

**VITA**

**For**

**RUSSELL BENJAMIN**

Born: 1 July 1963  
Citizenship: U.S.A.

Lamar, South Carolina

Residential Address

4755 North Sawyer Avenue  
Apt. 3D  
Chicago, Illinois 60625  
(773) 509-0267

Education

Ph.D. in Political Science (December 1996) University of Florida. Fields of Study: American Politics, Race and Politics, State and Local Government, Public Policy, Political Gerontology, Intergovernmental Relations, and Political Behavior. Dissertation: "Black Entrepreneurs and the Politics of Economic Development."

Graduate Certificate in Gerontology (1992) University of Florida.

M.A. in Political Science (1991) University of Florida.  
Thesis: "Politics and the Aging in Indian River County, Florida."

B.A. in Political Science (1985) University of South Carolina.  
Certificate in South Carolina Studies.

Academic Experience

Associate Professor in Political Science (Fall 2005-).  
Northeastern Illinois University. Classes taught: American Government; Minority Politics in the U.S.; The Politics of Poverty; The Politics of Minority Economic Development; State Government and Politics; African American Politics and Social Change.

Assistant Professor in Political Science (Fall 1997-Spring 2005).  
Northeastern Illinois University. Classes taught: American Government; Urban Politics; Minority Politics in the U.S.; The Politics of Poverty; The Politics of Minority Economic Development; State Government and Politics; African American Politics and Social Change; and Poverty, Racism, and Sexism in Urban Politics.

Postdoctoral Fellow in Black Studies (2001-2003). University of Missouri.  
Conducting research and writing a book on black business development.  
Teaching in Black Studies Program.

Program Associate for the Office of Graduate Minority Programs (Summer 1997).  
University of Florida.

Instructor for Minorities and Change (Spring 1997).  
University of Florida.

Instructor for Cultural Diversity in the U.S. (1996-1997).  
University of Florida.

General College Advisor (1995-1996). East Carolina University.

Visiting Assistant Professor in American National Government  
(1995-1996). East Carolina University.

Visiting Assistant Professor in State and Local Government  
(1995-1996). East Carolina University.

Instructor in State and Local Government (Summer A 1995). University of  
Florida.

Instructor in State and Local Government (Spring 1995). University of  
Florida.

Instructor in State and Local Government (Spring 1994). University of Florida.

Teaching Assistant in Cultural Diversity in the U.S. (Fall 1993). University  
of Florida. Duties: Leading two discussion sections, helping write  
examinations, and grading term papers.

Teaching Assistant in Cultural Diversity in the U.S. (Spring 1991). University  
of Florida. Duties: Leading two discussion sections, helping write  
examinations, and grading term papers.

Academic Counselor. University of Florida (May-December 1990).  
Duties: Giving academic counseling to students in regard to class  
schedules, test-taking techniques, and career paths.

Research Assistant. University of Florida (May 1989-February 1990).  
Duties: Gathering and entering data, and performing analyses on data for  
a project that examined the politics of the aging in Florida (primary  
researchers: James Button and Walter Rosenbaum).

### Publications

"Aging and Politics: The Case of Indian River County, Florida."  
1995. The Political Chronicle 7: 8-16.

"Socioeconomic Factors in the Development of Civil Rights Groups."  
Florida Education Fund Journal of Interdisciplinary Research  
(forthcoming).

### Editorial Work

Manuscript reviewer for Journal of Politics.

Manuscript Reviewer for Southeastern Political Review.

Editor for Annual Editions: State and Local Government. 1997. Guilford, Ct:  
The Dushkin Publishing Group. Eighth edition.

Editor for Annual Editions: State and Local Government. 1995. Guilford, Ct:  
The Dushkin Publishing Group. Seventh edition.

### Books Reviewed

Nussbaum, Martha C. 1997. Cultivating Humanity: A Classical Defense of Reform  
in Liberal Education (Harvard University Press). Reviewed in National  
Association of Student Affairs Professionals Journal 4 (2001): 65-66.

Watson, Alan D. 2005. African Americans in Early North Carolina:  
A Documentary History (N.C. Office of Archives and History).  
Reviewed in The Journal of the North Carolina Association  
of Historians 14 (2006): 118-121.

Conrad, Cecilia A., John Whitehead, Patrick Mason, and James Stewart (eds).  
2005. African Americans in the U.S. Economy (Rowman & Littlefield).  
Reviewed in The Journal of Race and Policy 2 (2006): 91-94.

Berger, Michele T. 2004. Workable Sisterhood: The Political Journey of  
Stigmatized Women With HIV/AIDS (Princeton University Press).  
Upcoming review.

