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EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Chicago, 2002
Ph.D., Department of English

Dissertation:

"Speak for Yourself: Style and Spirit in Leon Forrest's *Divine Days*"

Close readings of Leon Forrest's epic comic novel *Divine Days* (1992) demonstrate the interrelationship of religion, modernism, and autobiography. Forrest's religious roots in Roman Catholicism and evangelical storefront Protestantism provide evidence of the interrelatedness of style and spirituality in *Divine Days*. Forrest's stylistic indebtedness to William Faulkner defines a strong connection between Forrest and modernism. Forrest's autobiographical "presence" and the generic form of "periautography," reveal his complication of generic differences between fiction and autobiography. I explore the interrelationship between stylistic performance and religious rhetoric and show how Forrest's aesthetic principle of reinvention is presented as a model for spiritual and social salvation.

Committee:

Chris Messenger, Jim Hall, Co-Directors;
Kenneth W. Warren; Sterling Plumpp; Anthony Grosch

Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, 1987
Master of Arts in Humanities - Department of English

Master's Thesis:

"The Trickster in Uncle Remus Tales, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and *The Color Purple*"
Directors: James Olney, John Lowe, John Baker

Tulane University, New Orleans, 1972
Bachelor of Arts - Department of English

PUBLICATIONS

The Literature of Animosity: The Response to Greco-Turkish Conflict in the Novels of Greek American Writers (in progress)

“Introduction.” *My Generation of Achievers*. By Stacy Diacou. Universe Publishing, 2013.

Greeks in Chicago. Chicago: Arcadia Publishing, 2009.

“*The Maze: A Historical Novel*.” Review of *The Maze*. By Panos Karnezis. *The National Herald*. 15 February 2009.

“A Greek Stylist: History Contests with Progress and Loses.” Review of *Little Infamies*. By Panos Karnezis. *The National Herald*. 15 February 2009.

“A Sense of Sacred Space.” Review of *Ecclesia: Greek Orthodox Churches of the Chicago Metropolis*. By Panos Fiorentinos. *The National Herald*. 15 February 2009.

“Loss and Transformation on the Road in Jeffrey Eugenides’s *Middlesex* and Don DeLillo’s *Underworld*.” *The Image of the Road in Literature, Media and Society*. Ed. Will Wright and Steven Kaplan. Pueblo, Co: The Society for the Interdisciplinary Study of Social Imagery. August 2005. 148-153.

"Racing in Place: Religion and Civil Rights in African American Fictional Discourse" published in *National Association of African American Studies & National Association of Hispanic and Latino Studies: 2000 Literature Monograph Series*. Houston, Texas, May 2000. pp. 125-149.

"Conjure Culture, Prophecy, and Social Problems: Theophus Smith and Cornel West in Leon Forrest's Preserves" published in *The Proceedings of The National Conference of the National Association of African American Studies and the National Association of Hispanic and Latino Studies*, Houston, Texas, February 1997.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

2014, 2012, 2003 Nominee, Award for Academic Excellence, Oakton College Educational Foundation

2013 Two-Week International Professional Exchange Program with The English and Foreign Languages University in Hyderabad, India.

2012 Educational Leave Award. Northeastern Illinois University

2009 Andrew T. Kopan Memorial Lecturer. National Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center. Chicago, Illinois. 1 March 2009

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS (continued)

2006 Educational Leave Award. Northeastern Illinois University

1989 Ford Foundation/League for the Humanities grant for pilot "Master Learner" program.

1988 Summer Fellow, National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for College Teachers. Director: Mark Krupnick. Site: University of Illinois at Chicago, English Department and Institute for the Humanities. Subject: "American Cultural Criticism, 1915-1965."

