

**Ronald C. Samples**  
(713) 313-7218 (office)

**Education:**

Rice University – Houston, Texas – English – 2000 – PhD  
Rice University – Houston, Texas – English – 1997 – MA  
Texas Southern University – Houston, Texas – English – 1972 – BA

**Professional Work Experience:**

Instructor of English, Texas Southern University, 1975-2001  
Assistant Professor of English, Texas Southern University, 2001-2005  
Associate Professor of English, Texas Southern University, 2005-present

**Dissertation:**

“Of Kings and the Common Touch: An Answer to the Question of Henry James and the Educated Lay Reader”

**Memberships:**

The Henry James Society  
The College Language Association  
The Southern Conference of African American Studies, Incorporated (Lifetime Membership)  
The American Studies Association of Texas  
The National Council of Teachers of English  
The Conference of College Teachers of English  
The Conference on College Composition and Communication  
The Texas College English Association  
Lambda Iota Tau International Honor Society, Delta Alpha Chapter (Charter Member)

**Academic and Professional Honors:**

Iota Phi Lambda, Inc. Alpha Kappa Chapter American Education Week Honoree (2020)  
Who’s Who in Black Houston, Seventh Edition (2013)  
Winner of 2013 Slade Prize for Poetry  
Texas Southern University Co-Grand Marshall (Spring 2013-present)  
Who’s Who in Black Houston, Sixth Edition (2012)  
Texas Southern University Interim Chair of English (June 2012-September 2013)  
Winner of 1<sup>st</sup> Place for Poetry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place for Fiction, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place for Fiction, 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Clark Atlanta University Writers Workshop Conference, Community Division, 2010  
Winner of 2007 Slade Prize for Poetry  
Regular Graduate Faculty Status (June 2007-present)  
Associate Graduate Faculty Status (June, 2003 – May 2007)  
Preferred Nominee for Chair of the Texas Southern University Department of English (April 2006)  
Texas Southern University Marshall for the College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences (Spring 2003-Fall 2012)  
Presidential Grant Award Recipient for Innovative Instructional Projects (May 2003)  
Chair-Elect of the Texas Southern University Department of English and Foreign Languages (April, 2003)  
Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers Nominee (March, 2002 and January, 1998)  
Faculty Appreciation Award Recipient (April 21, 1999; award given by Texas Southern University’s Student Support Services Program “for invaluable voluntary tutorial assistance”)  
National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship Award Recipient (September 1987 for

January 1, 1988-December 31, 1988)  
Rice University Graduate Scholar (January 1979-May 1979; January 1980-May 2000)  
Rice University Graduate Fellow (September 1972-May 1974; September 1979-December 1979)  
Danforth Fellowship Semi-Finalist (1972)  
Texas Southern University Honor Graduate (cum laude, May 1972)  
President's Scholar Award Recipient (Texas Southern University, 1971)  
#3 Ranking English Major (Texas Southern University, 1971-72)  
#1 Ranking English Major (Texas Southern University, 1970-71)  
S. M. Nabrit Award Recipient (Texas Southern University, 1969)  
National Achievement Scholar (1968)

### **Selected Courses Taught:**

Directed Reading and Research (English 835)  
Seminar in American Literature (English 629)  
Cornerstone (English 502)  
Graduate Professional Writing (English 501)  
Capstone for English Majors (English 432, senior level English)  
Shakespeare and Renaissance Studies (English 433, junior/senior level English)  
The Novel (English 336, junior/senior level English)  
Advanced Composition (English 338, junior/senior level English)  
Study of American Literature, Part II (English 301)  
Study of American Literature, Part II (English 302, junior/senior level English)  
Study of American Literature (English 302)  
Survey of World Literature II (English 231, sophomore level English)  
Survey of World Literature I (English 230, sophomore level English)  
Survey of American Literature (English 235, sophomore level English)  
Survey of African American Literature (English 244, sophomore level English)  
Freshman Composition II (English 132, second semester freshman English)  
Freshman Composition I (English 131, first semester freshman English)

