



- 2011-17 Coordinator, Schreyer and Cooper Honors Program  
Worked with Admissions to plan, coordinate and execute recruitment events; Maintained operating budget; Attended New Student Orientation training to prepare faculty advisers for incoming honors students; Planned and implemented all admission and orientation activities for incoming class; maintained program website and social media sites; Planned and implemented program events; Advised 50-60 honors students; Conducted annual meeting with thesis advisers; Chaired Honors Advisory Committee; Determined course scheduling and faculty assignments; Worked with development and other campus offices such as advising, registrar, library, global studies and financial services to facilitate honors services
- 2014 Program Coordinator, English, Penn State Brandywine  
Scheduled program courses; Developed recruitment strategies; Advised transfer students; Worked with Biology faculty to develop a science writing program for ENGL 15 and Biology juniors and seniors; Developed new job description for Writing Studio Director
- 2013 Member, Chancellor Search Committee, Penn State Brandywine  
Assisted the Office of the Vice President of the Commonwealth College and gathered faculty nominations to assemble the committee
- 2012 Chair, Penn State Brandywine Faculty Senate
- 2007-16 Coordinator for English 04: Basic Writing (developmental writing course)  
Restructured the curriculum; Hired, trained, and reviewed part-time faculty

#### **Additional College & University Service**

- 2016-17 Promotion and Tenure Committee, Penn State Brandywine
- 2014-15 Member, University College English Council
- 2013,15,16 Promotion and Tenure Discipline Representative for University College
- 2013-22 University Faculty Senate (sub-committees: Faculty Affairs; Educational Equity). Wrote the Educational Equity and Campus Environment Report on Diversity in Administration
- 2011-15 Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity, appointed member
- 2011-13 Strategic Planning Committee, Penn State Brandywine
- 2011 Chair-elect, Campus Faculty Senate
- 2010 Diversity Advocate, campus search committee for instructor of science
- 2010 Diversity Advocate, campus search committee for science lab supervisor
- 2009-10 Member, Penn State Brandywine Library Task Force.
- 2007-10 Chair, Scholarship Committee
- 2008-10 Honors Recognition Committee
- 2008 Residence Hall Sub-committee, authored white paper for residence hall proposal
- 2008 Strategic Planning Residential Experience Committee
- 2007-09 Academic Support Services Advisory Committee
- 2004 Search committee for an African American Literature faculty position, Commonwealth College of Penn State University
- 2003-15 Faculty Advisor, Black Student League
- 2003 Search committee for an African American Literature faculty position, Commonwealth College of Penn State University
- 2002, 2003 Minority faculty recruitment trips for the Commonwealth College of Penn State University (Memphis, Washington, D.C.)
- 2002 Search committee for an African American Studies/Religious Studies faculty position, Penn State Brandywine
- 2002 Minority Student Retention Committee, Penn State Brandywine
- 2002 Search committee for two African American Literature faculty positions, Commonwealth College of Penn State University

## Professional Service

- 2020-2022 Modern Language Association. Religion and Literature Forum Executive Committee (Secretary)
- 2019-22 Editorial Board, *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers*
- 2018-22 Advisory Board, Society for Study of American Women Writers
- 2019-21 Planning Committee, Biennial Conference of the Society for Study of American Women Writers, Baltimore, November 2021
- 2016-present Head Coach, National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity  
Part of leadership team that facilitates the Faculty Success Program, a 12-week professional development boot camp for academics; select, train, and manage 30 certified coaches (faculty members in institutions across the U.S. and Canada) and serve as management liaison for 200 participants; provide assessment of coach performance; review program survey data and address concerns with clients.
- 2014-present Certified Coach, National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity  
Facilitate individual and small group weekly coaching sessions for postdoctoral fellows; tenure-track, teaching, clinical, and senior faculty; and administrators from varied disciplines across the world in developing strategies to contribute to productivity and wellness.
- 2014-18 Consultant Reader, *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers*
- 2016 External reviewer, promotion and tenure committee, UNC Charlotte
- 2016 Reader, McFarland Press, reviewed book manuscript
- 2016 Reader, *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*
- 2015 Reader, *MELUS: Journal for the Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the U.S. Society*
- 2013 Reader, Palgrave Macmillan Press, reviewed book manuscript
- 2013 External reviewer, promotion and tenure committee, Grinnell College
- 2012 External reviewer, promotion and tenure committee, U of Alabama-Tuscaloosa
- 2011 External reviewer, promotion committee, City College of CUNY
- 2010 Reader, *Resources for American Literary Study*
- 2006, 2007 Judge, *African American Review*, Darwin Turner Prize and Joe Weixlmann Award
- 2004-09 Reader, *African American Review*, Saint Louis University, Saint Louis, MO
- 2002 Reader, *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*, University of Tulsa
- 1998-2002 Member, Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession, MLA

## Community Service

- 2010-present Board Member, Germantown Relief Society - nation's oldest charitable organization. Chair, Dispensing Committee. GRS administers a trust chartered in 1873 to "serve the needy of Germantown."

