# Michael David Sollars, Ph.D.

Texas Southern University College of Liberal Arts & Behavioral Sciences 3100 Cleburne Houston, TX 77004

## **Educational History**

Ph.D.	2001 University of Missouri English and Philosophy
	Kansas City, MO
M.A.	1982 University of Missouri English Kansas City, MO
B.A.	1976 University of Missouri English Columbia, MO

# **Academic Appointments**

Former Chair, English 2015-2020
Professor, English 2016-Present Texas Southern University Tenure
Assistant Dean, Research/Communications

College of Liberal Arts & Behavioral Sciences 2011-2015

Associate Professor, English 2008-2016 Texas Southern University Tenure
Assistant Professor 2002-2008 Texas Southern University
Lecturer 1998-2001 University of Missouri at Kansas City

# **Snapshot of Recent Key Accomplishments**

#### **Film Scripts**

Notre Dame Is in Flames. Southern California Film Festival Award. Quarterfinals. 2022.

Mt. Mora. Award Festigious. Los Angeles Film Competition, 2021.

Confessions of St. Mary's. Sweet Democracy Film Awards. 2021.

High Crimes. 2021. Southern California Film Festival Award. 2021.

Fear the Beast. Sweet Democracy Film Awards. 2020.

#### Book

Falling into Starry Night: Collected Poetic Works. Cyberwit Publishing, 2013.

# Article

"Kafkaesque Absurdity in the Aesthetics of Beckett and Giacometti." *Enthymema*. No. 8, 2013.

### Poems

"Caterpillar Carpe Diem" *Taj Mahal Review*, December 2013. "Attic Slumber" *A World Rediscovered*, *Anthology of Contemporary Verse*, October 2012.

# Grants

The WHEEL Project, Seed Grant, \$8,000, 2013. Development of The WHEEL Project, *Where the Humanities Engender Esthetic License*, an international Internet-based project for up-and-coming practitioners in the arts. See <u>www.thewheelproject.org</u>

## Projects

Launch of The WHEEL Project as Internet hub for the arts, 2013.

### Committees

Served as a member of the selection committee for the Associate Provost, Research, Texas Southern University, 2013.

Member of the Assessment Committee for core course content for TSU.

#### Conferences

Presented my paper on "Kafkaesque Absurdity in the Aesthetics of Beckett and Giacometti," 2013. Revised this paper to be later published in *Enthymema*.

#### **Advisory Member/Judge**

Gulen Institute Youth Platform, 2013

# **Academic Committee Appointments**

THECB, Texas Higher Education College Board NCATE Standards (National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education), TSU Research and Standards for TSU Graduation and Retention Standards for TSU Selection Committee for Associate Provost College of Liberal Arts & Behavioral Sciences Newsletter Editor Freshman Composition Standards, English Department World Literature, ENG 230 &231, Standards Book Selection Committee Chair, Freshman English McCleary Interdisciplinary Symposium, English Department Graduate Faculty Committee, TSU Dissertation and Theses Committee Chair

## **Current Editorships and Book Publications**

Falling into Starry Night: Collected Poetic Works. Cyberwit Publishing, 2013.

*Dictionary of World Literary Characters*. Michael D. Sollars, General Editor. The collection is made up of six volumes, containing some 15,000 notable characters from the world's literature. Published November 2010 by InFoBase, Facts on File, Inc.

*Compendium of Twentieth Century World Novels and Novelists.* Michael D. Sollars, General Editor. The *Compendium* is made up of 600 entries, including novels and novelists from around the globe who wrote in a language other than English but whose novels were subsequently translated into English. I worked with many scholars from around the world who where contributors to these volumes.

*Classroom Adventures I*, Michael Sollars, Editor. Digibots Corporation, 2006. *Classroom Adventures II*, Michael Sollars, Editor, Digibots Corporation, 2004 Chronicle, the Newsletter for the Department of English and Foreign Languages.

### **Recent Publications**

"Kafkaesque Absurdity in the Aesthetics of Beckett and Giacometti." *Enthymema*. No. 8, 2013.

"Caterpillar Carpe Diem" Taj Mahal Review, December 2012

"Attic Slumber" A World Rediscovered, Anthology of Contemporary Verse, October 2012 "Copies, Copies, Copies . . ." Taj Mahal Review, International Literary Journal, June 2012.

"Poppa's Song" *Harvests of New Millennium, Art & Poetry*, Vol. 5, No. 1, January 2012. "The Artist's First Steps" *Taj Mahal Review, International Literary Journal*, February 2012.

"Relative Constellations" *Harvests of New Millennium, Art & Poetry,* (Vol. 4 No. 1, March 2011.

"When I Was Huckleberry Finn." CLTL. University of Mass-Dartmouth. October 2011.

"O'Neill's Existential Man, Distinguished or Extinguished." The Eugene O'Neill

Society. O'Neill.com Essays. September, 2010.

"Trapeze Girl" Kritya Journal, India. September 2010.

"Albert Camus's 'The Guest': Postcolonialism." Bloom's Literary Themes. 2010.