### **Publications and Presentations:**

"The Fable of the Poisoned Well." *The Griot* 40.2 (Spring/Summer 2022): 50-51.  
"The Chronicle of the Ring." *The Griot* 34.1 (Spring 2015): 37-38.  
"For My People (many years hence) – A Poem for Margaret Walker." *The Griot* 31.2 (Fall 2012): 43-52.  
"from the College of Arts and Sciences: A Nexus." *The Griot* 31.2 (Fall 2012): 53-54.  
"The Myth of Pathology in Oedipus the King, with Implications for the Minority Community." *World Literary Review* 1.1:107-15.  
"For My People (many years hence) A Poem for Margaret Walker." Fortieth Annual Clark Atlanta Creative Writing Contest Awards Ceremony. Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia. April 2010.  
"The Ubiquity of Protest in Serious Literature." Eleventh Annual J. Marie McCleary Interdisciplinary Symposium. Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. March 2009.  
"Agammemnon Plays Teddy Pendergras at Howard University." *The Griot* 27.2 (Fall 2008): 42-43.  
"The Gift Outright – Not Quite." *The Griot* 27.2 (Fall 2008): 45.  
"Garrett McKinney." *The Griot* 27.2 (Fall 2008): 44.  
"And A Child Came Forth." *The Griot* 27.2 (Fall 2008): 43.  
"The Wafer and the Wine – A Preface and a Poem Become a Prayer (for Thessalonians)." *The Griot* 27.1 (Spring 2008): 37-39.

- “The Deerhunter.” *The Griot* 26.1 (Spring 2007): 52-53.
- “When Katie Left for Albuquerque.” *The Griot* 26.1 (Spring 2007): 54.
- “Mr. Smith Goes to Washington: The Lesson of Self-Sufficiency in American Literature from John Smith to Booker T. Washington, William Carlos Williams, and Beyond.” Southern Conference on African American Studies, Incorporated. Baton Rouge, Louisiana. February, 2007.
- “The grandson’s Blues: A Reading.” Eighth Annual J. Marie McCleary Interdisciplinary Symposium. Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. March 2006.
- Stein’s “Melanctha” and the Question of Cultural Blackness.” Eighth Annual J. Marie McCleary Interdisciplinary Symposium. Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. March 2006
- “Mutability.” *The Griot* 25.1 (Spring 2006):
- “Poem for Common Fathers.” *The Griot* 25.1 (Spring 2006):
- “The Question of Andy Moran.” *The Griot* 25.1 (Spring 2006):
- Moderator and Panelist. “Making My Course Relevant and Interesting to Today’s Students While Keeping It Academically Sound.” Southern Conference on African American Studies, Incorporated. Hilton Savannah DeSoto, Savannah, Georgia. February, 2006.
- “The Myth of Pathology in *Oedipus the King*.” Southern Conference of African American Studies, Incorporated. Montgomery, Alabama. February, 2005.
- “‘And God Said . . .’: Literature, Psychology, and the Threat of Pathology in the Minority Community.” Second Annual Conference on Health and Social Justice. Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. March, 2004.
- “Theme for English A and B: Hughes’ ‘Salvation’ and the Freshman Composition Classroom.” Sixth Annual J. Marie McCleary Interdisciplinary Symposium. Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. March, 2004.
- “In Memory of Cedar Wax Wings.” *The Griot* 23.1 (Spring 2004): 39.
- “Riddle Me This.” *The Griot* 23.1 (Spring 2004): 40.
- “El Recitor.” *The Griot* 23.1 (Spring 2004): 41-42.
- Panelist: Faculty Manual Workshop: Faculty Instructional and Workload Provisions. Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. August, 2003.
- Moderator. The Male Salute to the Black Woman. 6th Annual Juneteenth Academic Forum: Celebrating the African American Woman in Texas. Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. June, 2003.
- Co-Sponsor. The Fifth Annual J. Marie McCleary Interdisciplinary Symposium. Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. March, 2003.
- “The Sound of Real and Thingy Things in *Go Tell It on the Mountain*.” Southern Conference of African American Studies, Incorporated. Embassy Suites, Charlotte, South Carolina. February, 2003.
- Co-sponsor/Co-host. The New Monthly Seminar for the Department of English and Foreign Languages. Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. Fall, 2002 – circa 2007.
- Co-Sponsor. The Minerva Literary Association. Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. Spring, 2002 – 2005.
- “The Achieved Reality of the Ghost and the Communal Imperative in Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*.” *National Association of African American Studies: 2002 National Conference Literature Monograph Series* (2002): 277-304.
- Master of Ceremonies. 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Juneteenth Academic Forum: Black Texans in the Military. Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. June, 2002.
- “The Validation of the Villain in *Go Tell It on the Mountain*.” 4<sup>th</sup> Annual J. Marie McCleary Symposium. Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. April, 2002.
- “What Hawthorne Knows or Should Have Known: The Answered Question of Tragedy and Blame and the Exorcism of the Sins of the Fathers in *The Scarlet Letter* – or – When

