

LARRY OMAR RIVERS

ACADEMIC POSTS

Associate Professor of History, University of West Georgia, Carrollton, Ga., 2018-present
Assistant Professor of History, University of West Georgia, Carrollton, Ga., 2012-2018
Lecturer in History, Augusta State University, Augusta, Ga., 2010-2012

EDUCATION

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.
Ph.D., History, 2010
M.A., History, 2006

Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University, Tallahassee, Fla.
B.S., Public Relations, *magna cum laude*, 2004

BOOK

James Hudson: Forgotten Forerunner in the Crusade for Civil Rights (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2024)

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

“‘To Be Maladjusted’: The Formative Foundations of Lewis V. Baldwin’s Scholarship on Martin Luther King Jr.,” Journal of the Georgia Association of Historians 41 (2025): 29-82
[Forthcoming].

“Cecil Farris Bryant” in The Governors of Florida: Essays on Florida’s Chief Executives from Jackson to Scott, eds. R. Boyd Murphree and Robert A. Taylor (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2020), 512-526.

“The Scourge of Racism: Racism as a Barrier to Human Community” in Reclaiming the Great World House: The Global Vision of Martin Luther King Jr., eds. Vicki L. Crawford and Lewis V. Baldwin (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2019), 37-58.

“‘A New Social Awakening’: James Hudson, Florida A. & M. University’s Religious Life Program, and the 1956 Tallahassee Bus Boycott,” Florida Historical Quarterly 95 (Winter 2017): 325-355.

“‘Militant Reconciling Love’: Howard University’s Rankin Network and Martin Luther King, Jr.,” Journal of African American History 99 (Summer 2014): 223-250.

“‘Leaning on the Everlasting Arms’: Virgil Darnell Hawkins’s Early Life and Entry into the Civil Rights Struggle,” Florida Historical Quarterly 86 (Winter 2008): 279-308.

ESSAY REVIEW

“The Morehouse Scholar-Activist Pedagogy and Boston Personalism,” Journal of African American History 101 (Fall 2016): 535-546.

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of Dreams in the New Century: Instant Cities, Shattered Hopes, and Florida’s Turning Point by Gary R. Mormino (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2022) Florida Historical Quarterly 101 (Winter/Spring 2023): 360.

Review of From Reconciliation to Revolution: The Student Interracial Ministry, Liberal Christianity, and the Civil Rights Movement by David P. Cline (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2016) Louisiana History: The Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association 59 (Spring 2018): 249-252.

Review of Plessy v. Ferguson: Race and Inequality in Jim Crow America by William James Hull Hoffer (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2012) Journal of Southern History 79 (August 2013): 748-749.

Review of Dawn of Desegregation: J. A. De Laine and Briggs v. Elliott by Ophelia De Laine Gona (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2011) A.M.E. Church Review 127 (April-June 2011): 79-80.

CONTRACT RESEARCH REPORTS

Evan Kutzler, Julia Brock, Ann McCleary, Keri Adams, Ronald Bastien, and Larry O. Rivers, In Plain Sight: African Americans at Andersonville National Historic Site, A Special History Study Washington, DC: National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 2020
Funded by a grant received by the University of West Georgia Center for Public History through the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units Network of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 2017-2020

GENERAL INTEREST PUBLICATIONS

“Florida’s Black Heritage” in Florida Black Heritage Trail Magazine. Tallahassee: Florida Department of State, 2002.

The Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University College of Law, 1949-2000. Tallahassee: Florida A&M University Foundation, Inc., 2000.

“‘They...Exalt Humbug at the Expense of Science and Truth’: Dr. John P. Wall and the Fight Against Yellow Fever in Late-Nineteenth Century Florida,” The Sunland Tribune: Journal of the Tampa Historical Society, 25 (1999): 9-18.

INVITED LECTURES

Book Lecture on James Hudson: Forgotten Forerunner in the Crusade for Civil Rights, presented on 10 October 2024 at the invitation of the Tallahassee Historical Society, Tallahassee, Fla.

“Hip Hop and Martin Luther King, Jr.,” presented on 4 December 2018 for “The Other Night School,” School of the Arts, College of Arts and Humanities, University of West Georgia, The Inn at Serenbe, Palmetto, Ga.

“Racism in the Era of Jackie Robinson” presented on 28 February 2017 at the invitation of the Penelope Melson Society, Irvine Sullivan Ingram Library, University of West Georgia, Carrollton, Ga.

“From Allen to Antioch: Highlights in A.M.E. History,” presented on 16 July 2016 to the “History Day” program at Antioch A.M.E. Church, sponsored by the University of West Georgia Center for Public History, Georgia Humanities Council, and Agnes Scott College, Stone Mountain, Ga.

