

CURRICULUM VITAE

SONJA D. WILLIAMS

EXPERIENCE – TEACHING

HOWARD UNIVERSITY, JOHN H. JOHNSON SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATIONS, Washington, DC, 1989-Present

- **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR & CHAIR**, 2004-Present – Administrative manager of one of the largest departments (with nearly 500 students) in the John H. Johnson School of Communications. Responsibility includes budgeting, personnel hiring, staff supervision, curriculum development and teaching.
- **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR** 1998-Present; & **ACTING CHAIR** 2002-2004
- **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**, 1994-1998
- **LECTURER**, 1989-1994 – Taught mass communications, audio production and scriptwriting courses. Created the award-winning student-produced radio documentary series, *In Touch*.

BUSH RADIO, Cape Town, South Africa; **EAST COAST RADIO**, Durban, South Africa
PROJECT CO-COORDINATOR/TRAINER, June-July 2001 & July-August 2002

One of two experts who spearhead *Voices of Change: Communications and Resistance in Apartheid South Africa*, a project designed to train community radio producers and college journalism students to produce radio documentaries and dramas on issues of social concern.

RAND AFRIKAANS UNIVERSITY, Johannesburg, South Africa; **BUSH RADIO**, Cape Town, South Africa
CONSULTANT/GUEST LECTURER, August 2000 - As a consultant, helped RAU's Department of Communication develop its radio training facility, including equipment acquisition and curriculum development. Also, lectured in various communications classes and conducted radio production workshops at Bush Radio, the oldest community radio station in South Africa.

WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY, Winston-Salem, NC, 1986-1989

LECTURER - Taught radio and television production and management courses, wrote successfully funded communications program development grants that enabled the university's communications program to acquire needed mass media equipment.

EDWARD WATERS COLLEGE, Jacksonville, FL, 1984-1986

MASS COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR/INSTRUCTOR - Developed and implemented the college's mass communications degree program - including teaching, counseling, staff supervision, curriculum development, grant writing, budget management (\$250,000 during a two year period) and equipment acquisition.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, TEACHERS COLLEGE, New York, NY, 1983-1984

TRAINER - Taught high school students radio and television production skills in a special communications career introduction program.

OHIO UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS, Athens, OH, 1982-1983

TEACHING ASSISTANT - Assisted in the teaching of undergraduate radio production courses while pursuing graduate studies.

OPERATIONS CROSSROADS, WEST INDIES, Castries, St. Lucia, W.I., June-August 1980

GROUP LEADER – Leader of a group of 10 high school students who participated in this summer international work-study program designed to introduce young people to other cultures.

BERKELEY ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL, Berkeley, CA, 1979-80

TEACHER – Taught print and broadcast journalism classes to junior high school students as a way to improve their writing and speaking skills. Students produced a monthly newspaper and a feature program for broadcast on a local radio station.

EXPERIENCE – RADIO

NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO (NPR), Washington, DC, 1991-2004

- **FIELD PRODUCER**, 2004 – Producer for location recording of jazz vocalist Mary Stallings at the Kennedy Center for the Arts for the network's weekly *Jazz Set* series.
- **PRODUCER**, 1997-2000 – Researched, interviewed, edited, wrote and produced six (6) programs for *Jazz Profiles*, an award winning documentary series hosted by vocalist Nancy Wilson. Programs chronicled the lives and contributions of pianists McCoy Tyner & Jaki Byard, singers Betty Carter & Andy Bey, trombonist/arranger Melba Liston and trumpeter/singer Louis Armstrong.
- **ASSOCIATE PRODUCER**, 1994-1995 – Served as a producer/writer for one (1) 60-minute program in this George Foster Peabody Award winning 26-part series, *Making The Music*, hosted by noted musician/composer Wynton Marsalis.
- **ASSOCIATE PRODUCER**, 1992-1994 - Served as a producer/writer for thirteen (13) 60-minute programs for the George Foster Peabody Award winning, groundbreaking 26-part series entitled, *Wade in The Water: African American Sacred Music Traditions*, hosted by artist/scholar Bernice Johnson Reagon.
- **PRODUCER**, 1991-1995 -Producer/writer for several award winning documentaries or cultural programming specials – including *Alternatives: One Woman's Fight Against AIDS, On Sacred Ground (w/Sweet Honey in the Rock)* and *Affirmative Action and Higher Education: An Aural History*. In addition, edited and/or directed newscasts for NPR's hourly five-minute daily newscasts.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, Washington, DC, 1999-2001

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER, *Jazz Singers* - Researched, interviewed, edited, wrote and produced three (3) hour-long programs for this 13-part, Smithsonian Productions radio documentary series hosted by singer Al Jarreau. The series explored the history, cultural significance and current status of jazz singing.

FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION FUND, San Francisco, CA 1998-99

CO-WRITER/PRODUCER, *It's Your Business* - Member of a six person writing team that produced a 12-part series of radio micro dramas dealing with domestic violence prevention in the African American community.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, Washington, DC, 1994-1996

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER, *Black Radio: Telling It Like It Was* - Researched, interviewed, edited, wrote and produced five (5) 30-minute programs for this George Foster Peabody Award winning, 13-part Radio Smithsonian documentary series about the history and contributions of African Americans in radio.

WPFW-FM, Washington, DC, 1991-92

NEWS TECHNICIAN/ENGINEER, *Audio Evidence, AM* - Edited and mixed news features for this daily hour-long morning newsmagazine. Trained volunteer news reporters and production staff on news editing, writing and production techniques.

WSNC-FM, WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY, Winston-Salem, NC, 1986-1989. **GENERAL**

MANAGER - Managed this university-owned radio station, including budgeting, grant writing, program development and equipment acquisition. Supervised staff of 50 students and community volunteers.

WEWC-AM, EDWARD WATERS COLLEGE, JACKSONVILLE, FL, 1984-1986

GENERAL MANAGER - Created and managed the college's student radio station, including budget appropriation, equipment acquisition and supervision of a volunteer student staff of 25.

KGO-AM, San Francisco, CA, 1982; **KMEL-FM**, San Francisco, CA, 1981

DESK ASSISTANT - Researched, interviewed and edited news stories.

KPFA-FM, Berkeley, CA, 1978-1982; **KPOO-FM**, San Francisco, CA, 1977-1980

- **PRODUCER/REPORTER/ANNOUNCER** - Produced public affairs programs regarding various social/political issues.
- **REPORTER** for KPFA's Third World News Bureau
- **REPORTER** for KPFA's *Youth News* - a weekly newsmagazine program and training workshop for high school students interested in communications careers.
- **HOST** for jazz programming on KPOO-FM.

KUNI-FM/KHKE-FM, Cedar Falls, IA, 1975-1977

PRODUCER/REPORTER/ANNOUNCER - Produced news features, jazz, R&B and public affairs programs for these NPR affiliate stations.

EXPERIENCE – PRINT

CITY SUN, Brooklyn, NY, 1984

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR/WRITER – Wrote and edited articles regarding all aspects of African American arts and entertainment activities in New York City for this weekly Black American newspaper.

ALAMEDIA-CONTRA COSTA HEALTH SYSTEMS AGENCY, Oakland, CA, 1978-1980

PUBLIC INFORMATION SPECIALIST – Responsible for publicizing all aspects of the health regulatory activities of this federally funded agency. Wrote and edited monthly newsletter, produced press releases and coordinated media coverage.

OAKLAND DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION, Oakland, CA, 1980-1982

PUBLIC INFORMATION SPECIALIST – Coordinated the public awareness campaigns and press coverage of ongoing and special recreational activities.

ACADEMIC FELLOWSHIPS/INTERNSHIPS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TELEVISION PROGRAM EXECUTIVES FELLOW, New Orleans, LA, January 1998

Attended NATPE's 1998 TV industry conference as a faculty fellow.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, Washington, DC, Summer 1994 & 1995

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (HBCU) FACULTY FELLOW, Assisted in the production of CD-ROMs documenting the military and humanitarian involvement of American troops in Somalia and Haiti.

CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY (CANA), Barbados, W.I., June-August 1983

INTERN, Served as a sub-editor and reporter for an agency that provided news stories and features to newspapers and other media in the English-speaking Caribbean region.

EDUCATION

M.A. – BROADCAST MANAGEMENT, Ohio University, School of Telecommunications, Athens, OH, 1984.

B.A. - COMMUNICATIONS, Columbia College, Chicago, IL, 1975.

ACADEMIC HONORS

- Howard University/School of Communications Excellence Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement, 1999
- Howard University/School of Communications Certificate of Achievement as a Peabody Award recipient for three consecutive years, 1997
- Howard University/School of Communications Distinguished Faculty Creative Achievement/Research Award, 1995
- Howard University/School of Communications Distinguished Faculty Achievement/Meritorious Service Award, 1992
- Howard University/School of Communications Student Council "Most Appreciated Faculty" Award, 1992
- Winston-Salem State University Student Government Association Service Award, 1987-89

BROADCAST AWARDS

- **JAZZ SINGERS** SMITHSONIAN PRODUCTIONS SERIES (Associate Producer)
 - Broadcast Education Association Faculty Production Award, 2002
- **BLACK RADIO: TELLING IT LIKE IT WAS**, RADIO SMITHSONIAN SERIES (Associate Producer)
 - George Foster Peabody Award for Significant & Meritorious Achievement, 1996
 - American Women in Radio and Television "Gracie Allen" Award, 1996
 - Alfred I. duPont/Columbia University Silver Baton Award for Excellence in Broadcast Journalism, 1996
 - National Education Association Award for the Advancement of Learning Through Broadcasting, 1996