- Homeboy Hooks Up With Hester Prynne.” Research Day in the College of Behavioral Sciences and Liberal Arts. Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. April, 2002.
- “To Teach or Not to Teach: The Non-Approach to Approaching Henry James.” Council of College Teachers of English. Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas. February, 2002.
- “Gertrude Stein’s ‘Melanctha’ and the Question of Cultural Blackness.” Southern Conference of African American Studies, Inc. Doubletree Hotel – Airport, San Antonio, Texas. February, 2002.
- “The Role of the Arts, 2002 and Beyond.” Southern Conference of African American Studies, Inc. Doubletree Hotel – Airport, San Antonio, Texas. February, 2002.
- “The Achieved Reality of the Ghost and the Communal Imperative in Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*.” National Association of African American Studies.” Omni Hotel – Westside, Houston, Texas. February, 2002.
- “Riddle Me This.” Nefertari’s Night of Poets. Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. February, 2002.
- “The Question of Andy Moran.” Nefertari’s Night of Poets. Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. February, 2002.
- “Songs in the Key of Carson Robert.” Nefertari’s Night of Poets. Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. February, 2002.
- “Poem for Unevened Edges.” Nefertari’s Night of Poets. Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. February, 2002.
- “The Apartment.” Nefertari’s Night of Poets. Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. February, 2002.
- Of Kings and the Common Touch: The Answered Question of Henry James and the Educated Lay Reader.* Diss. Rice U. Ann Arbor: UMI, 2001. 3021185.
- “Somehow, I, Too, Polonius.” J. Marie McCleary Literary Symposium. Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. December, 1999.
- “El Recitor Psicopatico.” J. Marie McCleary Literary Symposium. Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. December, 1999.
- “The Deer Hunter.” J. Marie McCleary Literary Symposium. Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. December, 1999.
- “When Katie Left for Albuquerque.” J. Marie McCleary Literary Symposium. Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. December, 1999.
- By Precept and Example: An Illustrated Guide to Analysis and Composition.* Edina, Minnesota: Burgess International, 1995.
- Faculty Development Workshop Participant. Salvaging the Self: Black Southerners’ Response to Jim Crow. Dr. Merline Pitre, Director. Texas Southern University. May 30-July 7, 1994.
- Rev. of *The Invisible Chains* by Edward C. Graves and *Love Signals* by Margie Walker. *Our Texas* Winter 1991: 5, 23.
- “The 90% Solution: From Thesis Statement to Supported Thesis via  $x=a+b$ .” Conference of College Teachers of English of Texas. Gunther Hotel, San Antonio, Texas. March, 1991.
- Moderator. Session B: “The ‘We’ in Fiction: A Man’s Point of View.” Southern Conference on African American Studies. Days Inn, Houston, Texas. February, 1991.
- Director/Host/Moderator. The Monthly Seminar of the Department of English at Texas Southern University. Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. September, 1989-May, 1990.
- “Songs in the Key of Carson Robert.” *The Griot* 7.1 (Spring 1988): 29.
- “Prophecy.” *The Griot* 7.1 (Spring 1988): 30.
- “Poem: For Unevened Edges.” *The Griot* 7.1 (Spring 1988): 30.
- “To the Council of Elders.” *The Griot* 7.1 (Spring 1988): 31.
- “Why the Grandson Speaks of Love.” *The Griot* 7.1 (Spring 1988): 31

- “The Caretaker.” *The Griot* 7.1 (Spring 1988): 32.
- “The Impact of Culture on *Huckleberry Finn*.” *Journal of American Culture Studies of Texas* XVIII (1987): 31-39.
- “The Answered Question of Cultural Blackness: A Condensation.” Black History: An Observance. Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. February, 1986.
- “In Defense of Gospel Song and Dance: An Analysis of Mari Evans’ ‘The Gospel Singers.’” Conference on Women in Literature. Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. 1985.
- Co-editor/Co-founder. *The Cultural Arts Review*. Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. 1985.
- “The Apartment.” *Proceedings of the Conference of College Teachers of English of Texas* 48 (Sept. 1983): 94.
- “Staging the Correspondences to Cultural Blackness in *Romeo and Juliet*.” Conference of the Mississippi Philological Association. Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi. January, 1982.
- “The Answered Question of a Black Aesthetic: A Condensation.” Southern Conference on Afro-American Studies. Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. February, 1981.
- “Bigger Thomas and His Descendants.” *Roots* 1.1. Austin, Texas: Armadillo Press, 1971.