“A Civil Religious Crucible: Barack Obama and Jeremiah Wright,” presented on 1 March 2016 at the invitation of the University of West Georgia African American Male Initiative Program and Department of History, Carrollton, Ga.

“‘Forever Free to Free at Last!’: Emancipation and the Origins of the Civil Rights Movement,” presented on 12 May 2014 as the keynote address for the LeRoy Collins Leon County (Florida) Public Library System Emancipation Celebration, Dr. Benjamin L. Perry Library Branch, Tallahassee, Fla.

“Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Crown Jewel Victories of the Civil Rights Movement,” presented on 28 January 2013 at the invitation of the League of Women Voters of Carrollton and Carroll County (Georgia), Neva Lomason Memorial Library, Carrollton, Ga.

“The Civil Rights Movement Before the Freedom Riders” presented on 25 October 2012 at the invitation of the Penelope Melson Society, Irvine Sullivan Ingram Library, University of West Georgia, Carrollton, Ga.

“Choreographing Socio-Dramas: The New South, Electronic Media, and the Civil Rights Movement,” presented on 3 November 2010 for the Phi Kappa Phi “We Are...ASU Professors” Arsenal Speaker Series, Augusta State University, Augusta, Ga.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

“‘Give Me This Mountain’: James Hudson, the Inter-Civic Council of Tallahassee, and the Civil Rights Struggle, 1958-1968,” presented at the Annual Meeting and Symposium of the Florida Historical Society, Orlando, Fla., 2023

“‘Between the Hedges’ and through ‘The Swamp’: A Historiography of Desegregation at Georgia’s and Florida’s Oldest Land-Grant Institutions,” presented at the 45th Annual Meeting of the Georgia Association of Historians, Jekyll Island, Ga., 2017.

“A New Social Awakening”: Howard University’s Rankin Network and the 1956 Tallahassee Bus Boycott,” presented at the 100th Annual Meeting and Conference of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), Atlanta, Ga., 2015

“Why Not This Generation?” Virgil Darnell Hawkins, Jr. and the Desegregation of Florida’s University System,” presented at the 89th Annual Meeting and Conference of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), Pittsburgh, Pa., Winner of the ASALH Undergraduate Essay Contest, 2004

CONFERENCE ROUNDTABLES

Presenter, Topic: “Dr. Dennis C. Dickerson’s Research on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs),” “Fifty Years of Black History: Celebrating the Scholarship of Dr. Dennis C. Dickerson,” 109th Annual Meeting and Conference of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), Pittsburgh, Pa., 2024

Participant, Florida History Authors’ Roundtable, Annual Meeting and Symposium of the Florida Historical Society, Orlando, Fla., 2024

SYMPOSIUMS

Presenter, Topic: “‘Democracy, Justice, and Love’: Dennis C. Dickerson and the Study of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Mentors,” “From Steelworkers to Pastors and Politics: A Symposium in Honor of Dennis Dickerson,” Department of History, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., 27 March 2024

Panelist, Session One: “‘I Have Seen the Promised Land’ and the Relevance of Martin Luther King, Jr. In the Twenty-First Century,” King50: Honoring the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Symposium, Morehouse College, Atlanta, Ga., 3 April 2018

PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC PROGRAMS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA

Featured Faculty Panelist, “Get Edu’KD: A Virtual Experience About African-Americans Who Shaped History,” Educational Development Committee, Kappa Delta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., 22 February 2023

Presenter, “1969: Beyond the Moon Landing,” Panel, The Moon Landing 50th Anniversary, College of Arts and Humanities Dean’s Signature Series, Penelope Melson Society and the Department of History, 4 November 2019

Presenter, “The Assassination of MLK Jr.: 50 Years Later,” College of Arts and Humanities Dean’s Signature Series, Center for Diversity and Inclusion and the Department of History, 27 September 2018

Faculty Commentator, Eighth Annual History Graduate Student Symposium, Department of History, 15 February 2018

Discussion Leader on the film *42* (2013), 7 February 2017, [Screening at Arbor View Apartments], Center for Diversity and Inclusion

Discussion Leader on the book *Between the World and Me* (2015) by Ta-Nehisi Coates, 2 December 2016, Multicultural Book Discussion Series, Center for Diversity and Inclusion

Faculty Panelist, “The Millennial Black,” Epsilon Xi Chapter of Iota Phi Theta Chapter, Inc., 18 November 2015