- New York Festival's International Radio Programming Gold Awards for Best Documentary Series and Best Series Narration, 1996
- International Association Of Audio Visual Communicators Gold Award, 1996
- Gabriel Award for Documentary Production, 1996
- **MAKING THE MUSIC**, NPR SERIES (Producer/Writer)
 - George Foster Peabody Award for Significant & Meritorious Achievement, 1995
- **WADE IN THE WATER**, NPR/SMITHSONIAN SERIES (Associate Producer)
 - George Foster Peabody Award for Significant & Meritorious Achievement, 1994
 - National Education Association Award for the Advancement of Learning Through Broadcasting, 1994
 - Corporation for Public Broadcasting Gold Award for Documentary Excellence, 1994
 - National Association of Black Journalists Award , 1994
 - Lincoln University "Unity" Award for Radio Documentary, 1994
 - Angel Award for Documentary Excellence, 1994
- **ALTERNATIVES: ONE WOMAN'S FIGHT AGAINST AIDS** (Producer)
 - American Women In Radio And Television Award, 1993
 - CINDY Award for Documentary Production, 1993
- **IN TOUCH: AIDS IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY** (Executive Producer)
 - Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award, 1992
 - CEBA (Communications Excellence to Black Audiences) Award of Excellence, 1992
 - National Federation of Community Broadcasters Silver Reel Award, 1992
 - Howard University/Dept. of RTVF Paul Robeson Award, 1991

PUBLICATIONS

- Williams, Sonja. 2004. Richard Durham 1917-1984: U.S. Writer Radio and Dramatist. Encyclopedia of Radio, ed. Christopher H. Sterling, 511-514. New York and London: Fitzroy Dearborn.
- ----- . 2004. Soundprint: U.S. Documentary Series and Media Center. Encyclopedia of Radio, ed. Christopher H. Sterling, 1301-1302. New York and London: Fitzroy Dearborn.
- Williams, Sonja. 1998. Eddie Anderson. *Historical Dictionary of American Radio*, eds. Donald G. Godfrey and Frederic A. Leigh, 19-20. Westport and London: Greenwood Press.
- ----- . 1998. Black Drama. *Historical Dictionary of American Radio*, eds. Donald G. Godfrey and Frederic A. Leigh, 46-47. Westport and London: Greenwood Press.
- ----- . 1998. Black Formats. *Historical Dictionary of American Radio*, eds. Donald G. Godfrey and Frederic A. Leigh, 48-49. Westport and London: Greenwood Press.
- ----- . 1998. Jack Leroy Cooper. *Historical Dictionary of American Radio* eds. Donald G. Godfrey and Frederic A. Leigh, 95-96. Westport and London: Greenwood Press.
- ----- . 1998. National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters. *Historical Dictionary of American Radio*, eds. Donald G. Godfrey and Frederic A. Leigh, 274. Westport and London: Greenwood Press.

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS/LECTURES

- Panelist, *Radio's Past: Why Do We Care*, Department of American Civilization, Brown University, Providence, RI, February 2007.
- Site Team Evaluator for the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications, at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, October 2006.
- Attendee, Third Coast International Audio Festival, Chicago, IL, October 2006.
- Attendee, University Film and Video Association Conference, Orange, CA, August 2006.
- Judge, Radio Funding Proposal Panel, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Washington, DC, May 2006 & September 2005.
- Site Team Evaluator for the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications, at Southern University, Baton Rouge, LA, January 2006.
- Lecturer, *Pictures in the Air: Creative Radio Storytelling*, Boston College, Boston, MA, September 2005.
- Attendee, University Film and Video Association Conference, Chicago, IL, August 2005.
- Panelist, *Documentary Producer/Professor: Wearing Two Hats and Staying Sane*, Broadcast Education Association, Las Vegas, NV, April 2005.
- Attendee, The John Bayliss Broadcast Foundation, 19th Annual Bayliss Radio Industry Roast & Awards Ceremony, New York, NY, March 2005.
- Panelist, *What Film Schools Offer*, DC Independent Film Festival, March 2004.

- Attendee, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Re-accreditation Committee Meetings, Chicago, IL, October 2005/March & May 2004.
- Presenter, *Voices of Change: Resistance and Communications in Apartheid South Africa*, aired on Voice of America (VOA) and Bush Radio (station) in Cape Town, South Africa. July-August 2002.
- Panelist, *Doing Documentary Work*, Broadcast Education Association, Las Vegas, NV, April 2001.
- Co-Presenter, *Writing and Producing Radio Drama for Social Change and Development*, Center for International Studies/School of Telecommunications, Ohio University, June-July 1999.