

**CURRICULUM
VITAE
LENA M. HILL**

Business Address: Provost Office
Washington and Lee University
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EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

1. Higher Education

Yale University (1998-2005), English, Ph.D., 2005
Howard University (1993-1997), English, B.A., 1997 (*summa cum laude*)
Richmond College, Florence, Italy (1996)
Williams College (1995)

2. Academic Positions

Provost (2021-present), Washington and Lee University
Dean of the College (2018-2021), Washington and Lee University
Professor (2018-present), English and Africana Studies, Washington and Lee University
Interim Chief Diversity Officer and Associate Vice President (2017-2018), University of Iowa
Senior Associate to the President (2016-2018), University of Iowa
Department of English Director of Undergraduate Studies (2015-2016), University of Iowa
Associate Professor (2013-2018), English and African American Studies, University of Iowa
Assistant Professor (2006-2013), English and African American Studies, University of Iowa
Postdoctoral Fellow (2004-2006), Duke University
Visiting Instructor (2003), North Carolina School of the Arts
Part-time Acting Instructor (2001), Yale University
Teaching Fellow (2000-2001), Yale University

3. Academic Leadership and Service

Provost (2021-present). Duties include:

- Member of President's Cabinet
- Chair the President's Advisory Committee, managing tenure and promotion review and recommendations, sabbatical leave applications, faculty summer research grants, student Summer Research Scholars grants, and Honorary Degree nominations

- Oversee and provide strategic leadership to Law School, the College, and the Williams school, and oversee administrative units including the Registrar, Library, Athletics, International Education, Mudd Center, Harte Teaching and Learning Center, Community Based Learning, DeLaney Center, and Institutional Research
- Chair academic council and manage nine direct reports including the dean of the College, the dean of the Williams School, the dean of the Law School, the director of athletics, the director of the library, the registrar, two associate provosts, and an assistant provost
- Oversee and manage capital, operating and salary budgetary processes for academic schools and reporting administrative units
- Oversee all university requests for new positions and requests to refill vacant staff positions
- Oversee DEI across academic affairs
- Manage faculty staffing levels and work closely with academic deans on faculty recruitment, hiring, and retention with special focus on increasing underrepresented populations
- Manage annual evaluation process for all academic deans and directors.
- Support the President in all strategic university initiatives and work with senior leadership in developing and carrying out strategic initiatives
- Provide leadership in matters of academic policy and administration
- Co-chair complaints, investigations, and processes for Harassment, Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct policies
- Manage all appointed committees for faculty and staff
- Serve as Board of Trustees liaison to the Undergraduate Academics and Admissions committee and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee
- Lead SACS-COC accreditation efforts in partnership with Assistant Provost and Director of Institutional Effectiveness
- Work with Development/Advancement on targeting key academic programs for fundraising; provide detailed information on programs; arrange meetings and key conversations; work with Office of Alumni Affairs to enhance alumni understanding of academic affairs
- Encourage and support research and grant-writing and actively engage with the Corporate and Foundation Relations office in support of faculty projects and grant candidates
- Lead internal discussions on academic planning, curriculum development, faculty governance, and other issues related to teaching, scholarship, and faculty development

Dean of the College (2018-2021). Duties include:

- Direct the recruitment, orientation, and mentoring of new faculty in the College
- Manage annual evaluation process for College faculty and staff
- Coordinate pre-tenure, tenure, and promotion review processes for College faculty including participation on the President's Advisory Committee
- Lead diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in College
- Mentor recently tenured associate professors
- Manage faculty budgeted lines, in consultation with the Provost, as retirements, departures, or deaths create openings

