Novella Brooks de Vita
Curriculum Vitae
novella.brooksdevita@hccs.edu

EDUCATION

Gwynedd Mercy University
Ed.D., Candidate
Teaching and Learning in Higher Education

Texas Southern University
Ed.D., ABD
Curriculum and Instruction
Higher Education specialization
9 credit hours graduate level English

Indiana University—South Bend
M. Liberal Studies
Literature and Arts, May 2007
19 credit hours graduate level English and Literature

Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame
B.A.
English Literature, cum laude, May 2004
Minors: French, Italian, Music

WORK EXPERIENCE

Temporary Full-Time Instructor—English, Houston Community College. Present.
English Composition I (1301) & II (1302), Corequisite INRW. 2023-2024.

Para-professional/Youth Specialist, River Park Branch Library—SJCPL. 2004-2006.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2006-15/2019-23. Adjunct Instructor—
Integrated Reading and Writing (INRW), Houston Community College.
INRW co-requisite program course curriculum planning and instruction. (2019-2023).
Introduction to Humanities 2019)
English, HCC Central. (2006-2015):
- Classes taught: Fundamentals of Grammar and Composition I & II, English Composition I & II, Introduction to Humanities, ESOL IV.

ESL Instructor—VIPKID. 2016-2023.
VIPKID-TOEFL training and certification
Internally certified in: Major Course (PreVIP, Level 2, Level 2 Interactive, Level 3, Level 4, Level 5, Level 6, Trial, MC Trial 3.0), VAE Trial, Proper Pronunciation, TOEFL Primary, Voice of VIPKid, VIPKid Free Talk, VIPKid Phonics, Junior Creators - Music, Grammar – Beginner

- Teach one-on-one lessons as part of a flipped-classroom teaching structure that provides online students multiple consistent modes through which to learn and internalize subject matter, utilizing a proprietary online platform to deliver direct instruction to children in China as part of a multi-level online English-immersion teaching tool.

Theatre Arts Instructor, HISD. 2008-2009.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Assistant—Student Academic Support Services, Texas Southern University. 2017.
Supported the SASS relaunch of TSU's Freshman Seminar course

- Tracked students accepted into the university's conditional acceptance intensive summer program
- Learned the systems necessary to find and compile attendance, grade and performance data
- Interfaced with students, family, administration, and faculty
- Supported the growing university-level Enrollment and Completion Advising team during its official launch

Graduate Research Assistant—Center for Legal Pedagogy, Texas Southern University. 2016.

- Engaged in research and communication/programming outreach
- Organized newsletters
- Helped record and report data from students and faculty

PUBLICATIONS
Literary and Educational Analysis

Refereed Journal Articles

2022. "That'll Teach You: A Humanistic Reconstructionist Approach to the Project-Based Educations of the Companions of *Doctor Who*." *Humanities Bulletin*, vol. 5, no. 2.

2019. "Made into Nothing: Surviving Multifaceted Vulnerability." *The Maroon Journal*.

2019. With co-author Alexis Brooks de Vita, Ph.D. "'You Have Forever Changed My Life': The Need for Academic Rigor in Teaching Humanities in a Global Society." *Humanities Bulletin*, vol. 2, no. 2.

2015. "African American College Preparation through Reading in Secondary Schools." *The Griot*, vol. 34, no. 2.

2005. "*Abiku* Babies: Spirit Children and Human Bonding in Ben Okri's *The Famished Road*, Edwidge Danticat's *Krik? Krak!*, and Tina McElroy Ansa's *Baby of the Family*." *The Griot*, vol. 24, no. 1, Spring.

2003. "Beloved and Betrayed: Survival and Authority in *Kindred*." *The Griot*, vol. 22, no. 1, Spring.

Book Chapters

2024. With Alexis Brooks de Vita, Ph.D., co-author. "Fresh-Faced: The Interpretive Impact of Race, Gender and Ethnicity in Neil Gaiman's Netflix *Sandman*." *The Sandman: Critical Essays on the Netflix Series*, edited by Tara Prescott-Johnson, McFarland Press.

