

## Delia D. Steverson, Ph.D.

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### Academic Appointments

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**Associate Professor of English** | *University of Alabama* | 2023 – Present

**Assistant Professor of African American Literature** | *University of Florida* | 2017 – 2023

### Education

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Ph.D. in English Literature | *University of Alabama* | 2017

M.A. in English Literature | *University of Alabama* | 2012

B.A. in English Literature | *Agnes Scott College* | 2009

### Publications

#### Books

***Stumbling Blocks and Other Unfinished Work*** | University of Georgia Press | 2023.  
[View Book.](#)

***Making Black Selves: Imagining Life beyond Survival*** | Monograph in progress.

***Wikipedia Studies: A Handbook*** | Co-authored with Helen Choi, Shira Klein, Ian Ramjohn, and Heather Sharkey | In progress.

#### Digital Humanities Projects

*Stumbling Blocks and Other Unfinished Work: Digital Archive and Educational Companion* | University of Georgia Press | 2025 | [View Digital Project.](#)

#### Peer-Reviewed Articles & Book Chapters

“WikiWarriors: African American Literature and The Quest for Knowledge Equity in Digital Spaces.” *Routledge Companion to Contemporary African American Literature*, edited by Philathia Bolton and Riché Richardson. 7000 words. In progress.

“A History More Powerful than Blood: Reproductive Justice and Dolen Perkins- Valdez’s *Take My Hand*.” *Illness and Dis/Ability in Southern Women’s Literature*, edited by Allison Graham-Bertolini and Casey Kayser. 6300 words. Accepted.

“Disability in African American Literature.” *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Disability Studies*, edited by David Bolt. 8000 words. In progress.

- “‘Two different worlds’: The Life and Writings of Mary Herring Wright.” *North Carolina Literary Review*, Vol. 33 (2024): 6-19. [View Publication.](#)
- “Recovering a Literary Legacy: The Life of Delores Phillips.” *Literature and Medicine*, Vol. 41. 1 (2023): 45-49. [View Publication.](#)
- “Where’s the dummy?’: Deafness, Race, and Labor in Delores Phillips’s *The Darkest Child*.” *The Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies*, Vol. 15. 2 (2021): 187-202. [View Publication.](#)
- “Don’t nobody wanna be locked up’: The Black Disabled Veteran in Toni Morrison’s *Sula* and August Wilson’s *Fences*.” *The College Language Association Journal*, Vol. 64. 1 (2021): 147-165. [View Publication.](#)
- “Madness, Melancholia, and Suicide in Sue Monk Kidd’s *The Secret Life of Bees*.” *The South Carolina Review* Vol. 50. 1 (2017): 108-123. [View Publication.](#)
- “Everything Gray”: Polygenism and Racial Perception in Herman Melville’s *Benito Cereno*.” *The Journal of American Culture* Vol. 40. 2 (2017): 169-177. [View Publication.](#)
- “Zora Neale Hurston’s Racial Politics in *Jonah’s Gourd Vine*.” *The Explicator* Vol. 73. 3 (2015): 226-228. [View Publication.](#)

## Reviews, Popular Writing, and Encyclopedia Entries

- “*The Sisterhood: How a Network of Black Women Writers Changed American Culture* by Cortney Thorsson (review).” *African American Review*, Forthcoming Winter 2025.
- “*Disabilities of the Color Line: Redressing Antiblackness from Slavery to the Present* by Dennis Tyler (review).” *American Literary History*, Vol. 35. 2 (2023): 946-949. [View Publication.](#)
- “Serials Spoken Here: Creative Commons Global Summit 2021.” With Helaine Blumenthal et al. *Serials Review* Vol. 47. 3-4 (2022): 267-268. [View Publication.](#)
- “Building my Wikipedia Confidence.” *Wiki Education*, Wikipedia, 16 Feb 2021. [View Publication.](#)
- “Autobiography of James L. Smith” and “Unspeakable: The Story of Junius Wilson” for *Disability Experiences: Memoirs, Autobiographies, and Other Personal Narratives* edited by Tom Couser and Susannah Mintz. Gale, 2019. [View Smith Entry.](#) [View Wilson Entry.](#)
- “Performance.” *Encyclopedia of Race and Racism*. Ed. Patrick L. Mason. 2nd ed. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA, 2013. [View Entry.](#)

## Media & Public Engagement

[Wiki Education Shorts](#) – “3 Reasons to Teach with Wikipedia!” | January 2025

[Yelp's Behind the Review](#) Podcast – “How Market Research Helped this Comfort Food Restaurant” | March 2024

[Disability History Association](#) Podcast – “Disability in African American Literature and History” | August 2020

## Fellowships, Grants, & Awards

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Emerging Leaders Program: Foundations for Academic Leadership | *University of Alabama* | 2025-Present

Career Enhancement Fellowship (\$35,000) | *Institute for Citizens and Scholars* | 2021-2022

Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Award (\$10,719.11) | *University of Florida* | 2020