### Works in Progress

*African Americans and the Caribbean: Recent Political Considerations.*  
Forthcoming, with Edwin Mellen Press.

*Eternal Colonialism.* Book edited with Gregory Hall. Contract offer  
from a publisher currently being considered by the editors.

*The Politics of Black Commerce: Jacksonville and Daytona Beach, Florida.*  
Book manuscript.

"African American Political Leaders and the War on Terror." Book chapter in  
process for the forthcoming *African Americans and Global Affairs*  
(University Press of New England). Michael L. Clemons, editor.

Frederick Douglass and Grover Cleveland. Entry in process for the forthcoming  
*Frederick Douglass Encyclopedia* (Greenwood Press). Julius Thompson and  
James Conyers, editors.

Frederick Douglass and the Fifteenth Amendment. Entry in process for the  
forthcoming *Frederick Douglass Encyclopedia* (Greenwood Press). Julius  
Thompson and James Conyers, editors.

### Professional Experience

"Black Cruising: African Americans in the Caribbean." Upcoming paper  
presentation at the 2007 conference of the Caribbean Studies  
Association, Bahia, Brazil, May 28-June 1.

"Black Politics: Friend or Foe of Neocolonialism?" Paper presented  
at the Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Black Political  
Scientists, Atlanta, Georgia, March 22-25, 2006.

"Black Business Development Within the Venue of American Internal  
Colonialism." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the  
National Conference of Black Political Scientists, Atlanta, Georgia,  
March 22-25, 2006.

Discussant for Panel on Political Science, Public Policy, and Philosophy.  
2006 McKnight Doctoral Mid-Year Research and Writing Conference,  
Tampa, Florida, March 10-11.

"Black Consumerism as a Part of Black Politics." Poster presentation at the  
Annual Meeting of the Hawaii International Conference on Social  
Sciences, Honolulu, Hawaii, June 13-16, 2005.

"Generosity or Propaganda Ploy? Political Fallout From Fidel Castro's  
Extension of Medical School Scholarships to Black Americans." Paper  
presented at the 2005 conference of the Caribbean Studies  
Association, Santa Domingo, Dominican Republic, May 30-June 4.

"Black Consumer Politics in Florida as Part of the National Black Political Culture." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists, Washington, D.C., March 23-26, 2005.

"The Politics of Black Consumerism." Presented at the 2004 Annual Fellows Meeting of the Florida Education Fund, Tampa, Florida, November 5-7.

"The Black American-Cuban American Conflict in Miniature: The Elian Gonzalez Affair." Paper presented at the 2004 conference of the Caribbean Studies Association, Frigate Bay, St. Kitts, May 31-June 5.

"Black Business Politics in Miami: African American, Caribbean, and African." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists, Chicago, Illinois March 24-28, 2004.

Section Chair for International Relations. Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists, Chicago, Illinois, March 24-28, 2004.

"Black Business Development." Chair for public policy panel at the Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists, Chicago, Illinois, March 24-28, 2004.

"Case Studies of Local Political Activism and Leadership." Discussant for state and local politics panel at the Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists, Chicago, Illinois, March 24-28, 2004.

"The Black Beach Project." Presented at the 2003 Annual Fellows Meeting of Florida Education Fund, Tampa, Florida, October 10-12.

"The American Politics of Haitian Immigration." Paper presented at the 2003 Caribbean Studies Association Meeting, Belize City, Belize, May 25-31.

Section Chair for International Relations. Meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists, Oakland, California, March 12-15, 2003.

"Welcome Guests? Daytona Beach and the Black College Reunion." Paper presented at the 2003 meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists, Oakland, California, March 12-15.

"Sharpton, Jacqueline Jackson, and Vieques." Paper presented at the 2002 meeting of the Caribbean Studies Association, Nassau, Bahamas, May 27-June 1.

"The Politics of Black Commerce: The Daytona Beach Case." Paper presented at the 2002 meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists, Atlanta, Georgia, March 6-9.

"What Good is Government? An Assessment of Government Official Impact on Black Businesses." Paper presented at the 2001 meeting of the Annual African American and Latino/a American Adult Education Research Symposium, Chicago, Illinois, April 21.

Section Chair for Public Policy and Administration. 2001 Meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists. March 7-10, at Richmond, Virginia.

"Protecting the Workers? California State Policy and Migrant Workers." Paper presented at the 2000 Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Social Science Association, Galveston, Texas, March 15-18.

"A Woman's Movement: Efforts for Migrant Labor Justice in California." Paper presented at the 2000 Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Social Science Association, Galveston, Texas, March 15-18.

