



Brief Narrative Statement by Clenora Hudson-Weems, PhD

In 1990, I joined the faculty as an Associate Professor of English at the University of Missouri-Columbia, the **1st Black faculty in the department**, later becoming the **1st Black woman Full Professor** at all four University of Missouri campuses, recommended by Full Professors from Arizona State U, Brigham Young, Emory U, Mercer U, Penn State U, U of CA-San Bernardino, U of Michigan, U of Penn, and the U of San Francisco. Having served as founding Director of Africana Studies at Delaware State U in the 80s, I stepped away from leadership in the area, declining numerous Africana chair/directorship positions at major universities nationwide to pursue more scholarly activities in the discipline, publishing 3 books from 1990 to 1994 alone:

1. Co-author of the 1st book on Nobel prize-winning author, Toni Morrison, *Toni Morrison* (1990) *
2. *Africana Womanism: Reclaiming Ourselves* (1993)—Conceptualizer of the theory, Africana Womanism *
3. *Emmett Till: The Sacrificial Lamb of the Civil Rights Movement* (1994), a revision of my 1988 Ford Doctoral Dissertation, “Emmett Till: The Impetus of the Modern Civil Rights Movement,” the 1st full length study of Till as catalyst of the Movement *
4. *Africana Womanist Literary Theory* (2004)
5. *The Definitive Emmett Till: Passion & Battle of a Woman for Truth and Intellectual Justice* (2007)
6. *Plagiarism—Physical and Intellectual Lynchings: ‘An Emmett Till Continuum – edited* (2007)
7. *Contemporary Africana Theory, Thought and Action: A Guide to Africana Studies –edited* (2007)
8. *Africana Womanism and Race & Gender in the Presidential Candidacy of Barack Obama* (2009)
9. Initiated Nation’s 1st Graduate Degree, MA/PhD. in English with Africana Concentration at MU*
10. 1st National & International Africana Womanism Conferences—Pittsburgh (2009) & U of Zimbabwe (2010), with the Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe delivering the welcome for the 500 plus attendees and 65 global participants. University now offers a degree in the theory.*
11. *Emmett—Legacy, Redemption and Forgiveness* (2014), upon which the film script is base
12. *Liberating Emmett—Legacy, Redemption & Forgiveness* (2015), Film Script

I have numerous book chapters, articles for refereed journals, book forwards, jacket endorsements, etc.. However, in the 1990s, I was National Chair for Emmett Till Conferences following the 1994 Till book release. I have served as Keynote, Plenary and Banquet Speaker at numerous national and international conferences, including Keynote Speaker at the International Ecology Conf. at Wellesley College, Plenary Speaker at the U of Hamburg, and Banquet Speaker at U. of Pittsburgh.. Many national and international scholars have written extensively on my seminal family-centered theory of Africana Womanism, and, of course, many have used my pioneering Till work as a launch pad for their work.