

KAMEELAH L. MARTIN



Dean of the Graduate School of the University of Charleston, S.C.



Kameelah L. Martin is dean of the graduate school and professor of African American Studies and English at the College of Charleston. She joined the College in 2017 and assumed the role of dean of the graduate school in 2021.

As dean of the Graduate School of the University of Charleston, S.C., Martin serves as chief administrator and advocate for graduate education. She aims to expand, revise and develop graduate programs that align with the College's mission and serve the community. She follows national and international patterns

and initiatives in graduate education and provides leadership and oversight on recruitment, admissions and academic progress, including a focus on increasing diversity and the visibility of graduate education on campus. She collaborates with program directors to implement policies and curriculum changes that improve graduate student retention, degree completion, professional opportunities and overall success.

Martin holds a doctorate in African American literature and folklore from Florida State University, a master's in Afro-American studies from the University of California Los Angeles and a bachelor's in English with an Africana studies minor from Georgia Southern University.

Prior to joining the College, Martin held faculty positions at Georgia State University, the University of Houston and Savannah State University.

Martin's research explores the lore cycle of the conjure woman, or Black priestess, as an archetype in literature and visual texts. Other areas of interest include the evolution of 20th century Black folk heroes, the fiction of Tina McElroy Ansa, Gullah Geechee heritage and culture, African American genealogical research and the writing of family histories.

Martin is the author of a number of works, including "Conjuring Moments in African American Literature: Women, Spirit Work, & Other Such Hoodoo," (Palgrave MacMillan, 2013), about how African American authors have shifted, recycled and reinvented the conjure woman figure primarily in twentieth century fiction; "Envisioning Black Feminist Voodoo Aesthetics: African Spirituality in American Cinema," (Lexington, 2016), which explores the priestess figure in American cinema. She co-edited "The Lemonade Reader," an academic look at the work of pop icon Beyoncé (2019).

Martin is a member of the College Language Association, Modern Language Association, National Council for Black Studies, South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, the African American Historical and Genealogical Society and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

EDUCATION

2006: Ph.D., African American Literature & Folklore, Florida State University
2003: M.A., Afro-American Studies, University of California, Los Angeles
2000: B.A., English, Georgia Southern University

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

2021–present: Dean, Graduate School of the University of Charleston, S.C., College of Charleston
2017–present: Professor, African American Studies & English, College of Charleston
2017-2021: Director, African American Studies, College of Charleston
2017-2020: Graduate Faculty Appointment, University of Alabama
2016-2017: Director, Honors Program, and Associate Professor, Dept. of English, Languages, & Cultures, Savannah State U.
2015-2020: Book Review Editor (2015-2017) and Assistant Editor (2019-2020), College Language Association Journal
2013-2016: Assistant Professor, Dept. of English, Languages, & Cultures, Savannah State U.
2011-2013: Visiting Scholar, Center for the Study of African American Culture, U. of Houston
2006-2011: Assistant Professor, Dept. of English, Georgia State U.
2003-2006: Graduate Teaching Assistant, Dept. of English, Florida State U.

HONORS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

College of Charleston Faculty Research & Development Award, 2018
College Language Association Book Award for Creative Scholarship, 2017
Summer Scholar, National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute on "Recognizing an Imperfect Past: History, Memory, & the American Public," Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Ga. 2017
U. of Michigan Institute for Research on Women & Gender, Feminist Research Seminar Grant, 2017-18
Savannah State U. President's Faculty Development Mini-grant Initiative, 2016
Fulbright-Hays Participant, U.S. Dept. of Education Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad (Ghana), 2015-16
Georgia Southern U. Alumni Association 40 Under 40 Alumni Award, 2014-15
U. of Houston African American Studies Program Faculty Development Grant, 2013
U. of Houston African American Studies Program Faculty Travel Award, 2013
Summer Scholar, National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute on Contemporary African American Literature, Pennsylvania State U., State College, Pa., 2012
U. of Houston African American Studies Program Faculty Travel Award, 2012
Georgia State U. Dept. of English Summer Research Enhancement Grant, 2011
National Council for Black Studies Cutting-Edge Gender Research Grant, 2009-10
Georgia State U. Writing Across the Curriculum Intensive Writing Course Development Grant, Summer 2009
"Critical Approaches to Teaching African American Literature."
Co-sponsorship for the Georgia Humanities Council Conversations among Partners in Learning Program, 2008
Georgia State U. Research Initiation Grant, 2007-08
Georgia State U. Dept. of English Summer Research Enhancement Grant, 2007
Florida State U. Dept. of English J. Russell Reaver Award for Outstanding Dissertation in American Literature or Folklore, 2006-07
Florida State U. Dept. of English George Harper Award for Outstanding Graduate Critical Writing, 2004-05
National Council for Black Studies Graduate Student Essay Contest, Second Place, 2005
Ford Foundation Pre-doctoral Fellowships for Minorities Alternate/Hon. Mention, 2004
National Council for Black Studies Graduate Student Essay Contest, Second Place, 2003
UCLA Center for African American Studies Archive Mentorship Fellowship, 2002-03
UCLA Graduate Opportunity Fellowship, 2001-02