## Grants and Awards

- 2021 Mellon Just Transformations Fellow, Center for Black Digital Research, PSU
- 2017-18 Harvard Divinity School, Colorado Fellow, Women's Studies in Religion Program
- 2017 NEH Fellowship - Massachusetts Historical Society
- 2016 Institute for the Arts & Humanities Individual Faculty Grant for Research
- 2013 Madlyn Hanes Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching, Service, and Research
- 2005 National Research Council, Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship
- 2004 Smithsonian Institution Postdoctoral Fellowship, Anacostia Museum
- 2002,03,08 Research Development Grant, The Pennsylvania State University
- 2000 Walter and June Vollrath Distinguished Graduate Fellow – first recipient
- 1999 Vilas Professional Development Fellowship
- 1998 Wisconsin Humanities Grant, *Scribbling Sisters*: middle school writer's camp
- 1994 Committee on Institutional Cooperation Summer Research Grant
- 1993, 1997 Advanced Opportunity Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Madison

## Publications

- 2021 *Memoirs of the Life, Religious Experience, Ministerial Travels and Labours of Mrs. Zilpha Elaw, an American Female of Colour*. This scholarly edition recovers the life and resituates Elaw's narrative as the most comprehensive, female-authored spiritual autobiography of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Regenerations Series. Series editors: John Ernest and Joycelyn Moody. (West Virginia UP)
- 2021 "Race-ing Around: Zilpha Elaw's Transgressive Theologies." *A Step Closer to Heaven: Nineteenth Century American Women Writers and Theologies of the Afterlife. An Anthology of Essays*. Eds. Jennifer McFarlane Harris and Emily Hamilton-Honey. (Routledge)
- 2015 "Disrupting Print: Emigration, the Press, and Narrative Subjectivity in the British Work of Zilpha Elaw, 1840-1860s." *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*. Special Issue on African American Print Culture. 40:3.
- 2014 "Do You Have Any Skin in the Game: A Riff, A Call and A Response." *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers* 31.1.
- 2011 "Writing Freedom: Race, Religion, and Revolution, 1820-1840." *Cambridge History of African American Literature*. Eds. Maryemma Graham and Jerry Ward. New York: Cambridge UP, 2011.
- 2009 "Telling Tales in *Dust Tracks on A Road*: Zora Neale Hurston's Portrait of an Artist." *Approaches to Teaching Zora Neale Hurston* (with Nellie McKay). Ed. John Lowe. Modern Language Association, *Approaches to Teaching* series, 2009.
- 2006 "'The Nellie Tree,' Or, Disbanding the Wheatley Court." (Guest Editor with Gregory Rutledge) *African American Review* 40:1.
- 2004 "Moving Subjectivities in the Evangelical Narrative of Zilpha Elaw." *BMA: The Sonia Sanchez Literary Review*, special issue on Black travel writing, Spring 2004.
- 2000 "Women in The Profession, 2000." (co-authored with the Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession). Modern Language Association *Profession 2000*.

## Current Projects

*Race, Religion and Rebellion in the Nineteenth-Century Travels of Zilpha Elaw, Black Woman Evangelist*.

This book is a trans-Atlantic study of Zilpha Elaw, an extraordinary black female minister, who traveled the U.S. before women were allowed to preach and immigrated to England where she wrote her "celebrity" memoirs to share her unusual and often misunderstood story. Preaching to Northern white mobs that terrorized and burned black churches, to Southern slave owners after the preacher-led uprisings of Vesey and Turner, and to the confidantes of President Andrew Jackson, Elaw's life changes how we understand race and gender in nineteenth-century religions. (forthcoming Duke UP 2023)

*Mapping Black Women's Lives*. Guest Editor of *a/b: Autobiography Studies*.

The essays in this special issue of *a/b: Auto/Biography Studies* employ diverse and/or interdisciplinary methodologies to recover and situate (geographically and theoretically) Black female lives throughout the African diaspora. Winter Issue 36.4 (2022, *delayed due to pandemic closures*)

## Book Reviews and Dictionary Entries

- 2019 "Zilpha Elaw." *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*. Early Black Lives Series.
- 2000 Book Review of Carole Anne Taylor's *The Tragedy and Comedy of Resistance: Reading Modernity Through Black Women's Fiction*. *MFS - Modern Fiction Studies* 46:4.
- 1999 Book Review of Valerie Lee's *Granny Midwives & Black Women Writers: Double-Dutched Readings*. *African American Review* 33:1.
- 1999 "Jamaica Kincaid" – update, *Dictionary of Literary Biography*.

