

**CURRICULUM VITAE
(February 2015)**

**Elizabeth Alexander
Frederick Iseman Professor of Poetry
Yale University
81 Wall Street
New Haven, CT 06510**

EDUCATION

1984 BA, English, Yale University
1987 MA, English (Creative Writing), Boston University
1992 Ph.D., English, University of Pennsylvania

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2015- Frederick Iseman Professor of Poetry, Yale University
2010-2015 Thomas E. Donnelley Professor of African American Studies, Yale University
2009-2013 Chair, African American Studies Department, Yale University
2005- Professor, Departments of African American Studies, American Studies and English, Yale University
2000-2005 Associate Professor (Adjunct), African American Studies Department, Yale University
1997-1999 Grace Hazard Conkling Poet-in-Residence, Smith College
1997-1999 Inaugural Director, The Poetry Center at Smith College
1991-1997 Assistant Professor, English Department, University of Chicago
1990-1991 Dissertation Fellow, English Department, Haverford College

PUBLICATIONS

I. Books

The Light of the World (Memoir), Grand Central Publishing (*forthcoming, expected April, 2015*).

“The Library of America Book of African-American Poetry,” (*contracted and in progress*).

- “Cemetery for the Illustrious Negro Dead: A Prehistory of African American Studies,” (*in progress*).
- 2012 *Praise Song for the Day* (Children’s Book, illustrated by David Diaz), HarperCollins/Katherine Tegen Books.
- 2010 *Crave Radiance: New and Selected Poems 1990-2010*, Graywolf Press.
(*Winner*, Paterson Prize for Poetry;
Nominee, Hurston-Wright Foundation Award for Poetry)
- 2009 *Praise Song for the Day* (Chapbook), Graywolf Press.
- 2009 *Canto de Alabanza por el Dia* (Chapbook; translated with Rodrigo Rojas), Graywolf Press.
- 2008 *Poems in Conversation and a Conversation*, (with Lyrae Van Clief-Stefanon), Slapering Hol Press.
- 2007 *Power and Possibility: Essay, Reviews, Interviews*, University of Michigan Press, Poets on Poetry Series.
- 2007 *Miss Crandall’s School for Young Ladies and Little Misses of Color*, (with Marilyn Nelson), Front Street Press.
(*Winner*, Connecticut Book Award)
- 2006 *American Blue: Selected Poems*, Bloodaxe Books (U.K.).
- 2005 *American Sublime*, Graywolf Press.
(*Notable Book*, American Library Association 25 Notable Books of the Year; *Finalist*, Pulitzer Prize; *Finalist*, Connecticut Book Award)
- 2004 *The Black Interior: Essays*, Graywolf Press.
(*Finalist for Best Non-Fiction*, Hurston-Wright Foundation)
- 2001 *Antebellum Dream Book*, Graywolf Press.
(Village Voice 25 Best Books of 2001)
- 1996 *Body of Life*, Tia Chucha Press.
- 1990 *The Venus Hottentot*, University Press of Virginia, Callaloo Poetry Series.
Reissued by Graywolf Press, 2004.

II. Edited Volumes

- 2005 *The Essential Gwendolyn Brooks*, ed. and introduction, Library of America
“American Poetry Project.”
- 1995 *Love’s Instruments* by Melvin Dixon, ed. and introduction, Tia Chucha Press.

III. Essays (selected)

- 2013 "Free Black Men," in "The New Black: What Has Changed -- and What Has Not -- with Race in America," ed. Ken Mack and Guy-Uriel Charles, The New Press.
- 2011 "Ripping out the Seams: New Thoughts on Black Experimental Poetry," *Michigan Quarterly Review*.
- 2011 "We Were Here and We Are Here: The Cave Canem Poetry Workshop," in *Poetry in Communities*, ed. Kate Coles, Poetry Foundation.
- 2010 "Harlem Plays the Best Ball in the World," in *Harlem: A Century in Images*, ed. Thelma Golden, Rizzoli.
- 2009 "Jean Toomer Travels to Sparta, Georgia," *New Literary History of America*, ed. Werner Sollors and Greil Marcus, Harvard UP.
- 2009 "My Grandmother's Hair," in *The Black Body*, ed. Meri Nana-Amah Danquah, Seven Stories Press.
- 2007 "Second Spring," Meridel LeSeuer essay, *Water*Stone*.
- 2007 "Five Portraits," in Deb Willis, ed, *Let Your Motto Be Resistance: African American Portraits*," Smithsonian and ICP exhibition and catalogue.
- 2006 "Contemporary African-American Poetics,"(with Harryette Mullen) in *Cave Canem Tenth Anniversary Anthology*, ed. Toi Derricotte and Cornelius Eady, University of Michigan Press.
- 2005 "The Negro Digs Up Her Past," *SAQ*.
- 2004 "Some White Men," in *Some of My Best Friends: Writings on Interracial Friendships*, ed. Emily Bernard, HarperCollins.
- 2003 "The Genius of Romare Bearden," in *Something All Our Own: The Grant Hill Collection of African-American Art*, ed. Alvia Wardlaw, Duke University Press.
- 2001 "'The Space Between': On Etheridge Knight" in *Poetry Speaks*, ed. Elise Paschen and Rebecca Presson Mosby, Sourcebooks, Inc.
- 2000 "Meditations on 'Mecca': Gwendolyn Brooks and the Responsibilities of the Black Poet," in *By Herself, Women Reclaim Poetry*, ed. Molly McQuade, Graywolf Press. Also published in *Associated Writing Programs Chronicle*.
- 1996 "Real/Not Real," catalogue essay, *Real: Six Black Figurative Painters*, Bass Museum of Art, Miami.