2016. "Wiz Kids: An Exploration of Pedagogy in the World of Harry Potter, from Remus Lupin's Differentiated Reconstructionism to Dolores Umbridge's Discipline-Focused Essentialism." *Mediated Pedagogies: Teaching and Learning On Screen*, edited by Mark Readman, Palgrave Macmillan.

Conference Proceedings

2023. Gaiman, Neil. "Building Inclusive Worlds and Global Representations in the Works of Neil Gaiman." Interview. *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*.

Encyclopedia Entries

Information forthcoming from publisher.

Book Reviews

2013. Frances Smith Foster. *'Til Death or Distance Do Us Part: Love and Marriage in African America.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2014. In *CLA Journal*, vol. 56, no. 3.

Other Publications

2007. *"Without Mouths": Director's Observation of the Focus on Communication and Destruction in William Shakespeare's* Othello. IUSB.

Short Stories

2024. "Metempsychosis." *Sunshine Superhighway: Solar Sailings*, edited by Jessica Augustsson, JayHenge Publishing.

2021/2014. "My Bogeyman." *Tales in Firelight and Shadow*, edited by Alexis Brooks de Vita, Double Dragon Publishing/Blood Moon Publishing, 2014, Double Dragon/Fiction4All, 2021.

2012/2022. "Cacie's Prism." Love and Darker Passions, edited by Lee Barwood and Alexis Brooks de Vita, Double Dragon Publishing/Blood Moon Publishing, 2012, Double Dragon/Fiction4All, 2022.

Poetry in Anthologies

2003. *Forced from the Garden: Poetry and Short Prose by Women*, edited by Leon Knight, Robbinsdale, MN: Guild Press.

2002. *Full Circle Twenty-Three: An Anthology of Poetry and Prose*, edited by Leon Knight, Robbinsdale, MN: Guild Press.

2001. *Full Circle Twenty-Two: Poetry and Prose*, edited by Ginny Knight, Robbinsdale, MN: Guild Press.

AWARDS AND HONORS

2019. Student Oral Presentation: First Place, Research Week, Texas Southern University.

2011/2012. National Association of Professional Women.

2009. Bedichek-Orman Faculty Development Award, Houston Community College Foundation.

2004. Lillie Newton Hornsby Memorial Award for Best Submitted Undergraduate Student Essay, SCAASI:
"*Abiku* Babies: Spirit Children and Bonding in Ben Okri's *The Famished Road*, Edwidge Danticat's *Krik? Krak!*, and Tina McElroy Ansa's *Baby of the Family*."
2004. Reanitsa K. Butler Memorial Award for Best Undergraduate Panel Presentation at the Convention, SCAASI: 3rd Place, Notre Dame University Student Panel, presenting: "*Abiku*

Babies: Spirit Children and Bonding in Ben Okri's *The Famished Road*, Edwidge Danticat's *Krik? Krak!*, and Tina McElroy Ansa's *Baby of the Family*."

2003. Lillie Newton Hornsby Memorial Award for Best Submitted Undergraduate Student Essay, SCAASI: "Beloved and Betrayed: Survival and Authority in *Kindred*."

2003. Reanitsa K. Butler Memorial Award for Best Undergraduate Panel Presentation at the Convention, SCAASI: 3rd Place, as Saint Mary's College Panel Moderator.

2001-2005. National Dean's List.

2004. Certificate of Recognition, Office of Multicultural Affairs, St. Mary's, Notre Dame.

2003-2004. Indiana Freedom of Choice Award.

2001-2004. Indiana Higher Education Grant.

2003. Lily Foundation Student Grant, Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership.

2000-2002. Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Society.

2000-2001. Pueblo Bank & Trust Art Scholarship.

1999-2001. President's Academic Scholarship, Colorado State University—Pueblo.

1999-2001. Honors Diversity Grant, CSU-Pueblo.

1999-2001. Diversity Grant, CSU-Pueblo.

1999-2001. Pueblo African American Community Outreach Scholarship.

2001. Certificate of Appreciation, CSU-Pueblo Concert Committee.

1999-2000. CSU-Pueblo Art Department, Capps-Capossolo Center Scholarship.

1999-2000. Beck Ortner Merit Scholarship.

1999. National Academic Achievement Award and Publication.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY/PARTICIPATION

Conferences Organized

2024-2025. **In development**: Master scheduler of VICFA 3: Pantheology in World-Building and Magic Systems (October 2024) and ICFA 46: Night Terrors (March 2025).