## Television and Media Interviews

- 2020 "Black Evangelicals" *Lehigh Valley Discourse*. WDIY: Lehigh Valley Public Radio, aired 2/25/2021.
- 2019 "Zilpha Elaw" *The Black Church* hosted by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. PBS docuseries.
- 2019 "Love & Labor" Podcast for *Sexing History: The Past Made Intimate*. Episode 3.1 aired June 2020
- 2018 "HDS Researcher Uncovers a Long-lost Rebellious Evangelicalism" *HDS News*. April.

### Invited Talks

- 2018 #sayhername: Recovering the Itinerant Ministry of Zilpha Elaw, 1820-1873. Massachusetts Historical Society. Boston. April 11
- 2018 "Race, Religion and Presidents: What Can Zilpha Elaw's *Memoirs* Teach Us about Charlottesville, Trump and American Evangelicalism?" New York University. February 14
- 2018 "Hidden Lives: The Politics of Recovery from Incomplete Records." University of Texas-San Antonio. February 5
- 2013 "History vs. Truth in Cross-Cultural Dialogue." Community Church of New York – Manhattan. February 23
- 2010 "An Introduction to Paul Laurence Dunbar." The Rubie Saunders Literary Festival. New Rochelle High School. New Rochelle, NY, October 29
- 2009 "Archival Research and Digital Resources." Recovering Black Women's Voices and Lives Symposium. University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, November 19
- 2007 "The Life and Travels of Zilpha Elaw." Women's History Month. Penn State York, March 22

### Refereed Conference Presentations

- 2019 "Navigating Power and Privilege in the Classroom." Conference of Ford Fellows. San Juan, Puerto Rico, October 4-5. National
- 2019 "Disrupting Print in the C19." American Studies Association. Honolulu, Hawai'i, November 7-10. International
- 2019 "Mapping Elaw: The Cultural Currencies of Movement, Space, and Place." International Autobiography and Biography Association, Americas Chapter. Kingston, Jamaica, June 12-15.
- 2018 "Black Women and Discursive (In)Disclosures." International Autobiography and Biography Association, São João del-rei, Brazil, July 11-14.
- 2018 "Biography, Race, and Nineteenth-Century American Culture: Challenges, Methods, and Goals." Modern Language Association Convention, New York, January 4-8. International.
- 2016 "#sayhername: Race, Religion, and Rebellion in the Memoirs of Zilpha Elaw." International Autobiography and Biography Association, Nicosia, Cyprus, May 24-30.
- 2014 "What's Funny about African American Literature?" American Literature Association, Washington, D.C., May 22-26. International
- 2012 "Digitizing the Past: The Technologies of Recovering Black Lives." Modern Language Association Convention, Seattle, January 5-8. International
- 2012 "Disrupting Home: Emigration, the Press, and Narrative Subjectivity in the *Memoirs* of Zilpha Elaw." American Studies Association Convention, San Juan, PR, November 15-20. International
- 2011 Panel organized, "Re/generational Politics: changing cultural paradigms through recovery and reproduction." Paper presented-- "The Value of the Unknown Life: The Personal and Political Agency of Zilpha Elaw, Black Itinerant Preacher." 9th International Conference of the Collegium for African American Research, Paris, France April 6-9.
- 2009 "The English Department in the New Economy." Roundtable Panelist. Modern Language Association Convention, Philadelphia, December 27-30. International
- 2009 "Theorizing Home: The Life and Travels of Zilpha Elaw, 19th Century Itinerant Preacher." American Literature Association Conference, Boston, May 21-24. International
- 2007 "Race, Religion, and Rebellion for Women in the Nineteenth Century." College Language Association Convention, Miami, April 18-21. National
- 2005 Special Session organized, "Reading the Records, Filling the Gaps, Mixing the Genres: Paradoxes of African American Literary History." Paper presented-- "Chasing a Spirit: Fleshing Out the Life and Travels of Zilpha Elaw, 19th Century Itinerant Preacher." Modern Language Association Convention, Washington, D.C., December 27-30. International
- 2004 "Preachers on the Philadelphia Road: The Dangerous Travels of Zilpha Elaw and Jarena Lee on the 'Great Highway from North to South,'" American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, November 2004. International
- 2003 "Reading Races." Roundtable Panelist, "In the Classroom at Historically White Colleges and Universities," College Language Association, Washington, D.C., April 26-28. National

