D. in English literature, 1982, Cornell University (Major subject: 19th century American literature and 19th and 20th century Afro-American literature)

M.A. in English literature, 1980, Cornell University

B.A. in English literature, cum laude, with distinction in the major field, 1974, University of Pennsylvania

### **Experience (Academic Appointments)**

Fall 2005--Spring 2007--Director, Center for Joint Projects in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Washington University (now called the Center for Programs)

Fall 2003--present--Director, Center for the Humanities, Washington University (formerly known as the International Writers Center)

Spring 2001--Fall 2003--Director, International Writers Center, Washington University

Fall 2000--Spring 2002--Co-Director, American Culture Studies Institute, Washington University

Spring 1996--present--Merle S. Kling Professor of Modern Letters, Washington University

Fall 1992 to Spring 1999--Director, African and Afro-American Studies Program, Washington University

Fall 1990 to 1996--Director of the American Culture Studies Program, Washington University

Fall 1990--(Full) Professor of English and African and Afro-American Studies, Washington University

1988 to 1990 -- Associate Professor of English and African and Afro-American Studies, Washington University.

1984 - 1988-- Assistant Professor of English and African and Afro-American Studies, Washington University.

Fall 1982-1984-- Assistant Professor, Black Studies, Washington University.

Spring 1982-- Instructor, Black Studies, Washington University.

### **Editorships and Academic Boards**

Editor, Washington University's Undergraduate Research Journals, *Slideshow* (the journal of the Honors Undergraduate Fellowship Program) and *The Inquiry* (the journal of the Mellon-Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program), 2002-present, both under the supervision of the Center for the Humanities

Editor, *Belles Lettres: A Literary Review*, the bi-annual publication of the Center for the Humanities, Washington University in St. Louis

Member, Advisory Board, *The Antioch Review*, 1994-present

Member, Board of Trustees, *Missouri Historical Society*, 2000-present

Member, Board of Governors, *Negro Leagues Baseball Museum*, Kansas City, 2002-present

Member, Board of Trustees, *Negro Leagues Baseball Museum*, Kansas City, 1999-2002

Member, *American Studies Association Council*, 1996-1999

Member, *Jazz Study Group, Columbia University*, organized by Robert O'Meally, 1993--2002

Board of Advisory Editors, *Gateway Heritage*, the magazine of the Missouri Historical Society, 1995-2002

Board of Advisory Editors, *American Quarterly*, Journal of the American Studies Association, 1993-1996

Board of Advisory Editors, *American Studies*, University of Kansas, 1993-present

Board of Advisory Editors, *Nine: A Journal of Baseball History and Social Policy Perspectives*, 1994-present

Board of Advisory Editors, *Journal of Sport History*, 1996-present

Contributing Editor, *Hungry Mind Review*, 1990-2000

Contributing Editor, *Civilization Magazine*, 1994-1998

Contributing Editor, *U. S. News and World Report*, 1998-2000

Series Editor, Dark Tower Series of African American Literature, The Ecco Press, 1990-1998

Books that have been republished under my editorship for this series:

*The Life and Loves of Mr. Jiveass Nigger* by Cecil Brown

*Tragic Magic* by Wesley Brown

*A Drop of Patience* by William Melvin Kelley

*Blueschild, Baby* by George Cain

Board of Advisory Editors, *The Oxford Companion to African-American Literature*

### **Publications (Books)**

*One Nation Under a Groove: Motown and American Culture*, revised and expanded, University of Michigan Press, 2004

*This is Where I Came In: Black America in the 1960s*, University of Nebraska Press, 2003, three invited lectures delivered at the University of Nebraska as part of their Abraham Lincoln Lectures Series

*One Nation Under a Groove: Motown and American Culture*, Ecco Press, 1995

*Daughters: On Family and Fatherhood*, Addison-Wesley, Spring 1994

*The Culture of Bruising: Essays on Literature, Prizefighting, and Modern American Culture*, Ecco Press, Spring 1994 (collection of essays on boxing, literature, music, and culture) Winner of the 1994 National Book Critic's Circle Award

*Tuxedo Junction: Essays on American Culture*, The Ecco Press, January 1990

#### **Publications (Edited Works)**

*The Sammy Davis, Jr. Reader* (a compilation of articles about and interviews with the famed entertainer, from the 1950s to the 1980s), (Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2001)