"Nowhere to Turn? Black Leaders and Voters in Florida After the Willie Logan Affair." Paper presented (with Dr. Gregory Hall) at the Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists, Washington, D.C., March 8-11, 2000.

"Supporting Black Capitalism? Two Local Governments and Black Business Development." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists, Washington, D.C., March 8-11, 2000.

"Welfare Reform and Women of Color: Perceptions at the Grassroots." Paper presented at the 1999 Annual Meeting of the Urban Affairs Association, Louisville, Kentucky.

"The Florida Democratic Party and the Representation of Black Interests: A Floundering Relationship?" Paper presented (with Dr. Gregory Hall) at the 1999 Southwestern Political Science Association Meetings, San Antonio, Texas.

"Hitting the Jackpot? Citizen Assessments of the Impact of Riverboat Gaming Casinos in Northeastern Illinois." Paper presented at the Thirtieth Annual Conference of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, March 10-13, 1999.

"Gendered Racism and Women of Color." Paper presented at the 1998 Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, Atlanta, Georgia.

"Set-Aside Policies: Sources of Support in Two Florida Cities." Paper presented at the 1998 Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, Massachusetts.

"Beating a Dead Horse? The Lasting Role of Race in Southern Politics." Paper presented at the 1998 Citadel Symposium on Southern Politics, Charleston, South Carolina.

"Generations and Political Orientations." Discussant for Panel at the 1996 Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, Atlanta, Georgia.

"Black Business Owner Confidence in Economic Development Programs: Fact or Fantasy?" Paper presented at the 1996 Meeting of the Urban Affairs Association, New York.

"Black Business Development at the Grassroots: Is Race a Factor?" Paper presented at the 1996 Meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists, Savannah Georgia.

"Is Race a Factor in Perceptions of Public Officials' Support of Black Business Development?" Paper presented at the 1995 Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, Tampa, Florida.

"Aging and Politics: The Case of Indian River County, Florida." Paper presented at the 1994 Florida Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Sarasota.

"Race, Politics, and Economic Development: A Tale of Two Cities." Paper presented at the 1994 Citadel Symposium on Southern Politics, Charleston, South Carolina.

"Gubernatorial Elections: The Coattail Connection?" Paper presented at the 1993 Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, Savannah, Georgia.

#### Contracts and Grants

Application (with Dr. Dr. Geraldine Seay) for a Planning Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (Fall 2003).

Travel Support for Conference Presentation. University of Missouri (Spring 2003).

Travel Support for Conference Presentation. University of Missouri (Summer 2002).

Travel support for Book Research Trip. University of Missouri (Spring 2002).

Departmental Travel Fund Grant. Northeastern Illinois University (Spring 2001).

General Travel Fund Grant. Northeastern Illinois University (Spring 2000).

Departmental Travel Fund Grant. Northeastern Illinois University (Spring 2000).

College of Arts and Sciences Travel Support. Northeastern Illinois University (Spring 1999).

Departmental Travel Fund Grant. Northeastern Illinois University (Spring 1999).

General Travel Fund Grant. Northeastern Illinois University (Fall 1998).

General Travel Fund Grant. Northeastern Illinois University (Spring 1998).  
Dauer Chair Research Grant in Political Science. University of Florida  
(Fall 1994).  
Graduate School Travel Grant (for dissertation research). University of  
Florida (Fall 1994).  
Graduate Student Council Travel Grant. University of Florida (Fall 1993).

#### Honors and Awards

Certificate of Appreciation, 2006 McKnight Doctoral Mid-Year Research and  
Writing Conference, Tampa, Florida, March 10-11.  
Nominee, Irish Committee Award for Best Paper on Women and Politics at the  
1998 Southern Political Science Association Meeting. Paper title:  
Gendered Racism and Women of Color.  
McKnight Achievers Society Award of Merit (1997), conferred upon former  
McKnight Doctoral Fellows who have obtained the Doctor of Philosophy  
degree.  
Nominee, National Science Foundation Research Grant (1994, with Professor  
James Button).  
University of Florida Presidential Recognition of Outstanding Achievement and  
Contributions to the University (1994).  
Award of Appreciation for Serving as Session Chair, 1994 University of Florida  
Graduate Student Forum.  
1994 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Outstanding Graduate Student Award. University  
of Florida.  
Nominee, Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship for Minorities (1993).  
Outstanding Achievement at the University of Florida Black Graduate Student  
Research Forum (1993).  
Outstanding Achievement at the University of Florida Black Graduate Student  
Research Forum (1991).  
McKnight Doctoral Fellowship, awarded to students in fields with an under  
representation of minorities (1990-1995).  
1989 Outstanding Young Men of America.  
University of South Carolina Southern Studies Scholarship (1985).