Rothman Faculty Summer Fellowship (\$3,000) | *University of Florida Center for Humanities* | 2019

Course Development Grant (\$1500) | *Center for Study of Race and Race Relations, UF* | 2018 - 2019

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Institute and Grant (\$3,300) | *Global Histories of Disability* | 2018

Hickory Hill Forum Fellowship (\$750) | *Watson Brown Foundation* | 2018

Outstanding Dissertation Award | *University of Alabama* | 2017

Dissertation Fellowship (\$25,000) | *Southern Regional Education Board* | 2016 - 2017

Outstanding Teaching Award | *University of Alabama* | 2016

## Teaching

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### Graduate Courses

Critical Disability Studies (Fall 2025, Fall 2020, Spring 2018)

Black Is Black Ain't: Debates in African American Literature (Spring 2024, Fall 2022)

Gender and Sexualities in African American Literature (Fall 2019)

Slave Narratives and Neo-Slave Narratives (Fall 2018)

### Undergraduate Courses

Black Beingness (Spring 2025)

Black Is Black Ain't: Identity, Purpose, and Audience in 20th Century African American Literature (Fall 2024)

Alabama in the African American Literary Imagination (Fall 2024)

21<sup>st</sup> Century Black Southern Literature (Fall 2023)

African American Literature II (Fall 2023, Spring 2020, Spring 2019, Spring 2016)

African American Literature I (Fall 2022, Fall 2020, Spring 2018, Fall 2018)  
 Slave Narratives and Neo-Slave Narratives (Spring 2020)  
 Gender and Sexualities in African American Literature (Fall 2019)  
 Race and Disability in US History and Literature (Spring 2019)  
 Studies in Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Culture (Fall 2017)  
 Interdisciplinary Topics in Literature (Fall 2017)  
 Survey of African American Literature (Spring 2016, Fall 2015, Fall 2014, Fall 2013)  
 Honor's English Composition (Fall 2015)  
 English Composition II (Spring 2014, Spring 2012)  
 English Composition I (Fall 2011)

## Invited Talks and Presentations

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### Keynotes and Lectures

"Black Disabled Ontologies in African American Literature"   <i>University of Kansas</i>	March 2025
"Delores Phillips and Recovery Work"   <i>Spelman College</i>	September 2024
"Representing Deafness in the Postwar Memoirs of Mary Herring Wright"   <i>University of North Texas Postwar Colloquium</i>	April 2024
"In Defense of Wikipedia: Institutional Privilege, Paywalls, and the Quest for the Public Good"   <i>University of North Texas Postwar Colloquium</i>	April 2024
Author Talk: Delia Steverson on Delores Phillips   <i>Atlanta History Center</i>	February 2024
"'I would leave my skin a legacy': Histories of Slave Narratives in African American Literature"   <i>Race &amp; The Body: The Legacy of Slavery</i>   Santiago de Compostela, Spain	September 2022
"Delores Phillips, <i>The Darkest Child</i> , and Representations of Deafness"   <i>University of Virginia</i>	October 2020
"Race, Disability, and Labor in the Jim Crow South"   <i>University of Florida Center for the Humanities and Public Sphere</i>	January 2020
"Critical Disability Studies Lecture: Navigating Access at Universities" (with Dr. Heather Vrana)   <i>University of Florida Disability Resource Center</i>	October 2019

### Panels and Roundtables

"WikiWarriors: Alabama, Wikipedia, and Knowledge Equity"   <i>Southern Studies Conference</i>   Montgomery, AL	February 2025
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“Black Crip Temporalities”   <i>Modern Language Association (MLA) Conference</i>   New Orleans, LA	January 2025
“Wikipedia and Social Justice: How Students are Enhancing Representation and Equity”   <i>Wiki Education Speaker Series</i> . <a href="#">View panel.</a>	September 2024
“Reconstructing Black Disabled Histories”   <i>Society for the Study of Southern Literature (SSSL) Conference</i>   Gulfport, MS	June 2024
“Teaching with Wikipedia in the Humanities”   <i>H-Teach Series</i>	April 2024
“‘There was no such thing for Black people’: Chronic Illness, Recovery, and the Life of Delores Phillips”   <i>College Language Association (CLA) Conference</i>   Memphis, TN	April 2024
“Oral History and African American Literature”   <i>MLA Conference</i>   Philadelphia, PA	January 2024
“Documenting Southern Black Deaf History: The Memoirs of Mary Herring Wright”   <i>Southern Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAML A) Conference</i>   Atlanta, GA	November 2023
“Beyond the Classroom: How Wikipedia Can Play a Critical Role in Humanities Education”   <i>H-Net Teaching Conference</i>	August 2023
“Imagining Climate Change: <i>Silent Running</i> : 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Screening”   <i>Florida Museum of Natural History</i>   Gainesville, FL	October 2022
“Don’t cite it, write it! What Professors think about Wikipedia”   <i>Wikimania</i>   <a href="#">View panel.</a>	August 2022
“The Wikipedia Assignment as Open Education Praxis”   <i>Open Education Conference</i>   <a href="#">View panel.</a>	October 2021
“Life’s Already Here: Black Disabled ontologies amidst Economies of State Violence”   <i>ASA Conference</i>	October 2021
“When Students Contribute to Global Knowledge Production”   <i>Creative Commons Global Summit</i>   <a href="#">View panel.</a>	September 2021
“Blackness and Disability: The Remix”   <i>CLAJ Inaugural Virtual Research and Scholarship Series</i>	April 2021
“Intersections of Race and Disability”   <i>Disability Ambassadors</i>   University of Florida	February 2021
“Black lives have always mattered: Slave Narratives as Foundation”   <i>Phi Alpha Theta</i>   University of Florida	February 2021