*Miles Davis and American Culture*, (with original essays by John Gennari, Ingrid Monson, Waldo E. Martin, Jr., Eric Porter, Martha Bayless, Farah Jasmine Griffin, William Howard Kenney, Eugene B. Redmond, and Benjamin Cawthra as well as interviews with Ron Carter, Quincy Jones, Clark Terry, Ahmad Jamal, and Joey DeFrancesco), (Missouri Historical Society Press, distributed by University of Missouri Press, 2001)

*Ain't But A Place: An Anthology of African American Writings About St. Louis*, (with selections from works by Ntozake Shange, Eddy Harris, Dick Gregory, Chuck Berry, Tina Turner, Bob Gibson, Archie Moore, William Wells Brown, Lucy Delany, Roy Wilkins, Henry Armstrong, Sonny Liston, Quincy Troupe, Miles Davis, Josephine Baker, Curt Flood, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Nathan Young, Herman Dreer, Julius Hunter, W. E. B. Du Bois, Marcus Garvey, Eugene Redmond, and others), (Missouri Historical Society Press, distributed by University of Missouri Press, 1998)

*The Muhammad Ali Reader*, paperback edition, (Rob Weisbach Books, 1998)

*The Muhammad Ali Reader*, (with essays by Jackie Robinson, Tom Wolfe, Jose Torres, Gay Talese, Joyce Carol Oates, Ishmael Reed, Gordon Parks, Norman Mailer, Pete Hamill, George Plimpton, Irwin Shaw, and others on the former heavyweight champion), (Ecco Press, 1998)

*Body Language: Writers on Sports*, (featuring commissioned essays by Anthony Walton, James McPherson, Wayne Fields, Jonis Agee, David Foster Wallace, and others) Greywolf Press, 1998

*Lure and Loathing: Essays on Race, Identity, and Ambivalence of Assimilation* (with essays by Molefi Asante, Toni Cade Bambara, Ella Pearson Mitchell, Kenneth R. Manning, Nikki Giovanni, Stanley Crouch, Itaberi Njeri, James McPherson, Glenn Loury, Wanda Coleman, Michael S. Harper, Wilson J. Moses, Stephen Carter, and Henry Louis Gates), Allen Lane: Viking Press, 1993

*Speech and Power: The African-American Essay and Its Cultural Content from Polemics to Pulpit, Vol. 2*, Ecco Press, 1993 (collection of essays by black American writers from the turn of the century to the present)

*Speech and Power: The African-American Essay and Its Cultural Content from Polemics to Pulpit, Vol. 1*, Ecco Press, 1992 (collection of essays by black American writers from the turn of the century to the present)

*"My Soul's High Song": The Selected Writings of Countee Cullen, Voice of the Harlem Renaissance*, Doubleday, January 1991 (annotated collection of Cullen's work with introduction and bibliography)

#### **Recent Articles (selected)**

"The Madness in the American Haunted House: The New Southern Gothic, and the Young Adult Novel of the 1960s: A Personal Reflection" in Alice Hall Perry (ed.), *On Harper Lee: Essays and Reflections*, Knoxville: University of Tennessee, 2007), pp. 93-104

"Dancing in the Dark: Race, Sex, the South, and Exploitative Cinema," *The Oxford American*, No. 56, 2007, pp. 46-53

"The Quest for a Black Humanism," *Daedalus, Journal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences*, Spring 2006, pp. 91-104

"The 1960s, African Americans, and the American Comic Book," *The Rubber Frame: Essays in Culture and Comics*, edited by D. B. Dowd, Washington University in St. Louis, published in conjunction with two comic book exhibitions at Washington University in the fall of 2004, pp. 60-81, republished in 2006 by Princeton Architectural Press with the title *Strips, Toons, and Bluesies: Essays in Comics and Culture*

"Great Adventurer," Review Essay of *Lost Prophet: The Life and Times of Bayard Rustin* by John D'Emilio, *The New York Review of Books*, Vol. LI, Number 6, April 8, 2004, pp. 41-44

"Race, Art, and Integration: The African American Soldier During the Korean War," *Bulletin of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences*, Vol. LVII, No. 1, Fall 2003, pp. 32-38