#### University Service

Member, Academic Affairs Committee (Spring 2004-Fall 2004), College of Arts  
and Sciences, Northeastern Illinois University.  
Member, Black History Month Committee, (2001-2002), University of Missouri.  
Member, University Scholarship Committee, (Spring 2001), Northeastern Illinois  
University.  
Member, Faculty Council on Student Affairs (Fall 2000-Spring 2001), North-  
eastern Illinois University.  
Chair, Search Committee for Coordinator of Proyecto Pa'Lante, an academic  
support program serving Latino students (Spring - Summer 2000),  
Northeastern Illinois University.  
Member, Faculty Excellence Awards Committee (Spring 2000), Northeastern  
Illinois University.

Member, Equity in Action/Affirmative Action Committee (1998-2001),  
Northeastern Illinois University.

Member, African American/Caribbean Heritage Committee (1998-2001),  
Northeastern Illinois University.

Member, Shouts From the Wall/Chicago Friends of the American Lincoln Brigade  
Committee (Fall 1998-Fall 1999), Northeastern Illinois University.

Member, Gerontology Faculty Search Committee (Spring 1998-Spring 1999),  
Northeastern Illinois University.

Alternate on the Academic Affairs Committee (1997-2001), College of Arts and  
Sciences, Northeastern Illinois University.

Session Chair for Social Sciences, 1995 University of Florida Graduate  
Student Council Research Forum.

Facilitator, 1994 University of Florida Intergroup Relations Retreat.

Session Chair, 1994 University of Florida Graduate Student Council  
Research Forum.

Member, University of Florida Minority Mentor Program (1993-1995).

Treasurer, University of Florida Black Graduate Student Organization  
(1993-1994).

Member, University of Florida Minority Recruitment and Retention Committee  
(1989-1991).

Member, University of Florida Quality of Life Task Force (1989-1991).

President, University of Florida Black Graduate Student Organization  
(1989-1991).

Member, University of Florida Students in Gerontology Association (1989-1991).

Member, University of Florida Beta Eta Sigma (black honor society, 1992-1996).

#### Department Service

Co-Chair, Faculty Search Committee for Comparative Politics, Northeastern  
Illinois University (Fall 2006-Spring 2007).

Co-Chair, Faculty Search Committee for American Government and Public  
Law, Northeastern Illinois University (Fall 2005-Spring 2006).

Acting Chair, Department of Political Science, Northeastern Illinois  
University (Summer 2005).

Co-Advisor, Politics Club, Northeastern Illinois University (Spring 2005-).  
Area (Departmental) Representative, University Professionals of Illinois,  
Northeastern Illinois University (2004-).

Co-Advisor, Undergraduate Program in Political Science, Northeastern Illinois  
University (Fall 2004-).

Member, Faculty Search Committee for Political Theory, Northeastern Illinois  
University (2003-2004).

Acting Associate Chair, Department of Political Science,  
Northeastern Illinois University (Summer 2001).

Member, Masters Degree Supervisory Committee for Political Science,  
Northeastern Illinois University (Fall 2000- Spring 2001).

Member, Student Supervisory Committee for University Without Walls, Department  
of Political Science, Northeastern Illinois University (Summer 1998).

Member, University of Florida Public Policy/Public Affairs Recruitment  
Committee (1994).

Member, University of Florida Minority Faculty Recruitment Committee (1992).

### National Service

Parliamentarian, McKnight Alumni Association (2005-2007).

Secretary, Organized Section on Race, Ethnicity, and Politics, American Political Science Association (2005-2007).

Program Co-chair for the 2005 Meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists (2004-2005).

Chair of the Professional Development Committee, National Conference of Black Political Scientists (2002-2004).

Member of Executive Council, National Conference of Black Political Scientists (2001-2004).

### Professional Associations

Member, American Political Science Association.

Member, Caribbean Studies Association.

Member, National Conference of Black Political Scientists.

## References

Sharon Wright Austin, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611. (352) 392-0262, ext. 266. [polssda@bellsouth.net](mailto:polssda@bellsouth.net).

Gregory O. Hall, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science, Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia. (404) 215-2623. [hhallgregg@aol.com](mailto:hhallgregg@aol.com).

Kenneth D. Wald, Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611. (352) 392-0262, ext. 267. [kenwald@polisci.ufl.edu](mailto:kenwald@polisci.ufl.edu).

Julius E. Thompson, Professor of History and Director of Black Studies, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri 65211. (573) 882-6229. [thompsonju@missouri.edu](mailto:thompsonju@missouri.edu).

Robert E. Weems, Professor of History, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri 65211. (573) 882-9471. [weemsr@missouri.edu](mailto:weemsr@missouri.edu).