“MLK Celebration: Social Justice through Diverse Lenses”   <i>Black Graduate Student Organization</i>   University of Florida	January 2021
“Advancing Access at UF: 30 Years of the ADA and Disability Inclusion”   <i>Disability Resource Center</i>   University of Florida	July 2020
“‘Take the dummy with you’: Race Disability, and the Jim Crow South in Delores Phillips’s <i>The Darkest Child</i> ”   <i>American Historical Association (AHA) Conference</i>   New York, NY	January 2020
“Team-Teaching 101: Planning a Team-Taught Course” with Dr. Steve Noll   <i>UF Center for Teaching Excellence</i>   University of Florida	December 2019
“Framing Care amid Trauma in Adrienne Kennedy’s <i>The Alexander Plays</i> ”   <i>CLA Conference</i>   Raleigh, NC	April 2019
“Conceptions of Disability and Enslaved Embodiment in the Narratives of William Grimes and Israel Campbell”   <i>ASA Conference</i>   Atlanta, GA	November 2018
“Freak Shows, Court Rooms, and Black Masculinity in Richard Wright’s <i>Native Son</i> and Ernest J. Gaines’s <i>A Lesson Before Dying</i> ”   <i>CLA Conference</i>   Chicago, IL	April 2018
“Let’s Get Physical: Where Disability Studies & Medical Humanities Meet Southern Studies (and Where They Don’t)”   <i>SSSL Conference</i>   Austin, TX	February 2018

### International Talks and Presentations

“Black Deaf History and the Evolution of Community”   <i>Southern Studies Forum</i>	Spain	June 2025
“Chronic Illness and Kinship in the Life and Works of Delores Phillips”   <i>American Studies Association (ASA) Conference</i>	Canada	November 2023
“‘Everything I write comes right back to Georgia’: Delores Phillips, Oral History, and Recovering a Literary Legacy”   <i>Southern Studies Forum</i>	France	September 2023
“Geographical Landscapes as Markers of Citizenship and Racial belonging in Adrienne Kennedy’s <i>The Ohio State Murders</i>   <i>The Politics of Space and the Humanities Conference</i>	Greece	December 2017
“‘I tried no more to destroy myself’: Disability and Black Subjectivity in 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Slave Narratives”   <i>Talking Bodies Conference</i>	United Kingdom	April 2017

## University Service

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### University of Alabama

#### University-Level Service

Task Force on the History of Slavery, Race, and Civil Rights | Search Committee (2023 - 2024)

#### College-Level Service

Arts & Sciences College Recruitment and Retention Committee (2024 – present)

#### Department-Level Service

Literature Faculty Committee (2023 – present)

African American Women in English Organization (2023 – present)

MA Comprehensive Examination Committee (2024 – present)

“Cultural Representations of African American War Experience” Symposium | Co-director (2023 – 2024)

### University of Florida

#### University-Level Service

University Multicultural Mentor Program (2022 -2023, 2018 – 2019)

Here's to Her | Advisor (2020 – 2023)

Faculty Senate (2019 – 2020)

#### Department-Level Service

Merit Pay Committee (2020 – 2022)

General Council Committee (2018 – 2020)

General Education Committee (2017 – 2021)

## Professional Service

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### Modern Language Association (MLA)

MLA Forum Executive Committee – Southern US (2021 – present)

### Society for the Study of Southern Literature (SSSL)

C. Hugh Holman Award Committee (2023 – 2024)

Conference Committee (2021 – 2022)

Executive Council (2019 – 2021)

Louis D. Rubin, Jr. Prize Committee (2018)

### South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAMLAA)

Harper Fund Committee (2021 – 2023)

### **Editorial & Review Work**

Reviewer | *African American Review, Study the South, Disability Studies Quarterly, Journal of Feminist Scholarship, Feminismos/s*

Scholarship Application Reviewer | *Southern Regional Education Board* (2022)

### **Community Engagement**

Advisory Board Member | *Salvation Army of Tuscaloosa* (2024 – present)

Poll Worker | *Alabama Secretary of State* (2023 – 2024)

Ballot Distributor | *Alachua County Supervisor of Elections* (2020 – 2023)

Co-Organizer | *Academics for Black Survival and Wellness* (2020 – 2021)

Judge | *Words on Canvas Writing Competition* (2021) and *Double Exposure Poetry Competition* (2020)