AREAS OF TEACHING EXPERTISE

American ethnic literature; African American literature and history; Hellenic American literature; 19th and 20th century American literature; Cultural and interdisciplinary studies; Modernism; Native American literature; Southern literature; Japanese culture and society; all levels of composition including developmental writing

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, 1999-present

Department of English, **Northeastern Illinois University**, Chicago, Illinois

Spring 2017, Honors Introduction to the Humanities, Special Topic: Combat Literature

Spring 2016, Honors Introduction to the Humanities, Special Topic: Race and Ethnicity

May-June 2008, **Honors Colloquium Professor**, International Honors Summer Semester Study Tour, Month-long Study of Classical culture in Greece

Multiple semesters, 2007-2014, First Year Experience Program, Special Topic in Language and Literature in Chicago, "Chicago's Literary Diversity: Reading the Neighborhoods"

Spring 2007, **Honors Colloquium Professor** "Literature of Animosity: Greek American Literature," cross listed as "Greece: Cultural Adversary Literature" and "Byzantium v. the Caliphate: Confronting the Cultural Other" with Study Tour in Greece

Courses: The World of Poetry
 The World of Fiction
 The World of Drama
 Composition I & II

Instructor, 1987-present

Division of Languages, Humanities and the Arts, **Oakton Community College**,
Des Plaines, Illinois

Courses: Introductions to Drama, Fiction, Poetry, and Literature
 Western Culture and the Arts I & II,
 Modern Culture and the Arts
 Japanese Culture and Society
 American Literature I
 Composition I & II

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (continued)

Teaching Assistant, 1991-2002

Department of English, **University of Illinois at Chicago**

Courses: Native American Literature (Prof. LaVonne Brown Ruoff)
Reading Black Women Writing (Prof. Mae Henderson)
Chicago and African American Experience
The Immigrant Experience in America
The Myth of the South
Introduction to British and American Fiction
Introduction to English Composition
History of American Literature: Beginnings to 1914
Introduction to Literature
Composition I & II

Instructor

DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois, 1996-97

Courses: College Writing II
Developmental Composition

COURSE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Fall 2011, University of Chicago Workshop Participant, "Tools and Resources for Study of Women in South Asian Islamic Societies"

Fall 2011 and Fall 2008 Northeastern Illinois University, Title V Grant Participant, revision of first year writing program

Spring 2007, Northeastern Illinois University, "**Byzantium vs. the Caliphate**"

Spring 2007, Northeastern Illinois University, "**First Year Experience**"

Spring 2007, Oakton Faculty Seminar: "**Bringing Chicago into the Classroom**"

CONFERENCES AND GUEST LECTURES

"Historicity and Trauma as Postcolonial Residue in Works by Jeffrey Eugenides, Harry Mark Petrakis, Nicholas Kokonis, and Natalie Bakopoulos" presented at "Mapping Oppression: Translating Literary and Geographical Sites of Terror," Toronto, Canada, April 2013.

"The Image of the Outsider in Nicholas D. Kokonis's *Arcadia*, *My Arcadia* and *Out of Arcadia*" presented at The Image of the Outsider in Literature, Media, and Society, Colorado Springs, Colorado, March 2013.

"Greek Influence: Everything from Math to Chocolate!" presented at Niles West High School as part of "Coming Together in Skokie," Skokie, Illinois, 28 February 2013.

CONFERENCES AND GUEST LECTURES (continued)