- Manage the hiring of visiting faculty within the existing budget to appropriately staff departments during faculty leaves
- Manage course enrollment, responding to oversubscribed and undersubscribed courses
- Manage financial resources for College faculty development
- Manage College departmental and program operating budgets and discretionary funds
- Envision and develop long-range plans for the College and execute institutional academic goals in collaboration with fellow members of the President's Council
- Collaborate with academic department and program heads in the realization of curricular goals and their on-going assessment
- Select and train new department and program chairs
- Chair the Committee on Courses and Degrees, with responsibility for the undergraduate curriculum and academic exceptions
- Collaborate with College's Development Officer, including meeting with donors, participating in Parents' Leadership Council, working with foundations, supporting faculty grant applications, and maintaining membership on the Science Advisory Board
- Perform other related duties as necessary in the role of Dean

W&L Vice President of Advancement Search Committee (2020)

W&L Director of Institutional History Search Committee (2019)

UI Interim Chief Diversity Officer and Associate Vice President (2017-2018). Duties include:

- Direct Supervisor: Center for Diversity and Enrichment, Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, Diversity Resources Team
- Chair the Collegiate Diversity Group (Associate Deans, General Counsel, UI Charter Committee Co-Chairs), Disability Planning and Action Committee, Shared Governance Coordinating Committee on Inclusion and Campus Climate, UI/City of Iowa City Diversity Group (Local Police Chief, Assistant VP and Director of Public Safety, City Manager, Executive Director of Downtown District, City Director of Equity and Human Rights)
- Direct the Presidential Charter Committee on Diversity, Diversity Councils, President's Black Student Advisory Committee, Transgender Task Force, Climate Inclusion Team
- Work with Associate Provost for Faculty
- Serve on Provost's Office Group and Associate Provosts
- Serve on Path Forward Steering Committee and as Liaison with Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Collaboration Work Group
- Supervise Diversity Catalyst Awards

UI Senior Associate to the President (2016-2018). Duties include:

- Direct Faculty Conversations for the President
- Chair Living Learning Community Operations Team Review
- Serve on Executive Committee
- Serve on Central Administration Budget Group

- Serve on Presidential Athletics Committee and Student Athlete Well-Being Subcommittee
- Serve on Campus Development Group

UI Director of Undergraduate Studies, English (2015-2016). Duties include:

- Serve as Member of Executive Committee, Curriculum Committee, Honors Steering Committee, Undergraduate Advisory Committee, PROD (Publicity, Recruitment, Outreach, and Development Committee)
- Direct Annual Outcomes Assessment
- Supervise Professional Advisor and Determine All Special Advising Cases
- Oversee Plagiarism Cases, Grade Appeals, Complaints about Undergraduate Instructors, English Undergraduate Listserv, Applications for Second BA with a Major in English
- Direct Pedagogical Lunch (or “Pastries and Pedagogy Breakfast”) Series
- Teach “English at Work”
- Lead and Write Certificate Proposals
- Direct Communications Independent Study

UI Strategic Plan Development Group (2016)

UI Presidential Search Committee (2015)

4. Honors and Awards

Benjamin F. Shambaugh Award, Honorable Mention (2017) [State Historical Society of Iowa Prize Recognizing Most Significant Book Published on Iowa History]
 BTAA Academic Leadership Program Fellow (2016-2017)
 Obermann Fellow-in-Residence (Spring 2015)
 Cmiel Research Semester Participant, Obermann Center (2012)
 James N. Murray Faculty Award (2011) [Teaching Award Given to One Untenured Faculty Member at UI]
 Geneva Lecture Committee Faith & Learning Award (2010) [Service Award]
 Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship, Mellon Foundation (2004-2006)
 Graduate Prize Fellowship, Yale University (1998-2002) Phi
 Beta Kappa, Howard University (1996)

5. Memberships

Ralph Ellison Society (Co-Founder, Vice President 2011-present)
 American Literature Association
 Modern Language Association
 Modernist Studies Association Phi Beta Kappa

SCHOLARSHIP

1. Publications

a. Refereed

i. Books

African American Literature In Transition, 1750-2015 series, 1940s Volume, coedited with Michael D. Hill, with introduction (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, Under Contract)