#### **Selected Major Committee Work:**

- Founder and Financial Underwriter for the Graduate Student Conference Participation Grants Program (Southern Conference of African American Studies, Inc., 2015-present)
- Dissertation Committee for Dumisani Sayi (Texas Southern University, Education, 2018)
- Dissertation Committee for Dami Tokoya (Texas Southern University, Education, 2018-present)
- Dissertation Committee for Angela Offorum (Texas Southern University, Education, 2018-present)
- Thesis Committee for Devian Contreras (Texas Southern University, Sociology, 2018-present)
- Thesis Committee for Torrin Brown (Texas Southern University, English, 2018)
- Dissertation Editor (voluntarily unpaid) for Joy Thomas (Texas Southern University, Education, 2018)
- Dissertation Editor (voluntarily unpaid) for Antonius Peques (Texas Southern University, Education, 2017-18)
- Dissertation Editor (voluntarily unpaid) for Orlando Milton (Texas Southern University, Education, 2018)
- Dissertation Editor (voluntarily unpaid) for Dumisani Sayi (Texas Southern University, Education, 2018)
- Dissertation Editor (voluntarily unpaid) for Folakemi Ardoin (Texas Southern University, Education, 2018)
- Thesis Committee for Kimberly Fain (Texas Southern University, English, 2013)
- Dissertation Committee for Lori Rochelle (Texas Southern University, Education, 2012)
- Dissertation Committee for Valencia Dutton (Texas Southern University, Education)
- The English Department’s Committee on Rank, Tenure, and Promotion, 2011(chair)
- The College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences’ Committee on Rank, Tenure, and Promotion, 2010 (elected chair)
- University Grievance Committee for Texas Southern University v Pricilla Slade
- Planning Committee for the J. Marie McCleary Literary Symposium (ongoing since 2001)
- Senate Committee on Attrition, Retention, and Graduation (Professor James Douglas, chair. January 2002-May 2002).
- Texas Southern University Strategic Planning Committee 2001-2005 (Dr. Gayla Thomas, chair.
- University Academic Marshals Committee (Spring 2003-present).

Planning Committee for the Faculty Departmental Seminar (Dr. Ron C. Samples, chair).  
 Committee on Retention and Graduation for the College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences, Spring 2004 (chair).  
 Dissertation Committee for Melanie Johnson, College of Education.  
 Dissertation Committee for Bernie Smiley, College of Education.  
 Dissertation Committee for Tyesha McDavid, College of Education.  
 Dissertation Committee for Monique Micheaux-Gordon, College of Education.  
 Dissertation Committee for LaKeisha Hamilton, College of Education  
 Dissertation Committee for Orlando Milton, College of Education.  
 Dissertation Committee for Dumisani Sayi, College of Education.  
 Dissertation Committee for Folakemi Ardoin, College of Education.  
 Dissertation Committee for Joy Thomas, College of Education.  
 Dissertation Committee for Dami Tokoya, College of Education.  
 Dissertation Committee for Angela Offurum, College of Education.  
 Dissertation Committee for Amber Adams. College of Education.  
 Dissertation Committee for Mitra Sohrabinejad, College of Education.  
 Dissertation Committee for Morenike Adebodun, College of Education.  
 Dissertation Committee for David Fletcher, College of Education.  
 Dissertation Committee for Dibande Itoe Anna, College of Education.  
 Student Disciplinary Hearing Committee. Bill Thomas, chair.  
 Committee for Development of a Capstone Seminar in English. Dr. Rita Saylor, chair.  
 College Level Grade Appeal Committee, College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences.  
 Faculty Disciplinary Committee.

**Works in Press:**

Editor. *Our Hearts Together*. Dr. Lakeisha Hamilton et al.

**Works under Publication Consideration:**

“Speaking of Which, . . .”  
 “To the Handsome Young Man in the Photograph – 02/27/1980-11/25/2011 (The New Madonna)”  
 “On Tim McGraw – Some Fondness Notwithstanding”  
 “Crazy Daisies”  
 “Poema por El Dia de los Padres”  
 “(from one among those deemed expendable)”  
 “Grandmother”

**Major Works in Progress:**

*Songs in the Key of Carson Robert: Poems* by “the grandson”  
*An Interpretively Annotated Bibliography of Short Works in American Literature*  
*Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner: A Moderate Minority Perspective on Major American Fiction*  
*Quotes and Comments: A Bi-Weekly Program of Pre-Enrollment Instruction for College-Level Composition*  
*The Answered Question of a Black Aesthetic: Theory and Practice*  
*Of Kings and the Common Touch: Henry James and the Educated Lay Reader*  
*By Precept and Example: An Illustrated Guide to Analysis and Composition*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition  
*On the Question of Interdisciplinarity: Essays from Interdisciplinary Perspectives*  
*Thirteen Days in December: An Autobiographical Novel*

**Recent Community Service:**

Junior Warden and Fundraising Committee Chair. Hope Episcopal Church. Houston, Texas.  
January 2018-January 2019.

Senior Warden, Head of Congregation, Fundraising Committee Chair, and Construction  
Project Director. Hope Episcopal Church. Houston, Texas. January 2019-June 2020.

Senior Warden and Fundraising Committee Chair. Hope Episcopal Church. Houston, Texas.  
June 2020-present.