- “Coming to America: Greek Immigration to the U.S.” presented at Oakton Community College as part of “Coming Together in Skokie,” Skokie, Illinois, 7 February 2013.
- “Narratives of Enslavement and Oppression From the Nineteenth Century Onward” presented at The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, India, 11 January 2013.
- “Coming to Voice: From Oppression to Liberation” presented at The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, India, 10 January 2013.
- “Visual Analysis: Kate Kretz ‘Blessed Art Thou’” presented at The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, India, 10 January 2013.
- “Issues Theoretical in Ethnographic Photo-history” presented at The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, India, 9 January 2013.
- “Working With Images” presented at The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, India, 8 January 2013.
- “Historiography or Hagiography in Documentary Photography and Film” presented at The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, India, 8 January 2013.
- “Sexual and Spiritual Transformations: Eastbound Pilgrimage and Westbound Migration in *Middlesex* and *The Marriage Plot*” presented at The Image of The Road in Literature, Media, and Society, Colorado Springs, Colorado, March 2012.
- “Greek Identities and Historical Narratives: Petrakis to Eugenides.” Modern Greek Studies Program. University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. April 2010.
- “Orhan Pamuk’s *The Museum of Innocence* and the Periautographic Self.” The Image of the Hero in Literature, Media, and Society Conference of The Society for the Interdisciplinary Study of Social Imagery. Colorado Springs, Colorado, March 2010
- “Who Killed History?” presented as the Andrew T. Kopan Memorial lecture. National Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center, Chicago, Illinois. 1 March 2009.
- “Greek Animosity and Anxiety in the Novels of Greek American Writers.” presented at Centers of Globalization: Greek America—An Interdisciplinary Approach. Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, Illinois. November 2008.
- “Stasis and Mobility in 20th Century Hellenic American, African American, and Italian American Writers of the City OR Sonny Corleone at the Toll Gate.” presented at In the City and on the Road: Stasis and Mobility in the Twentieth Century. University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina. March 2006.

CONFERENCES AND GUEST LECTURES (continued)

- "What Makes Leon Forrest and Toni Morrison Experimental African American Novelists?" presented at Celebrating the African American Novel, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania, April 2005.
- "Loss and Transformation on the Road in Jeffrey Eugenides's *Middlesex* and Don DeLillo's *Underworld*" presented at The Image of The Road in Literature, Media, and Society, Colorado Springs, Colorado, March 2005.
- "Call and Response in the Construction of the Central Consciousness in Leon Forrest's *Divine Days*" presented at the Third Wilberforce International Conference on Slave Narratives, Wilberforce, Ohio, October 2003.
- "Reinventing Autobiography: *Divine Days* and Leon Forrest's Periautography" presented at The National Conference of the National Association of African American Studies, Houston, Texas, February 2002.
- "Spiritual 'Author'ization and the Shifting Voices of the Interior Self in the Fictions of Leon Forrest and William Faulkner" presented at The National Conference of the National Association of African American Studies, Houston, Texas, February 2001.
- "Sacred Places: The World Informed by God's Voice in Leon Forrest's Work," presented at "Habitations of the Word: Art and Spiritual Ecology of Place," the Eighth Annual *Image* Conference/Conference on Christianity and Literature, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle, Washington, October 2000.
- "James Baldwin and Leon Forrest at the Millennium: A Consideration of their Figurations of the 1960s" presented at "Black Thought and Movements in World History," the International Conference of the Society of Research on African Cultures, Montclair State University, Upper Montclair, New Jersey, April 2000.
- "Racing in Place: Religion, and Civil Rights in African American Fictional Discourse" presented at The National Conference of the National Association of African American Studies, Houston, Texas, February 2000.
- "Forrest's Storefront Catholi(city)" presented at Southeast Conference on Christianity and Literature, Wingate University, Wingate, North Carolina, April 1999.
- "Leon Forrest's *Divine Days*: Diabolical Dialogicals" presented at the Midwest Modern Language Association Convention, panel: "The Life and Works of Leon Forrest," St. Louis, Missouri, November 1998.
- "Leon Forrest's *Divine Days*: Diabolical Dialogicals" presented at the Midwest Modern Language Association Convention, panel: "The Life and Works of Leon Forrest," St. Louis, Missouri, November 1998.

CONFERENCES AND GUEST LECTURES (continued)

"The Life and Works of Leon Forrest," Midwest Modern Language Association Convention, panel coordinator, St. Louis, Missouri, November 1998.

"Conjure Culture, Prophecy, and Social Problems: Theophus Smith and Cornel West in Leon Forrest's Preserves" presented at The National Conference of the National Association of African American Studies and the National Association of Hispanic and Latino Studies, Houston, Texas, February 1997.

"Which Persona Am I Passing in Reverse? Or, The Curious Case of Johnny Otis" presented at the Midwest Modern Language Association Convention, panel: "Navigating Cultures: Conflict in Ethnic Autobiographies," Minneapolis, Minnesota, November 1996.