Invisible Hawkeyes: African Americans at the University of Iowa during the Long Civil Rights Era, co-edited with Michael D. Hill, with introduction and essay (University of Iowa Press, 2016). 230 pp. *** [2017 Benjamin F. Shambaugh Award Honorable Mention]

Visualizing Blackness and the Creation of the African American Literary Tradition (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014). 275 pp. ***

Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man: A Reference Guide, co-authored with Michael D. Hill (Westport: Greenwood Press, 2008). 191 pp. ***

ii. Articles or Book Chapters

"Visualizing Black Identity in Ellison's Fiction," *Ralph Ellison in Context*. Ed. Paul Devlin (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2021): 117-126.

"Ralph Ellison: *Invisible Man*," *A Companion to World Literature*. Ed. Ken Seigneurie (West Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell, 2020): 18 pages.

"Laughing in the Gallery: Melvin Tolson's Refusal to Hush," *Humor in Modern American Poetry*. Ed. Rachel Trousdale (New York: Bloomsbury, 2018): 77-96.

"The Politics of Fatherhood in *Three Days Before the Shooting....*," *The New Territory: Ralph Ellison and the 21st Century*. Eds. Marc Connor and Lucas Morel (Jackson: University of Mississippi Press, 2016): 142-166.

"A New Stage of Laughter for Zora Neale Hurston and Theodore Browne: *Lysistrata* and the Negro Units of the Federal Theater Project." *The Oxford Handbook of Greek Drama in the Americas* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015): 286-300.

"Performing Political Responsibility: Ralph and Fanny Ellison's Appeal to Visual Arts," *American Studies* 54:3 (2015): 83-100.

"Novels." *African American Studies Center*, Ed. *Oxford African American Studies Center*, <http://www.oxfordaasc.com/article/opr/t356/e0005> (2012)

"The Visual Art of *Invisible Man*: Ellison's Portrait of Blackness," *American Literature* 81:4 (2009): 775-803.

iii. Book Reviews

Review of Cherene Sherrard-Johnson, *Dorothy West's Paradise* (2013) in *American Literary History*, Series II (April 2015).

Review of Kwame Anthony Appiah, *Lines of Descent: W. E. B. Du Bois and Emergence of Identity in Books & Culture* (September/October 2014): 30-31.

Review of Adam Bradley, *Ralph Ellison in Progress* (Yale 2010) in *African American Review* 44:3 (2012): 532-534.

b. Non-Refereed

i. Media

“‘For Our People’ Celebrates African-American Experience at UI,” *Iowa City Press-Citizen*, Editorial (January 2017)

“Invisible Hawkeyes: African Americans at the University of Iowa During the Long Civil Rights Era,” Interview on All Things Considered, Iowa Public Radio (October 2016)

“Some novel approaches to discussing race at UI,” *Iowa City Press-Citizen*, Editorial (November 2011)

2. Published Reviews of Scholarship

Review of *Visualizing Blackness and the Creation of the African American Literary Tradition* (Cambridge 2014) in *Modernism/Modernity* (2016).

Review of *Visualizing Blackness and the Creation of the African American Literary Tradition* (Cambridge 2014) in *Transatlantica* 1(2014).

3. Grants Funded a. External

Mellon Research Grant (summer 2005)

Gignilliat Fellowship (fall 2002)

John Enders Research Grant (summer 2002)

Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library Short Term Research Fellowship (January 2002) Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library Summer Research Fellowship (May 2001)

Mellon Summer Study Fellowship (May 2000)

b. Internal

International Programs Travel Grant (spring 2015; \$800)

International Programs Travel Grant (fall 2014; \$700)

Creative Campus Institute Faculty Fellow (spring 2011; \$1,000)

International Programs travel grant (fall 2010; \$300)

Arts and Humanities Initiative grant (summer 2009; \$6,084) Old

Gold Summer Fellowship (summer 2007; \$6,000)