Faculty Commentator, Fifth Annual History Graduate Student Symposium, Theme: “Hate, Civil Rights, and Sacrifice,” Department of History, 23 March 2015

Keynote Address, “How Might a Student Use College as an Opportunity to Grow into a True Scholar?” National Society of Collegiate Scholars Member Induction Ceremony, 2 December 2014

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Historical Commentary Interviewee, *Florida Frontiers: The Weekly Radio Magazine of the Florida Historical Society*, Program #527 (Topic: The 1956 Tallahassee Bus Boycott), 2023

Panelist, “The Black Authors’ Roundtable” [Webinar], Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., Atlanta-Peachtree Chapter, 8 February 2023

Panelist, Virtual Book Talk, Topic: *Reclaiming the Great World House: The Global Vision of Martin Luther King Jr.*, 2022 Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration, Morehouse College, Atlanta, Ga. [YouTube], 30 January 2022

Historical Commentary Interviewee, *The Power of Place* [Documentary on Howard Warner High School in Newnan, GA], DVD, directed by Jonathan W. Hickman, Newnan, GA: JWH Productions, LLC, 2017

Historical Commentary Interviewee for news article: Winston Skinner, “AD King part of Selma Civil Rights struggle,” *Newnan Times-Herald*, 25 February 2017

Historical Commentary Interviewee for news article: Winston Skinner, “MLK’s brother was pastor in Newnan,” *Newnan Times-Herald*, 25 February 2017

Presenter, “The Virgil D. Hawkins Story,” Florida Southern College, Lakeland, Fla. 27 February 2016

Historical Commentary Interviewee for news article: Matthew Syed, “Lingering Prejudice at National Laid Out in Black and White,” 4 April 2012, *The Times* (London, U.K.)

Discussion Leader on the film *Selma* (2014), Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Celebration, Multicultural and International Student Programs Office, Berry College, Mount Berry, Ga., 15 January 2016,

Panelist, “Charles U. Smith Seminar in Celebration of the Golden Anniversary of the 1956 Tallahassee Bus Boycott,” Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, Fla., 22 May 2006,

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Attendee, “Teaching the Movement for Civil and Human Rights: A Workshop Co-Sponsored by the Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. Collection and the Center for Civil and Human Rights,” 8 October 2016, National Center for Civil and Human Rights, Atlanta, Ga.

Attendee, “Humanities Teaching with the Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. Collection: A Workshop for Humanities Faculty at Atlanta Regional Colleges and Universities,” 3 June 2015, held by the Office of the Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. Collection, Robert W. Woodruff Library, Atlanta University Center, Atlanta, Ga.

Attendee, “Melding Formal and Informal Education for Social Change: How to Get the Most Out of Museum Partnerships,” 24 October 2015, held by the Office of the Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. Collection, National Center for Civil and Human Rights, Atlanta, Ga.

COURSES TAUGHT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA

HIST 2112: The United States since 1865
HIST 2112: The United States since 1865 (Honors)
HIST 3362: African American History to 1865
HIST 3363: African American History since 1865
HIST 4469/5469: The Civil Rights Movement
HIST 4485/6687: African American Religion
HIST 6687: History of Hip Hop
HIST 6481: African American History since 1865 (Graduate Independent Study)
HIST 6481: African American History since 1945 (Graduate Independent Study)
HIST 6481: Readings in American History (Graduate Independent Study)

COURSES TAUGHT AT AUGUSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

HIST 2111: The United States to 1877
HIST 2112: The United States since 1877
HIST 4441: The United States since the Great Crash

HIST 4950: The Civil Rights Movement

M.A. IN HISTORY GRADUATE COMMITTEES AT UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA

Director, Thesis Committee, Tonya McNealey (2014-2016)
Director, Thesis Committee, Monique Hyman (2017-2019)
Director, Exit Examination Committee, Isiah Aranda (2017-2020)
Co-Director, Thesis Committee, Ronald Bastien (2018-2019)
Member, Thesis Committee, Jared Wright (2013-2014)
Member, Thesis Committee, Kendra Lightner (2014-2016)
Member, Thesis Committee, Christian Hill (2017-2018)
Member, Thesis Committee, Harvee White (2017)

TEACHING ACHIEVEMENTS

Advisor, “Organizing for Civil Rights: A History of the Voter Education Project, Inc.,” Master of Arts in History Thesis by Tonya McNealey

Recipient of the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council’s “Award for Excellence in Student Research Using Historical Records, Graduate Level” from the University System of Georgia Office of the Chancellor, 26 October 2016

Advisor, “Textbook Representations: Representations of African American and Mexican American History in Adopted 8th Grade American History Textbooks, 1965-1980,” Master of Arts in History Thesis by Monique Hyman