- 1996 "We're Gonna Deconstruct Your Life!': The Making and Un-Making of the Black Bourgeois Patriarch in 'Ricochet'," in *Representing Black Men*, ed. Marcellus Blount and George P. Cunningham, Routledge.
- 1995 "A Black Man Says 'Sorbet,'" catalogue essay, *Two Cents: The Art of Jean-Michel Basquiat and the Poetry of Kevin Young*, Miami-Dade Community College Wolfson Galleries.
- 1994 "We Must Be About our Fathers' Business': Anna Julia Cooper and the Incorporation of the Turn-of-the-Century Aframerican Intellectual," *Signs*.
- 1994 "Memory, Community, Voice: African-American Poetry in the Age of AIDS," *Callaloo*.
- 1994 "Coming out Blackened and Whole': Fragmentation and Reintegration in Audre Lorde's *Zami* and *The Cancer Journals*," *American Literary History*.
- 1994 "Can you Be BLACK and Look at This?': Reading the Rodney King Video(s)," in *Public Culture*, and Whitney Museum, *Black Male* (ed. Thelma Golden).
- 1994 "Walt Whitman and Gwendolyn Brooks," *Voice Literary Supplement*.
- 1994 "Living in the *Jet Stream*," *Voice Literary Supplement*.
- 1994 "The Anxiety of Authority," *The Women's Review of Books*.

IV. Poetry and fiction in journals and anthologies (widely published; furnished upon request)

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2014 Honorary Doctorate, Haverford College
- 2011 Connecticut Book Award for Poetry for *Crave Radiance*
- 2011 Hurston-Wright Foundation Award for Poetry for *Crave Radiance*
- 2011 Paterson Poetry Prize for *Crave Radiance*, sponsored by the Poetry Center at Passaic County Community College
- 2010 Anisfield-Wolf Award for Lifetime Achievement in Poetry
- 2009 Honorary Doctorate, Simmons College
- 2009 Honorary Doctorate, College of St. Benedict

- 2009 Alumni of the Year, Sidwell Friends School
- 2009 Inaugural Poet, President Barack Obama
- 2007-2008 Mildred Londa Weisman Fellow (Invited), Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University
- 2007 Inaugural Recipient, Jackson Poetry Prize
- 2005 Alphonse Fletcher, Sr., Fellowship, “for work which promotes the broad goals of the Brown v. Board of Education decision” (Inaugural Class)
- 2002 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship
- 1999-2000 Visiting Fellow, Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University
- 1997 Quantrell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, University of Chicago
- 1993-1994 Chicago Humanities Institute Fellowship, University of Chicago
- 1994 Fellow, Ragdale Foundation
- 1992 NEA Creative Writing Fellowship
- 1990, 1991 Fellow, Corporation of Yaddo

INVITED LECTURES (selected)

- 2013 Toni Morrison Lectures, Princeton University Center for African American Studies
- 2012 “Reconsidering Lucille Clifton,” Keynote at Poets Forum
- 2012 Association of College Unions International
- 2012 “African-American Poetry as the Sacred Word,” Parks-King Lecture, Yale Divinity School
- 2011 Writers at Rutgers, World Aids Day Talk
- 2011 “Cemetery for the Illustrious Negro Dead,” Du Bois Institute Fall Colloquium Series, Harvard University
- 2011 “Open the Unusual Door,” Keynote Address to the Freshman Class, Yale University

