

CURRICULUM VITAE

NAME: William R. Ferris

BIRTHDATE: February 5, 1942

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WORK ADDRESS: Center for the Study of the American South
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ACADEMIC TRAINING:

Summer Program	Union Theological Seminary (New York)	1963
BA (English Literature)	Davidson College	1964
MA (English Literature)	Northwestern University	1965
One-Year Student	Trinity College (Dublin, Ireland)	1965- 66
MA (Folklore)	University of Pennsylvania	1967
PhD (Folklore)	University of Pennsylvania	1969
	Dissertation: "Black Folklore From the Mississippi Delta"	

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Assistant Professor	Jackson State University	1970-72
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Department of English	Jackson, Mississippi	
Associate Professor Afro-American and American Studies Programs	Yale University New Haven, Connecticut	1972-79
Director, Center for Study of Southern Culture and Professor of Anthropology	University of Mississippi Oxford, Mississippi	1979-1997
Visiting Fellow	Stanford Humanities Center Stanford University Palo Alto, California	1989-90
Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities	Washington, DC	1997-2001
Public Policy Fellow Woodrow Wilson International Center For Scholars	Washington, DC	2002
Faculty Fellow Institute for the Arts and Humanities	University of North Carolina	Fall, 2007
Guggenheim Fellowship		2007-2008
Joel R. Williamson Eminent Professor of History present Adjunct Professor in the Curriculum in Folklore Senior Associate Director, Center for the Study of the American South University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill		2002-

BOOKS:

Blues From the Delta, Studio Vista (London, 1970); revised edition,
Doubleday (New York, 1978); DaCapo (New York,
1988).
Mississippi Black Folklore: A Research Bibliography and
Discography, University Press of Mississippi (Jackson,
1971).

Black Prose Narrative From the Mississippi Delta, published by Jazz Forschung/Jazz Research, Jahrbuch 6/7 (Graz, Austria, 1974-75).

Afro-American Folk Arts and Crafts, special edition of Southern Folklore Quarterly vol. 42, nos. 2 and 3 (1978); revised edition, G.K. Hall & Co. (Boston, 1983); University Press of Mississippi (Jackson, 1986).

American Folklore Films and Videotapes: An Index, Co-Editor with Judy Peiser and Carolyn Lipson, Center for Southern Folklore (Memphis, 1976).

Local Color, With a Foreword by Robert Penn Warren, McGraw-Hill (New York, 1982); Anchor Books/Doubleday (New York, 1992).

Folk Music and Modern Sound, Co-Editor with Sue Hart, University Press of Mississippi (Jackson, 1982).

Images of the South: Visits With Eudora Welty and Walker Evans, Center for Southern Folklore (Memphis, 1978).

Encyclopedia of Southern Culture, With a Foreword by Alex Haley, Co-Editor with Charles Wilson, University of North Carolina Press (Chapel Hill, 1989); four-volume paperback (Anchor/Doubleday, 1991).

"You Live and Learn. Then You Die and Forget It All." Ray Lum's Tales of Horses, Mules and Men, With a Foreword by Eudora Welty, Anchor Books/Doubleday (New York, 1992); reissued as Ray Lum: Mule Trader, University Press of Mississippi (Jackson, 1998).

DOCUMENTARY FILMS:

1969---Mississippi Delta Blues.
Black Delta Religion.

1970---Delta Blues Singer: James "Sonny Ford" Thomas.

1972---Gravel Springs Fife and Drum.

1973---Green Valley Grandparents.

1974---Ray Lum: Mule Trader.
Fanny Bell Chapman: Gospel Singer.

1975---Give My Poor Heart Ease.
Two Black Churches.
I Ain't Lyin'.
Made In Mississippi.

1977---Four Women Artists.

1978---Hush Hoggies Hush.

1980---Bottle Up and Go

1983---Painting In the South
Mississippi Blues (Associate Producer; Directed by Bertrand Tavernier and Robert Parrish and featured at Cannes Film

Festival)

OTHER:

William Ferris is author of over 100 publications in fields of folklore, American literature, fiction, and photography. He was made a "Chevalier in the Order of Arts and Letters" in 1985 and an "Officer in the Order of Arts and Letters" in 1994 by the French government, and in 1995 he was given the Charles Frankel Award by President Bill Clinton. Ferris received a Doctor of Fine Arts from Rhodes College in 1997. He has served as a consultant to The Color Purple, Crossroads, and Heart of Dixie. Ferris has made over 225 presentations to audiences in 14 countries and was named one of the top 10 teachers in the nation by Rolling Stone magazine in 1991. In 2006 he received the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award presented at the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration and a Lifetime Achievement Award presented at the Prague Music on Film-Film on Music Festival.