"The Invisible Intellectual: A Place of Our Own," *New York Times*, April 14, 2002, section 4A, p. 34

"White Noise and White Knights: Some Thoughts on Race, Jazz, and the White Jazz Musician" in *Jazz: A History of America's Music* by Geoffrey C. Ward and Ken Burns, Knopf, 2000, pp. 324-331

"Jazz and American Literature," in *The Oxford Companion to Jazz*, edited by Bill Kirchner, Oxford University Press, 2000, pp. 734-744

"Jungle Fever: Ian Fleming's James Bond Novels, the Cold War, and Jamaica," *New Letters*, Vol. 66, No. 1, pp. 139-163

Introduction for *Catching Dreams: My Life in the Negro Baseball Leagues* by Frazier "Slow" Robinson with Paul Bauer, (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1999), pp.xv--xxiv

"Monogamy and Its Perils," in *Here Lies My Heart: Essays on Why We Marry, Why We Don't, and What We Find There*, edited by Deborah Chasman and Catherine Jhee, Beacon Press, 1999, pp. 61-67 (This essay originally appeared in *Harper's*, December 1995)

"Black Studies: An Education or the Reflection of a Crisis," *Academic Questions*, Vol. 11, No. 4, Fall 1998, pp. 12-20

"Performance and Reality: Race, Sports, and the Modern World," *The Nation*, August 10/17, 1998, pp. 11-20

"Martin Luther King and the Reinvention of Christianity in Modern America" in *Martyrs: Contemporary Writers on Modern Lives of Faith* (paperback edition), edited by Susan Bergman, Orbis, 1998, pp.103-131

"When Worlds Collide: Anxiety and Miscegenation in American Culture," a review-essay of Werner Sollors's *Neither Black Nor White Yet Both: Thematic Explorations of Interracial Literature* in *Intellectual History Newsletter*, Volume 20, 1998, pp. 50-56

"Muhammad Ali: The Wonder Boy," in *The New York Review of Books*, May 28, 1998, pp. 11-14 (revised version of the introduction for the *Muhammad Ali Reader*)

"Nice Work If You Can Get," in *Black Renaissance Noire*, Vol. 1, No. 2, Summer/Fall 1997, pp. 57-65

"A meditation on the Meaning of 'Diversity' in the United States," in *Civil Rights and Social Wrongs*, edited by John Higham, Pennsylvania State University Press, 1997, pp. 163-178

"Jackie Robinson and the Hollywood Integration Film" in *Jackie Robinson: Between the Lines*, edited by Glenn Stout and Dick Johnson, Woodford Press, 1997, pp. 99-102

"Driving Miss Linnet," *Emerge*, March 1997, pp. 64-67

"St. Louis: The Midwestern Long Good-bye" in *The Place Within: Portraits of the American Landscape by 20 Contemporary Writers*, edited by Jodi Daynard, Norton, 1997, pp. 169-183

"American Integration, Black Heroism, and the Meaning of Jackie Robinson," *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, May 23, 1997, pp. B4-B5

"Dreaming of a Black Christmas: Kwanzaa bestows the gifts of therapy," *Harper's*, January 1997, pp. 55-61

"Mike's Brilliant Career," *Transition*, No. 71, Fall 1996, pp. 46-59

"Understanding Integration: Why blacks and whites must come together as Americans," *Civilization*, Oct/Nov. 1996, pp. 51-59

"Who is the Jew?," *CommonQuest: The Magazine of Black/Jewish Relations*, Spring 1996, pp. 41-45

"Some Preposterous Propositions from the Heroic Life of Muhammad Ali: A Reading of The Greatest: My Own Story in *Muhammad Ali: The People's Champ*, edited by Elliott J. Gorn, University of Illinois Press, 1995, pp. 70-87

"Understanding Afrocentrism: Why Blacks Dream of a World without Whites," *Civilization*, July-August 1995, pp. 31-39

Books reviews in the *Nation*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Chicago Tribune*, *Emerge*, *Newsday*, *The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education*, *The New Republic*, the *Boston*

*Book Review, Christianity and Culture, The New Crisis, and the National Review.*

**Awards and Honors**

*2008 Excellence in the Arts Award, Arts and Education Council, St. Louis, Missouri*