"Prophecy, Transformation, and Therapy as Leon Forrest's Preserves: 'High Priest and Imprisoned Soul,'" presented at Mideast Conference on Christianity and Literature, University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio, October 1996.

"Constructing a Writing from a Reading, Or Questioning Prufrock's Questions," presented at the 32nd Annual Community College/University English Articulation Conference, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Monticello, Illinois, April 1996

"Renovating the Course: Training Wheels." Guest appearance and participant in PBS Television Series, *Teaching for Critical Thinking*, June 1993.

Speaker, League for the Humanities National Seminar at Community College of Philadelphia. Subject: "The Humanities and Institutional Policy," 1989.

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Nestor's Apocrypha by George Kyros, 2011

Of Dots and Dashes: A History of Teaching Morse Code in America, by David Bart

The Humanities in Western Culture: A Search for Human Values volumes I & II, (1990-96), by Robert C. Lamm

American Letters and the Historical Consciousness: Essays in Honor of Lewis P. Simpson. J. Gerald Kennedy and Daniel Mark Fogel, eds. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State UP, 1987.

Poe, Death, and the Life of Writing. J. Gerald Kennedy. New Haven: Yale UP, 1987.

BROADCAST INTERVIEWS

“Public Perspective ,“ Comcast TV, with Kevin McDermott 12 February 2015
<http://publicperspective.tv/show.asp?v=138>

Illinois Channel TV, with Terrence J. Martin, “Images of America: Greeks in Chicago,”
23 November 2013, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9i-4SNiiv10>

Greek Public Radio, with Vasilios Spiropoulos, “Orthodoxy in America,” 1 March 2011
(Broadcast in Greek)

National Public Radio, WBEZ with Chip Mitchell. “With Motherland in Crisis, Greek-
Americans Plan Visits” 6 June 2011 (Broadcast in English)

WGN-TV, *Greeks in Chicago*, 27 February 2009

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Comparative Literature Association
Hellenic Society of Constantinople
Midwest Modern Language Association
Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States
Modern Language Association
Modern Greek Studies Association
National Education Association/Illinois Education Association
National Hellenic Museum
Pan-Hellenic Society

References

Lynn Woodbury
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Oakton Community College
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Des Plaines, IL 60016
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Northeastern Illinois University
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DePaul University
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Northeastern Illinois University
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Department of English
University of Illinois at Chicago
601 South Morgan Street
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jchall@bama.ua.edu
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References (continued)

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Gary H. Brodsky g-brodsky@neiu.edu
Professor Emeritus, former department chair
Department of English
Northeastern Illinois University
5500 N. St. Louis Ave.
Chicago, IL 60625

John Wharton Lowe jwlowe@uga.edu
Barbara Methvin Professor
Department of English
University of Georgia
Telephone: 706-542-8952

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Lincolnwood School District #74 Board of Education
2003-2015, Board Member
2006-2009, Board President
2003-2006, Board Vice-President/Secretary

American Youth Soccer Organization:
1999-present Referee, Intermediate
1998 Assistant Coach

United States Soccer Federation:
2004-present Referee, Grade 8

Illinois High School Association:
2006-present, Referee, Recognized

American Hellenic Educational and Progressive Association (AHEPA):
Chapter: #94, Northshore
2007-2009 President
2002-2010 Scholarship Chair
2002-2010 Home Trust Chair

District: #13, Blue Ribbon District
2004-2013 Board of Directors, Scholarship Committee
2006-2013 Recording Secretary

National: AHEPA Educational Foundation (AEF)
2006-2007 Delegate to National Convention
2007-2010 Board of Directors

Boy Scouts of America:
2005-present Merit Badge Counselor
2004-2013 Troop Committee Member, Troop #72
2002-2004 Cub Scout Den Leader, Pack #74

St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church Parish Council
1996-2002 Member
1996-1998 Secretary
1998-1999 Basil E. Stevens Greek School---Principal