4. Papers, Lectures, and other Professional Presentations (Selected from Past 5 Years)

a. International

“The Intimate Spaces of Artistry: Ralph and Fanny Ellison’s Creative World,”

Rereading Ralph Ellison Symposium, Frankfurt (July 2019)

“A Romantic Lens: A New View of Ellison’s Politics,” The International Ralph Ellison Symposium, Oxford (September 2017)

“Pretentious Peasants: Jean-François Millet & Harlem Renaissance Labor,” Modernist Studies Association, Amsterdam (August 2017)

b. National

“Making the Case for Studying the Humanities in a Time of Crisis,” National Humanities Alliance Webinar (July 2020)

“FLEX-ing to Realize Black Excellence,” Keynote, Black Future Leaders Experience Conference, Lexington (February 2020)

“Thriving and Teaching at a Liberal Arts College for an Increasingly Diverse Student Body,” Consortium for Faculty Diversity Conference, Cedar Rapids (October 2019)

“Thriving in a Diverse and Inclusive Academy,” Keynote, Future Professoriate Program Conference, Syracuse (May 2019)

“In Defense of Beauty: The Importance of Educating Others,” Tom Wolfe Seminar, Lexington (April 2019)

“Black Community at W&L: More than a Matter of Time,” Keynote, Black Alumni Reunion, Lexington (March 2019)

“Ralph Ellison and the African American Religious Experience,” 2018 Nancy Hardesty Lecture, Clemson (October 2018)

“Role of the Arts in Diversity, Inclusion, and Outreach Efforts,” Featured Speaker, Big Ten Academic Alliance Academic Leadership Program, Iowa City (October 2017)

“The Tale Before the Storm: Inspiring Stories, Visible Excellence, and the Value of Diversity,” Keynote, Big Ten Plus News & Marketing Conference, Iowa City (June 2017)

“Fields of Opportunity: UI’s Black Migration Stories” Co-Organizer and Participant (October 2016) [*secured funds for \$10,400 budget; planned 4 major events which totaled roughly 200 people in attendance; presented on scholarly roundtable at Iowa City Public Library*]

TEACHING

My teaching focuses on nineteenth & twentieth century African-American literature, U.S. literature and drama, and visual culture.

1. Undergraduate Courses

W&L

African American Literature & Visual Culture
Black Writers and the Allure of Paris

UI

African American Literature & Visual Art
African American Literature before 1900
The Look of Blackness: Literature & Visual Art
English@Work

Black Literature and Politics
Selected African American Authors: Ralph Ellison
Selected African American Authors: Zora Neale Hurston
Topics in American Literature after 1900: The Allure of Portraits
American Drama before 1900
Literature and Art: Writing Against Visual Stereotypes
Foundations in African American Studies
American Poetry: African American Verse
Selected African American Authors: Ralph Ellison and Richard Wright

2. Graduate Courses

Studies in African American Literature: Visual Culture in Black American Literature
Seminar-American Literature and Culture: Ralph Ellison and Democracy
Introduction to Graduate Study
Studies in African American Literature: Black Literary Politics

3. Students Supervised

I have directed three dissertations, served on 36 graduate comprehensive exams, directed seven graduate independent studies and four undergraduate independent studies.

SERVICE (Past 5 Years)

1. Profession

National Humanities Alliance Board Member, 2020-present
Consortium for Faculty Diversity, Steering Committee Member, 2019-present
Modernism / modernity Editorial Board, 2019-present
MLA Publications Committee, 2018-2021
National Humanities Alliance, Humanities Working Group for Community Impact Initiative, 2016
Referee for article submissions: *African American Review* (2011 [1], 2010 [1], 2008 [1], 2007 [2]); *Iowa Journal of Cultural Studies* (2015[1]); *MELUS* (2014 [1]); *Meridians* (2011 [1]); *LIT* (2010 [1]); *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature* (2015[1]); *Twentieth Century Literature* (2014 [1])