- 2003 Special Session Organized, "Black Crossings: Historicizing the Diaspora in Travel Literature." Paper presented-- "Movement and Subjectivity in Zilpha Elaw's Evangelical Narrative." Modern Language Association Convention, San Diego, December 27-30. International
- 2002 "The Black Body Politic: (Re)reading Black Women, Enslavement and National Identity in the American Literary Imagination." Avignon Conference on Slavery and Forced Labour: Women in Slavery, Avignon, France, October 16-18. International
- 1999 Special Session organized, "Race-ing Around: Movement, Middle Passages, and Black Female Subjectivity." Paper presented: "'You Got to Go There Tuh Know There': Janie's Traveling Theory in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*." Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago, December 27-30. International
- 1999 "Restlessness and Althusserian Interpellation in the *Memoirs of the Life, Religious Experiences, Ministerial Travels and Labours of Mrs. Zilpha Elaw*," Writing the Journey: A Conference on American, British and Anglophone Travel Writers and Writing, University of Pennsylvania, June 10-13
- 1997 "A Theory of Her Own: The Identity Politics of Travel in *Wonderful Adventures of Mrs. Seacole in Many Lands*." Tulane University Social Moves Conference, New Orleans, November 7-9. National
- 1997 Special Session organized "When Home Isn't Home: Narratives of Exile by Native and African American Women." Paper presented: "If Helga Had Some Homegirls: Theoretics of Movement in Nella Larsen's *Quicksand*." American Women Writers of Color Conference, Maryland, October 31 - November 2. National

### **Courses Taught**

#### Penn State Brandywine

African American Studies 100n: Black Freedom Struggles  
 African American Studies 100: Living While Black  
 American Studies 491: American Themes, American Eras  
 American Studies 430: Women in American Society  
 Civic & Community Engagement 211: Foundations of Civic and Community Engagement  
 Honors 301: The Role of Knowledge in Society  
 Honors 401: Honors Seminar  
 Honors 493: Honors Service Learning  
 Science, Technology and Society 130: Critical Issues (honors section)  
 Women's Studies 491: American Women Writers  
 English 135: Alternative Voices in American Literature (course on women of color writers)  
 English 139: Black American Literature (also offered as an embedded travel course and honors section)  
 English 194: Women Writers  
 English 414: Biographical Writing  
 English 431: Black American Writers (also offered as an embedded travel course)  
 English 434: Humor in African American Literature  
 English 469: Slavery and the Literary Imagination  
 English 487: Senior Seminar  
 English 004: Basic Writing Skills  
 English 15: Rhetoric and Composition  
 English 200: Introduction to Critical Reading  
 English 202D: Effective Business Writing  
 English 202C: Technical Writing  
 English 479: Business or Technical Writing Practicum

#### Harvard University

Harvard Divinity School 2123: Black Women, Movement, and Spirituality (graduate course)

#### Swarthmore College

ENGL 005Z: Race-ing Around in American Literature

University of Pennsylvania

English 90: Women and Literature

English 281: Topics in African American Literature

English 290: Topics in Women & Literature

University of Wisconsin-Madison

African American Studies 222: Black Women Writers

African American Studies 227: Afro-American literature to the Harlem Renaissance

African American Studies 228: Afro-American literature from the Harlem Renaissance to Contemporary

**References**

Danielle Conway

Dean and Donald J. Farage Professor of Law at Penn State Dickinson Law

The Pennsylvania State University, Brandywine

[dzc5647@psu.edu](mailto:dzc5647@psu.edu)

I served with Dean Conway on the President's Select Commission on Racism, Bias, and Community Safety and on the W.W. Kellogg Racial Equity 2030 grant proposal team.

Cynthia Lightfoot

Director of Academic Affairs and Professor of Psychology, Emerita

The Pennsylvania State University, Brandywine

[cgl3@psu.edu](mailto:cgl3@psu.edu)

Dr. Lightfoot served as the chief academic officer. She was my direct supervisor as a faculty member, Honors Coordinator, and Division Coordinator.

P. Gabrielle Foreman

Paterno Chair of Liberal Arts & Professor of English, African American Studies and History

The Pennsylvania State University, University Park

[pgf5052@psu.edu](mailto:pgf5052@psu.edu)

I was one of the first two national teaching partners for the Colored Conventions Project founded and directed by Dr. Foreman.

Joycelyn Moody

Sue E. Denman Distinguished Chair in American Literature; Director, African American Literatures and Cultures Institute

University of Texas-San Antonio

[joycelyn.moody@utsa.edu](mailto:joycelyn.moody@utsa.edu)

Dr. Moody is a co-editor for the West Virginia University Press Regenerations Series with which my scholarly edition is published. We have presented together at my academic conferences.

Rafia Zafar

Professor of English, African and African-American Studies, and American Culture Studies

Washington University St. Louis

[zafar@wustl.edu](mailto:zafar@wustl.edu)

Dr. Zafar has served as an evaluator of my research on several occasions.