Recipient of the Cita Cook Thesis Award from the Department of History, University of West Georgia, 2 April 2019

SERVICE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA

Department of History (2013-2020)

Academic Advisor, Department of History (2013-2020)
Member, History of Asia Specialist Search Committee, Department of History (2013-2015)
Department of History Representative, UWG Winter Preview Day, Spring 2014
Department of History Champion, “A Day to Give West” Faculty/Staff Campaign (2016-2019)
Advisor, History Club (Fall 2014-Fall 2015, Fall 2016-Summer 2020)
Member, HIST 2112 Survey Assessment Committee, Department of History (2014-2019, coordinator, 2017-2019)
Member, Undergraduate Education Committee, Department of History (2013-2015)
Member, Budget and Awards Committee, Department of History (2013-2015, Fall 2016-Summer 2017; chair, Fall 2016-Summer 2017)

History Program (2020-present)

Academic Advisor, History Program (Summer 2020-Spring 2021)

Advisor, History Club (Summer 2020-Fall 2021)
HIST 2112 Assessment Essay Scorer, History Program (2021-present)
Member, Budget and Awards Committee, History Program (Fall 2022-present; chair, Fall 2023-Spring 2024)
Member, Undergraduate Education Committee, History Program (Fall 2022-present)

College of Arts and Humanities (2013-2020)

Department of History Representative, College of Arts and Humanities Executive Committee (2016-2018)
Member, College of Arts and Humanities Minority Graduate Student Recruitment Committee (2017-2018)

College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry (2020-present)

History Program Representative, General Education Committee (2023-2024)

University (2013-present)

Member, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration Planning Committee (2020)
Member, Africana Studies Advisory Panel (2014-present)
College of Arts and Humanities Representative, University Diversity and Inclusion Action Planning Team (2017-2020)
Member, University Archivist Search Committee, Special Collections (2015-2016)
Instructor, African American Male Initiative Learning Community (2013, 2015, 2016-2020)

SERVICE ACHIEVEMENTS

Recipient, College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry (CACSI) Faculty Excellence in Service Award, University of West Georgia (2022)

Advisor, History Club, University of West Georgia

Recipient of the University of West Georgia Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management's "Outstanding Student Organization" Award (Small Organization Category) during the 30th Annual Student Achievement Awards Ceremony, 18 April 2017

Recipient of the University of West Georgia Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management's "Outstanding Student Organization" Award (Small Organization Category) during the 32nd Annual Student Achievement Awards Ceremony, 16 April 2019

Recipient of \$4,000 Stay West Weekend Grant in partnership with the UWG African American Male Initiative and the Tau Chi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. awarded by the UWG Center for Student Involvement for a screening of the film

“Marshall” (2017), 2 March 2018, Campus Center Ballroom (more than 180 people attended)

Recipient of \$4,000 Stay West Weekend Grant in partnership with the UWG African Student Association, African American Male Initiative, AMBIGirl, and UWG branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People awarded by the UWG Center for Student Involvement for a screening of the film “Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom” (2013), 10 November 2018, Campus Center Ballroom (137 people attended)

SERVICE TO HISTORY PROFESSION

Member, Board of Directors, Florida Historical Society (2023-present)
Manuscript Reviewer, *Florida Historical Quarterly*
Manuscript Reviewer, *Journal of the Georgia Association of Historians*
Manuscript Reviewer, University Press of Mississippi

SERVICE TO AFRICANA STUDIES

Member, Local Arrangements Committee for the 22nd Annual Conference of the African Studies and Research Forum, University of West Georgia, 29-31 March 2018
Coordinator, Public Affairs Subcommittee

FUNDED RESEARCH AWARDS

University of West Georgia Presidential Development Grant, 2015 (\$2,459.05)
Vanderbilt University Graduate School Dissertation Enhancement Grant, 2009 (\$1,650)
Vanderbilt University College of Arts and Science Summer Research Award, 2008 (\$4,500)
Vanderbilt University Department of History Gordon Family Fellowship, Summer 2007 (\$2,000)
Vanderbilt University Department of History Herbert and Blanche Henry Weaver Fellowship, Summer 2006 (\$1,750) and Summer 2009 (\$2,000)

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Inductee, Martin Luther King, Jr. Collegium of Scholars, Morehouse College, 5 April 2018
Honoree, Legacy Banquet, Florida A&M University, 30 March 2017

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member, American Historical Association
Member, Association for the Study of African American Life and History
Member, Florida Historical Society
Member, Georgia Association of Historians (life member)
Member, Organization of American Historians