*2007 Distinguished Service to Education Award, Harris-Stowe State University*

*2006 Phi Beta Kappa Evelyn and William Jaffe Medal for Distinguished Service to the Humanities, awarded triennially*

*Grammy Award Nomination, 2001, Best Album Liner Notes, Rhapsodies in Black: Music and Words of the Harlem Renaissance, Rhino Records*

*Grammy Award Nomination, 2000, Best Album Liner Notes, Yes I Can: The Sammy Davis, Jr. Story, Rhino Records*

Washington University's *Arthur Holly Compton Faculty Award*, 1997

"The Frailty of Human Friendship," originally published in the *Hungry Mind Review*, 1997, selected for *The Anchor Essay Annual: The Best of 1998*, edited by Phillip Lopate, (New York: Anchor/Doubleday Books, 1998), pp. 239-248.

Elected Member to the *American Academy of Arts and Sciences*, 1997, (Class 4, Section 3, Philology and Criticism)

"Understanding Afrocentrism or Why Blacks Dream of a World Without Whites," first published in *Civilization*, July-August 1995, to be republished by Houghton Mifflin in *Best American Essays of 1996*, Geoffrey Ward and Robert Atwan, editors.

Washington University's *Distinguished Faculty Award*, 1995

"Life With Daughters: Watching the Miss America Pageant," in *The Best American Essays, College Edition*, edited by Robert Atwan, Houghton Mifflin, 1995, pp. 411-429

*1994 National Book Critics' Circle for Criticism* for *The Culture of Bruising* (Ecco Press)

"Their Malcolm, My Problem: On the Abuses of Afrocentrism and Black Anger," first published in *Harper's*, December 1992, re-published by

Ticknor and Fields in *Best American Essays of 1993*, Joseph Epstein and Robert Atwan, editors

**Forthcoming (selected)**

*Best African American Essays 2009* and *Best African American Fiction 2009*, Bantam Books, February 2009. I serve as the series editor for this annual publication. The guest editors for the 2009 volumes were Debra Dickerson for Essays and E. Lynn Harris for Fiction.

*Ralph Ellison*, Marshall Cavendish Books, part of this publisher's *Writers and their Works* series, books of literary scholarship about a single author and his or her major works meant for an undergraduate audience. Spring 2009

**Selected Invited Lectures and Visitorships (1999-2005)**

"The Art of Teaching," Episcopal City Mission, St. Louis, September 10, 2008

"The Meaning of American Popular Music," International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia, May 28, 2008

"The New Negro Era," Aaron Douglas Symposium, University of Kansas, September 29, 2007

"Muhammad Ali Revised," The Muhammad Ali Center, Louisville, Kentucky, December 4, 2005

Panel discussion on boxing and film with Ron Shelton, Karyn Kusama, Joyce Carol Oates, and Elvis Mitchell at the Los Angeles Film Festival, July 20, 2005

"The Next Level: Lectures on African Americans and Sports," African American Studies Department, Harvard University, October 27-30, 2003

John Hope Franklin Fellow, the National Humanities Center, 2001-2002 (invited fellowship)

"Memory, Public History, and Race in America," Connecticut College, March 1, 2002, Multicultural and Diversity Conference

"Muhammad Ali as Third World Hero," Louisiana State University, February 1, 2002

"From Louis Armstrong to Lois Lane: Reflections on the Meaning of the American Century," T. S. Eliot Lecture, University of London, February 17, 2000

"Sammy Davis, Jr.: The Life and Times of America's Last Great Hipster-Hero," MIT, December 2, 1999

"The Public Intellectual," panel discussion with Alan Lightman and Stepehn Pinsky, MIT, December 2, 1999

### **Projects**

Co-Project director (with Keith Sawyer, Education, and Patrick Burke, Music) and grant writer, "How Deep is the Ocean: The Rise and Fall of Jazz as Popular Music," funded as a Sawyer Seminar by the Mellon Foundation, eight sessions during 2009-2010, to be held at Washington University

Co-director with Erin Davis and Anne Posaga of Olin Library, Washington University, "Little Black Sambo: Children's Literature, Race, and a Century of Controversy", September 12 and 13, 2008

Project director and grant writer, Teaching Jazz as American Culture Workshop, NEH-funded interdisciplinary workshop for humanities teachers K-to-12 including one-week summer session and eight monthly sessions throughout the school year, May 2008-May 2009

