

Sample of Recent Research Activities

2001-2002 Sabbatical

Research on blues, jazz and American literature in multiple genres, disciplines, media and cultures included participation in a National Endowment for the Humanities “Roots” Summer Institute on the Transatlantic Slave Trade, chaired by leading Africanist historian Joe Miller at the University of Virginia during June, 2001. Field trips to museums in Washington, D.C. and historic sites of slavery in Virginia were supplemented by travel and research during August of 2001 in the Mississippi Delta. This included visiting the graves of famous blues musicians, as well as collecting interviews with blues and jazz musicians in clubs from Memphis to New Orleans. Research was done at a number of museums, including the Folk Art Museum in Memphis, the Blues Museum in Clarksdale, Mississippi, the Blues Archive at the Center for the Study of Culture at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, Mississippi, and the Hogan Jazz Archive in New Orleans.

This research was extended while teaching and researching at the University of Central Florida in Orlando during the fall of 2001. During the spring and summer of 2002, further research was carried out with trips to historic Afro-American sites throughout the East, including research in libraries at the following schools:

The College of Charleston
Duke University
The University of Virginia
City University of New York
Amherst College
Dartmouth College
Middlebury College
Bowdoin College

Outcomes for this research include the use of blues and jazz in two new books on Multiwriting in multiple genres, disciplines, cultures and media:

Goin’ Down to the Crossroads: Multiwriting as Hybrid Discourse (forthcoming from the Southern Illinois University Press, 2003)

Building a Mystery: Writing in Multiple Genres, Disciplines, Cultures and Media (forthcoming from Longman Publishing in 2003)

In addition, this research led to poetry for two new collections under review, and a prospectus for a book on blues and literature and writing.

In July of 2001, I traveled in China and Tibet with Tai Chi Chuan instructors to study this meditative exercise and martial art with famous practitioners at their respective schools. The trip also included visits of many Daoist and Buddhist temples, as well as contact with various educational projects, including the University of Virginia’s Digitizing Tibet Project and visits with the Director of the Tibetan Rural Schools Project. These in turn have been used to revise Dream Trip Multiwriting Projects in a 131 Exploratory Writing course at EOU, as well as an English 109 World Literature class. I also hope to use the trip to prepare a manuscript on travel writing with English poet Paul Merchant.

2000-2001

I was awarded a state grant to create new state PASS standards guidelines for Introduction to Literature courses. This follows years of work on assessment for Oregon K-12 CIM/CAM guidelines, holistic assessment of EOU Writing 115 Portfolios and the Writing Proficiency Exam, as well as work in the

Oregon Writing Project and Pacific Coast Writing Centers Association to reach consensus on assessment techniques.

1999

I was selected for an EOU Partial Summer Stipend to do research on Afro-Caribbean Postcolonial Literature. This was follow-up for travel in the Caribbean, especially Grenada, and the development of a new course on Afro-Caribbean literature. This continued work done steadily since 1978 on Afro-American culture (especially music) and literature, and lead to the publication of "A Bird's-Eye View: Ishmael Reed's Mumbo Jumbo Revisited," in *Critical Responses to Ishmael Reed*, edited by Bruce Dick for Greenwood Press, 1998.

1998

Selected for an EOU Summer Stipend, I began a research project on bodylore, "Singing the Body Eclectic: Bodylore Across the Curriculum." This research extended autobiographical pedagogy for multiwriting. Initially it was written up for a collection that was never published, but is now part of the forthcoming book I am finishing with Rob Davis on alternative research writing for Southern Illinois University Press.

1997

I was Selected for an E.O.U. Summer Stipend for a national survey of On-Line Writing Labs (OWL's). This became a chapter, "The Spotted OWL: Are On-Line Writing Labs Bringing Prosperity or Difficulties to Writing Centers?" in *Taking Flight with OWLs: Examining Electronic Writing Center Work* (Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2000). It also lead to writing another chapter, "Staffing Options: Assess Needs, Create Job Descriptions, Hire Staff," in *The Writing Center Resource Manual*," edited by Bobbie Silk for The National Writing Centers Association Press, 1998.