2023-2024. Master scheduler of the VICFA 2: AI, Algorithms, Automata, and Art (international virtual conference) and ICFA 45: Whimsy (international in-person conference, Orlando, FL, USA) of the IAFA.

2011. Incarceration Patterns of African and Latino America. Texas Southern University, Houston, TX, USA.

2010. "Addressing the Tex-Book Controversy" Symposium. Texas Southern University, Houston, TX, USA.

Divisions Organized

2021-2023. Scheduled sessions hosted by the IAFA BIPOC Caucus in its Counter Space at all virtual and in-person conferences hosted by the IAFA during this period.
Orlando, FL, USA.

Panels Organized

2010. "'You Have Forever Changed My Life': Journaling through the Required Reading." 17th Annual HBCU Teaching Effectiveness Symposium, New Orleans, LA, USA.

Papers Presented

2022. "Every 'Other' Thing: Tokenism and Stereotyping as Diversification in Science Fiction and the Fantastic." SFRA 2022: Futures from the Margins, University of Oslo, Oslo, NOR. Presentation.

2022. "Claiming the Everyman in *American Gods* and *Us*." International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts (ICFA), Orlando, FL, USA.

2021. "Maggots and Tomato Worms: Impotence and Violence in *Coraline* and *The 1855 Murder Case of* Missouri versus Celia*, an Enslaved Woman*." ICFA, Orlando, FL, USA.

2019. "Maggots and Tomato Worms: Impotence and Violence in *Coraline* and *The 1855 Murder Case of* Missouri versus Celia*, an Enslaved Woman*." UHD 12th Annual Gender Conference, University of Houston—Downtown, Houston, TX, USA.

2019. "Increasing student knowledge and improving GPAs with inclusive and culturally responsive textbooks." Research Week 2019, Texas Southern University, Houston, TX, USA.

2018. "The Glass Ceiling in the Ivory Tower: An African American woman scholar examines de facto limitations in United States academia." UHD 11th Annual Gender Conference, University of Houston— Downtown, Houston, TX, USA.

2018. "Let Me Tell You a Story: Mr. Nancy's Narrative Therapy and Critical Pedagogy in Starz's *American Gods*." ICFA, Orlando, FL, USA.

2016. "That'll Teach You: Mentoring as the Corruption of Innocence in *Black Butler*, *Black Mirror*, *Dr. Who*, and *Hex*." ICFA, Orlando, FL, USA.

2015. "Bigger on the Inside: A Humanistic Reconstructionist Approach to the Project-Based Educations of the Companions of Doctor Who." ICFA, Orlando, FL, USA.

2014. "The Suppression of Sub-Saharan Homo-Sapiens' Intelligence." College Language Association Convention, New Orleans, LA, USA.

2013. "Seeing the Unspeakable: Symbiotic Maturation through the Reading of Graphic Novels." ICFA, Orlando, FL, USA.

2013. "Engaging Students as Multi-literate Scholars." HCC Annual Faculty Conference: All Tech Considered: Navigating Through Multiliteracies, Houston, TX, USA.

2012. "WHO is the Monster: Profiling Dr. Who as Antivillain or Antihero." ICFA, Orlando, FL, USA.

2011. "The Story Re-Teller: The Narrator as Trickster in Tarsem's *The Cell* and *The Fall*, Neil Gaiman's *The Sandman*, and Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*." ICFA, Orlando, FL, USA.

2008. "Birth by Blood and Fire: The Survival and Maturation of Children in Cities and Isolated Environments." Children's Literature Association Conference, Normal, IN, USA.

2008. "Life, Death, Sexuality, and Resurrection: The Transcendent Transsexuality of Children in Literature." International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Mar. 2008, ICFA, Orlando, FL, USA.

2006. "Astral/Body: Grounding the Metaphysical in Nicholas Wright's Adaptation of Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials*." Children's Literature Association Conference, Manhattan Beach, Los Angeles, CA, USA.

2005. "Seeing the Unspeakable: Symbiotic Maturation through the Reading of Graphic Novels." Modern Language Association Convention, Washington, DC, USA.