Organizer and host for the Annual Meeting of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes, the international organization of Humanities Centers, Washington University, March 14-15, 2008. Theme: "The Humanities in an Age of Science"

Project director and grant writer, Teaching Jazz as American Culture, NEH-funded interdisciplinary summer institute for high school teachers, to be held at Washington University in St. Louis, July 2007

Co-organizer of Tsinghua University—Washington University humanities conference, held at Tsinghua University, Beijing, China August 11-15, 2006. Theme: "Translating Global Cultures: Toward Interdisciplinary (Re) Constructions"

Project director and grant writer, Teaching Jazz as American Culture, NEH-funded interdisciplinary summer institute for 30 high school teachers, held at Washington University in St. Louis, July 5-29, 2005

Co-lead teacher and project director in NEH-sponsored Summer Teachers' Institute on the literature and history of the civil rights movement for St. Louis teachers held at Washington University in St. Louis, July 22-26, 1996

Commentator, Fresh Air Program, National Public Radio, 1991-1995

Consultant and on-air commentator, *Jazz*, a documentary on the history of jazz, Ken Burns, producer and director

Consultant and on-air commentator, *Baseball*, a documentary on the history of baseball, Ken Burns, producer and director

Consultant and on-air commentator, *Unforgivable Blackness: the Life of Prizefighter Jack Johnson*, Ken Burns, producer and director

Consultant, *The War*, Ken Burns producer and director

Consultant, *Sonny Liston*, a documentary on the life of boxer, Sonny Liston, HBO Productions

Consultant, *The African American Athlete*, a documentary on the history of the African American athlete, HBO Productions

Project Director, Miles Davis conference, Washington University in St. Louis, April 6-8, 1995, (featuring James Lincoln Collier, Stanley Crouch, Jon Michael Spencer, Darlene Clark Hine, and others), funded by the NEH

Project Director, Miles Davis conference, Washington University in St. Louis, May 10-11, 1996, (featuring Gary Bartz, Ira Gitler, Teo Macero, Dave Leibman, Jimmy Cobbs, and others)

Co-Project Director (with Ingrid Monson), Miles Davis conference, Washington University in St. Louis, May 3-4, 1997, (featuring Randy Weston, Jackie McLean, A. B. Spellman, Orrin Keepnews, Dan Morgenstern, Bernice Johnson Reagon, and others), funded by Missouri Humanities Council

Consultant, Motown Museum Exhibition, Mary Seelhorst, manager and project director, Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village

Co-lead teacher and project director (with Nancy Grant, Barbara Graham, and Bobby Norfolk) in NEH-sponsored Summer Teachers' Institute on the Harlem Renaissance held at Washington University in St. Louis in July 1993, July 1995 co-sponsored with the National Alliance of Black School Educators

Co-Project Director of Race and Science conference, November 1993, featuring eight scholars including Richard Lewontin, Ken Manning, Willie Pearson, and Mary Claire King. Funded by the National Science

Foundation, co-sponsored with Peter Raven and the Missouri Botanical Gardens

Project Director of the Black Heartland Conference held on March 19-22, 1992, featured 30 papers about African-American life and culture in the Middle from scholars from various disciplines

Project Director of the Black Heartland Conference held on March 21-24, 1991, featured a dozen papers about African-American life and culture in the Middle West from scholars representing various disciplines

Project Director of the Black Heartland Summer Seminar for Public School Teachers, from July 18 to August 8, 1991. Funded in part by the Missouri Humanities Council, the seminar was an introduction to materials about African-American life and culture in the Middle West. Twelve teachers participated in the seminar, featuring guest lectures by jazz musician Oliver Lake, and University of Kansas professors William L. Andrews and Elizabeth Schultz

Co-lead professor (with Nellie McKay, Lee Greene, and Trudier Harris) in NEH-sponsored Summer Teachers' Institute on African-American literature held at the University of Alabama in June 1993, June 1991

Co-lead professor and project director (with Wayne Fields, Barbara Graham, and Bobby Norfolk) in NEH-sponsored Summer Teachers' Institute on the Harlem Renaissance for St. Louis teachers held at Washington University in St. Louis in July 1989.

9/29/08