- ### 2. Contributions to UI Instructional Programs
- Speaker, "Managing Morale: Black Students & The University of Iowa" Alpha Kappa Alpha Week (November 2017)
Keynote, "A Degree for Your Passion," Graduate College Pre-Orientation-Connecting Communities: Resources for Grad Students of Color (August 2017)
Speaker, "OnIowa Excel Lecture," OnIowa Freshman Orientation Program (August 2017)
Speaker, English Department Inspiration Series (April 2017)
Speaker, "The Story Behind *Invisible Hawkeyes*," Library Staff & Diversity Development Program (March 2017)
Speaker, "Reading Black Humanity in Pictures and Print," Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Week (March 2017)

Our Lives Online Theme Semester, Panelist, WorldCanvass Live Recording (January 2017) UI
LeaderShape Institute, Guest Leader Panelist, Washington, IA (January 2017)
“Reading Black Humanity in Pictures and Print, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Master
Class Lecture (October 2016)

3. UI College

Undergraduate Educational Policy Curriculum Committee (2015-2017)
Writing Certificate Steering Committee (2015-2016)

4. W&L University

COVID Academic Working Group (2020)
COVID Athletics Subcommittee (2020)
CARPE Task Force (2018-2019)
Recruitment and Retention Task Force (2018-2019)

UI University

Faculty Mentor, Center for Teaching’s Early Career Faculty Academy (2016-2018)
Living Learning Community Advisory Board (2016-2018)
UI Athletics Minority Focus Group Mentor (2015-2018)
Path Forward Operations Team (2016-2017)
Path Forward Strategic Implementation Team (2016-2017)
UI Humanities Advisory Board (2013-2017)
TIER Student Success Task Force (2015-2016)
UI Faculty Senate Working Group, Top Tier Research University (2015)

5. Community

a. Service

Board Member, Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce (2016-2018)
Board Member, Iowa City Community School District Foundation (2014-2018)
Director of Christian Education, Bethel A.M.E. Church (2009-2018) [*director of Christian education;
superintendent of Sunday school; teacher for teen Sunday school class; teacher for children’s church;
oversee nursery director*]

b. Local & Statewide Presentations

Presenter, City of Lexington Juneteenth Celebration (June 2021)
“Complicated Fathers: Ralph Ellison’s *Three Days Before the Shooting...* and W&L,” Kendall
at Lexington Life Plan Community (March 2019)
Presenter, “My Dream for the University of Iowa,” Bethel AME Church MLK Program, Iowa
City (January 2018)
Speaker, “Black Collegians: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow” Coe College Alumni Dinner,
Cedar Rapids December 2017)
Speaker, “An Unlikely Harvest: Black Student Performance at the UI,” Iowa City Noon Rotary
Club (October 2017)
Speaker, “An Unlikely Harvest: Iowa and the Production of Black Art,” Hawkeye Lunch and
Learn Series, Des Moines (September 2017)

Speaker, “An Unlikely Harvest: Iowa and the Production of Black Art,” Hawkeye Lunch and Learn Series, Iowa City (September 2017)

Panelist, “Authors Panel,” Iowa Soul Festival, Iowa City (August 2017)

Speaker, “Invisible Hawkeyes,” Iowa Black Alumni Association Reunion, Coralville (April 2017)

Keynote, “African Americans at the University of Iowa: Seeking Excellence with an Oyster Knife,” Future of Black Iowa Conference (March 2017)

Reading, *Invisible Hawkeyes*, Prairie Lights, Iowa City (February 2017)

Speaker, “Community and Excellence: The Secret to UI Success,” Johnson County League of Women Voters (February 2017)

Advisory Committee Member, African American Museum of Iowa (2016)

Reading, *Invisible Hawkeyes*, Barnes & Noble, Cedar Rapids (December 2016)