2005. "The Human Connection in Jean Toomer's *Cane*, Nella Larsen's *Quicksand*, and Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*." Southern Conference on African American Studies (SCAASI), Montgomery, AL, USA.

2004. "*Abiku* Babies: Spirit Children and Bonding in Ben Okri's *The Famished Road*, Edwidge Danticat's *Krik? Krak!*, and Tina McElroy Ansa's *Baby of the Family*." SCAASI, Nashville, TN, USA.

2003. "Beloved and Betrayed: Survival and Authority in *Kindred*." SCAASI, Charleston, SC, USA.

Discussant

2023. Panelist: "How to Publish Fantastic Scholarship." Virtual International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts (VICFA).

2023. Panelist: "Equiano, Crafts, Wilson, Brent/Harris, Till, and the Central Park Survivors: Racially Integrated Education and the Continued Censure of African and Diaspora Experience." ICFA, Orlando, FL, USA.

2023. Panelist: "Gods of Lightning, Water and Blood, Ancestors, and Spirit Children: Exploring African and Diaspora Traditions of Power and Healing." ICFA, Orlando, FL, USA.

2022. Panelist: "Navigating Grad School." VICFA.

2010. Panelist: "Race, Religion and Approaching the Fantastic." ICFA, Orlando, FL, USA.

2009. Discussant: "Mothers of Peace." Women and Revolution Summit/Town Hall Meeting. TSU, Houston, TX, USA.

2008. Discussant: Karla Holloway's *BookMarks* and Challenges to African American Literacy, TSU, Houston, TX, USA.

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

1st Vice President—Member of the Executive Board of the International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts. 2023-Present.

Editor-in-Chief, Acquisitions—*Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts* (*JFA*). 2022-Present.

IAFA BIPOC Caucus Counter Space Scheduler and PIO. 2021-2023.

DEPARTMENT/INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE (all institutions)

Assistant Editor—*The Faculty Speaks*. Texas Southern University. 2011-2014.

EXTRACURRICULAR INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Vice President. Graduate Student Government. Texas Southern University. 2016-2017.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/OUTREACH

2006-2009, 2017-2019.. **1st-2nd Grade Continuum Volunteer Teacher**, Houston Baha'i School.
- ESL for children speaking French, Spanish and Farsi; school preparedness.

2016-2018. **Vice President/Senator**, Graduate Student Government Association, Texas Southern University.

2011. **Volunteer Director**, Robert J. Terry (RJT) Library Urban Learning Center, Texas Southern University.
- Planning, research, outreach, logistics, and hosting: "Incarceration Patterns of African and Latino America" conference planning and logistics. 4/11.
- Planning and logistics: Before They Die! documentary screenings and panel. 2/11.
- Planning and logistics: "A Discussion of the DREAM Act with Gaby Pacheco," in cooperation with the Hispanic Student Association. 1/11.
- Gloria Rolando film festival planning, including letter of invitation, schedule proposals, logistics. 11/10-1/11.

2010. **Consultant**, RJT Library Urban Learning Center, TSU.
- Research, consultation, planning, and logistics: "Addressing the Tex-Book Controversy" Discussion with Texas State Representatives. Planning meetings with TSU scholars. Interview

and discussion with Representative Alma Allen. Forum with invited city and state political representatives. 8/10.

- Research, consultation and strategic planning: Faculty symposium on the mission of TSU as an urban learning institution—"Identity Crisis/ Mission Statement: Are We an Urban Learning University?" 11/10.

2002-2005. **USA/Uganda Godsisters coordinator**, St. Mary's/Notre Dame/Indiana U.

2000-2001. **Student Senate Representative**, Board of Directors, Colorado State U.-Pueblo.

1999-2001. **CSU-Pueblo Student Senate**.

1999-2001. **CSU-Pueblo Concert Committee; Hospitality**.

1997-2001. **Volunteer**, St. Mary Corwin Medical Center.

LANGUAGES

Experience using and proficiency with IPA (especially for French, Italian, English, and German). Basic/conversational French and Italian. Spanish comprehension.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS/AFFILIATIONS

Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society

The Council for Adult & Experiential Learning

Horror Writers Association

International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts

Modern Language Association

National Association for Multicultural Education

Pi Lambda Theta Honor Society