- 2011 “Ripping out the Seams: New Thoughts on Black Experimental Poetry,” Hopwood Lecture, University of Michigan
- 2011 “Cemetery for the Illustrious Negro Dead,” Keynote Address, Columbia University Conference on Black Women’s Intellectual History
- 2011 “Hearing America Singing,” University of Washington Graduate School
- 2010 Commencement Address, College of St. Benedict
- 2010 Commencement Address, Simmons College
- 2010 “Venus Revisited,” Keynote address, Venus 2000 Conference, NYU
- 2010 “Free Black Men,” Race in the Age of Obama Conference, Duke University Law School
- 2010 “In the Company of Scholars,” Yale Graduate Dean’s Lecture
- 2010 Drue Heinz Lecture, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2010 Keynote Address, Zora Neale Hurston Festival, Eatonville, FL
- 2010 Martin Luther King Keynote Address, Wittenberg University
- 2010 Martin Luther King Keynote Address, University of Pennsylvania
- 2008 “Anna Julia Cooper in Washington,” Conference on Anna Julia Cooper, Penn State University
- 2007 James Baldwin Lecture, Hampshire College
- 2006 “The Ongoing Influence of Paul Laurence Dunbar on 20th Century African-American Poetry,” Dunbar Conference, Stanford University
- 2005 “Re-defining Experimental Black Poetry,” CUNY Graduate Center
- 2005 “Why Amistad, Why Now?: History Poems and the Contemporary Moment,” Yale University, “Why Literature Matters” Conference
- 2004 “The ‘Kitchenette’, The World: On Gwendolyn Brooks,” Keynote Address, Medgar Evers College, Gwendolyn Brooks Symposium
- 2004 The Windfall Address, Nichols College, Dudley, MA
- 2004 Commencement Speaker, Yale University Black Graduation

- 2003 "Black Alive and Looking Back at You," Keynote Address, June Jordan Memorial Conference, LaGuardia Community College
- 2003 Alice Moore Dunbar Nelson Scholar-in-Residence Address, Dillard University, New Orleans.
- 2002 "Rethinking the Black Female Body," Keynote Address, "Writing and the Difference 'Race' Makes" Conference, Southern Connecticut Community College
- 2002 "Langston Hughes and the Road to New Negro Poets USA," Keynote Address, "Langston Hughes and His World" Conference, Yale University
- 2002 "Toward the Black Interior," John Hope Franklin Center for Interdisciplinary Study, Duke University
- 1997 "On Black Masculinity," Princeton Conference on Black Masculinity
- 1997 Keynote Address, "Affirmative Action Babies, Bourgeois Blues," Unnatural Acts Conference, UC Riverside, Riverside, CA
- 1996 "'The Block' and Beyond: Bearden, DuBois, and Collage," Symposium on Romare Bearden, University of Pennsylvania
- 1994 "Writing the Venus Hottentot," Riverfront Forum, University of Chicago
- 1994 "Memory, Community, Voice: African-American Poetry in the Age of AIDS," Conference in Honor of Melvin Dixon, CUNY Graduate Center, March 1994; Black Women in the Academy Conference, M.I.T.
- 1993 "'Can you be BLACK and Look at This?': Reading the Rodney King Video(s)," Midwest Faculty Seminar, University of Chicago, April 1993; Contested Boundaries Conference, University of California-Irvine, May 1993; Society for Cinema Studies Conference
- 1993 "Re-Visions of 'Two-Ness': Du Bois and Beyond," Midwest Faculty Seminar, University of Chicago
- 1992 "Issues in Black Women's Literature," Mellon Literacy Program, U. of Chicago
- 1992 "On Romare Bearden," UCLA, Wight Art Gallery
- 1989 "New Approaches for Teaching Afro-American Poetry," PATHS/PRISM Workshop, Philadelphia, PA

PERFORMANCE

- 2010 Premiere, "City Song," with Lewis Spratlan (Composer), Woolsey Hall, Yale University, Yale Glee Club

- 2010 Premiere, "Someone is Listening," with Gutherine P. Ramsey (Composer), anthem commissioned by N.A.A.C.P. for centennial
- 2009 Premiere, "Five Men," with Elena Ruehr (Composer), Kennedy Center Terrace Theater, Washington Vocal Arts Society
- 1997 Collaborator, "Doppler Incident," conceived and directed by Kerry James Marshall, BAM/New Wave Festival, New York City
- 1996 "Diva Studies," full-length verse drama (directing thesis commissioned by Yale School of Drama) University Theater, Yale University

POETRY READINGS (extensive national and international readings since 1986; furnished upon request)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS

- 2015- Chancellor, Academy of American Poets
- 2014- Board of Advisors, Nation Writers' Museum
- 2012- Advisory Board, African Poetry Book Foundation
- 2011 Judge, United States of Artists fellowship competition
- 2011 Panel Chair, National Book Award for Poetry
- 2010 Judge, Naomi Long Madgett Book Prize, Lotus Press
- 2010- External Advisory Committee, Black Metropolis Research Consortium
- 2009 Judge, Cave Canem Book Prize
- 2009 Judge, Rona Jaffe Foundation
- 2008 Advisor, Poetry Foundation Website
- 2006 Phi Beta Kappa Poet, Harvard University
- 2005- Nominator and Nominee Evaluator, U.S. Artists, Whiting, Rona Jaffe, and MacArthur Foundations
- 2005 Judge, Bollingen Prize for Poetry, Yale University Libraries
- 2005 Phi Beta Kappa Poet, Yale University

2005 American Poetry Representative, Pablo Neruda Centennial Celebration, Santiago, Chile, sponsored by Fundacion Neruda and Universidad Diego Portales

2003-2006 Judge, Whiting Foundation

2003-2006 Judge, James Laughlin Award, Academy of American Poets

2002-2004 Judge, O.B. Hardison Award, Folger Shakespeare Library

2002 New Haven Arts Awards Selection Committee

2002- Program Consultant, International Festival of Arts and Ideas, New Haven, CT

2002 Poetry Judge, National Book Award

2002 Interdisciplinary Panel Juror, Pew Charitable Trusts Arts Grants

2002-2007 Board, Poetry Society of America

2000-2004 Board, Gwendolyn Brooks Center, Chicago State University

2000- Advisory Board, Furious Flower Foundation for African American Poetry

1997- Founding and Honorary Board Member, Cave Canem Foundation

1995- Visiting Writer Abroad, Berlin and Hamburg, Germany; Rio de Janeiro, Minas Gerais, and Salvador, Brazil; Santiago, Chile; Treasure Beach, Jamaica. Sponsored by Calabash; U.S. State Department; Goethe-Institut; Callaloo magazine

1994 Guest Editor, Missouri Arts Council Biennial

1993 Dramaturge, "Twilight" by Anna Deavere Smith, Mark Taper Forum, Los Angeles

1993 Poetry Panelist, National Endowment for the Arts

1993-1994 Consultant, Poetry Center of Chicago

1992-1996 Board, Tia Chucha Press

OTHER TEACHING

2007, 2009 Napa Valley Writers Workshop

2006 Visiting Associate Professor, English Department, University of Pennsylvania (Spring)

- 2004 Arvon Foundation Workshop, Yorkshire, England
- 2002 Yale University Summer School
- 2001, 2003 New York University, Graduate Creative Writing Program
- 1996- Cave Canem Poetry Workshop (Founding Faculty)
- 1996 Visiting Assistant Professor, English Department, Yale University (Spring)
- 1995 Visiting Assistant Professor, English Department, Northwestern University (Fall)
- 1993 Dunbar Vocational High School, N.E.H.-funded project on Gwendolyn Brooks
- 1992 Guild Complex, Chicago, IL
- 1991 Wesleyan University Summer Writer's Conference
- 1988, 1989 Germantown Friends School (Spring)
- 1987-8 University of Pennsylvania (Freshman English Seminars)
- 1985-1986 Boston University (Undergraduate Creative Writing Seminar)

OTHER PRIZES

- 2001, 2000,
1998 Pushcart Prizes for Poetry
- 1997 Honorable Mention, "Diva Studies," Jane Chambers Playwriting Award, Women and Theatre Program of ATHE
- 1997 George Kent Prize for Poetry, Chicago State Black Writers Conference
- 1994 Kenyon Review Prize for Literary Excellence
- 1993 Illinois Arts Council Literary Award
- 1992 George Kent Prize, Poetry magazine (awarded by Gwendolyn Brooks)
- 1986 Larry Neal Writer's Award for Fiction, D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities

The Department is delighted to announce that Elizabeth Alexander has recently been named as the inaugural Frederick Iseman Professor of Poetry. Please visit YaleNews for the full article: <http://news.yale.edu/2015/01/14/elizabeth-alexander-appointed-inaugural-frederick-ise-man-professor-poetry>. C.V. OF FREDERICK SUPPE Page Four. Review of Elissa Henken, *The Welsh Saints, A Study in Patterned Lives*, in *Speculum*, (January 1994), pp 172-3. Review of A.D. Carr, *Owen of Wales: The End of the House of Gwynedd*, in *Speculum*, (October 1993), pp. 1078-9. Review article of David Stephenson, *The Governance of Gwynedd, and Alexander Grant, Independence and Nationhood. Scotland 1306 – 1469*, in *Medieval Prosopography* (Spring 1987), pp. 111-118. Review of R.R. Mclan and James Logan, *The Clans of the Scottish Highlands*, in *Minnesota Daily*, (May 19, 1981).