

Sharon D. Raynor is an Associate Professor of English and the Mott University Distinguished Professor at Johnson C. Smith University. She is also the recipient of the Alphonse Fletcher, Sr. Fellowship through the Fletcher Foundation and the W.E.B. DuBois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University. In previous years, she served as the Interim Director of the Honors College and the Department Chair of English and Foreign Languages at Johnson C. Smith University and as a Lecturer in the English Department at East Carolina University. She completed her doctorate degree in Literature and Criticism at Indiana University of Pennsylvania in August 2003. She received both her Bachelor of Arts degree in English and her Master of Arts degree in Multicultural Literature at East Carolina University. Her doctoral dissertation is entitled, "Shattered Silence and Restored Souls: Bearing Witness and Testifying to Trauma and 'Truth' in the Narratives of Black Vietnam Veterans." Since 1999, she has written and directed two oral history projects sponsored by the North Carolina Humanities Council entitled "Breaking the Silence: The Unspoken Brotherhood of Vietnam Veterans," and "Soldier-to-Soldier: Men and Women Share Their Legacy of War." She is also a presenter for the Speakers Bureau and "Let's Talk About It Book" Discussion Program, both sponsored by the North Carolina Humanities Council. She works extensively with Vietnam War veterans in North Carolina. She has also collaborated with LEARN NC (a program of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Education) – North Carolina Digital Textbook to post excerpts of oral history interviews she conducted with Vietnam Veterans to their website. She has been a participant in the UNCF/Mellon International Faculty Seminar in Cape Town, South Africa, the International Faculty Development Seminar sponsored by the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) in Dakar, Senegal (West Africa) and Cape Verde, the Salzburg Seminar at the Salzburg Institute in Austria, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History at Yale and the Faculty Resource Network Summer Seminars at NYU and Winter Seminars in Puerto Rico. She is also an Executive Board Member for the Southern Humanities Council. She is the author of *Memories of War: Trauma and Silence in the Narratives of Black Vietnam Veterans* and has publications in *We Wear the Mask: Paul Laurence Dunbar and the Representation of Black Identity (Paul Laurence Dunbar Collection)*, *disClosure: A Journal of Social Theory, Cultural Studies ⇔ Critical Methodologies*, *NC Crossroads*, *CLA Journal* (College Language Association), *Dos Passos Review*, *From Around the World: Secular Authors and Biblical Perspectives*, *Zadie Smith: Critical Essays*, *The Encyclopedia of African American Folklore*, *Encyclopedia of America Poetry: The Twentieth Century*, *Who's Who in Contemporary Women's Writing* and *The Encyclopedia of African American Literature*. She also co-authored *The Yancy Years: The Age of Infrastructure, Technology, and Restoration*. She was also the 2007 recipient of the Johnson C. Smith University Par Excellence Teaching Award. She was born and raised in Clinton, North Carolina.