"Civil Disobedience in Franz Kafka's The Trial." Bloom's Literary Themes. 2010.

*"Betrayal* by Harold Pinter." The Columbia Encyclopedia of Modern Drama. New York: Columbia University Press, 2007.

"Shelagh Delaney, the Playwright." The Columbia *Encyclopedia of Modern Drama. New York: Columbia University Press, 2007.* 

Writing African American Women: An Encyclopedia of Literature by and about Women of Color, Greenwood Press, 2006. Articles include: "Sermon Tradition," "Olivia Ward Bush-Banks," and "Angela Jackson."

*Encyclopedia of Multiethnic American Literature*, Greenwood Press, November 2005. Articles include the following authors and subjects: "Eugene O'Neill," "Susan Sontag," "Claude McKay," "Gerald Stern," and "Irish American Theatre."

"I, too, Have Long Digressed," published 2004 in La Revue LISA (www.unicaen. fr/mrsh/anglais/lisa). Peer-reviewed journal.

*Encyclopedia of Modern Drama*. Grolier's Scholastic. Contributed entries on "Shelagh Delaney, Dramatist" and "Harold Pinter, Dramatist."

*Nineteenth Century British Dramatists*, Bruccoli Clark Layman, Columbia, SC. Contributed entries on playwrights Joseph Coyne, Thomas Robertson, and J. Westland Marston.

"Flight from Self in Samuel Beckett's Cinematic Work Film," Journal of the Association for the Interdisciplinary Study of the Arts (JAISA), Spring 2002.

"Barns of Rural America: A Vanishing Landscape." *New Letters, A Magazine of Writing and Art*, Vol. 65, No. 2. Published by the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

#### **Juried Contests**

The College Language Association, 2004. I served as the judge in creative writing-short stories for this national competition. One of

TSU's students was an award recipient for fiction writing.

*New Letters*, University of Missouri at Kansas City I served as a judge in the journal's fiction contest.

# **Previous Publications—Books (Edited)**

Medical, Behavior, and Genetic Aspects of Purebred Dogs. Forum Publications, 1994.
Medical and Genetic Aspects of Purebred Cats. Forum Publications, 1992.
Close Encounters of the Third Kind, the Movie. Ariel Books, 1978.
Remembrance, the Book of Memories, Thoughts, and Dreams. The Fisherman House, 1980.
Flint. University of Missouri and the Veterans Hospital, 1997.
The Grease Album, Ariel Books, 1978.

# **Scholarship – Papers Presented at Conferences**

"Kafkaesque Absurdity in the Aesthetics of Beckett and Giacometti," presented at the humanities in Education and Research symposium, 2013

"Civil Disobedience in Kafka's *The Trial*." Presented at Resistance: The Literature of Social Protest and Struggle, McCleary Interdisciplinary Symposium, 2009.

"Plato's *Republic* and Artistic Perspective." Presented at Resistance: The Literature of Social Protest and Struggle, McCleary Interdisciplinary Symposium, 2009.

"The Novel: Implement of Selfhood and Nationalism." Presented at Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage Conference, Mapping the Contact Zone(S) of Nuestra América. The Bicentennial of Hispanic Newspapers in the United States. Sponsored jointly by The University of Houston, Rice University and Texas Southern University, 2009.

Moderator of Student Panel, "The Women of the Harlem Renaissance and Its Radiance." McCleary Interdisciplinary Conference, 2009

"Composition and the Theory of Chaos in the English Classroom." Baylor University, Conference of College Teachers of English, 2005.

"Modernism's Metaphor and Samuel Beckett's *Watt*"—Texas Southern University, March 2003.

"Graduate School in English: The Need to Know Info"—University of Missouri-Kansas City, October 2002.

"Situating Contemporary Fiction Within its Early Twentieth-Century Antecedents"— Western British Conference on British Studies, October 2002.

"Flight from Self in Samuel Beckett's Cinematic Work *Film*"—State University of West Georgia, 2000.

"Deciphering the Origins of Waiting for *Godot*"—University of Missouri-Kansas City, 1997.

"The Influence of Sculpture and Painting in Samuel Beckett's Dramaturgy"—University of Missouri-Kansas City, 1998.

"Philosophical Influences in Voltaire's *Candide*"—University of Missouri-Kansas City, 1996.

"The Use of Language and Narrative Reversal in Samuel Beckett's *Watt*"—University of North Texas at Denton International English Conference, 1996.

# **Grant Acquisition**

Seed Grant for the development of the WHEEL Project, *Where the Humanities Engender Esthetic License*, an international project for up-and-coming practitioners in the arts. See <u>www.thewheelproject.org</u>

## **Publishing Background**

Publisher/Editor	1996-2002	MediMedia
Publisher/Editor	1988-1996	Veterinary Forum
Editor/Writer	1978-1988	Veterinary Economics
Editor/Writer	1976-1978	Corporate Report Magazine

# **Honors and Awards**

Distinguished Member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars Member of Lambda Iota Tau Honor Society, Delta Alpha Chapter, TSU Member of the Conference of College Teachers of English

Member of the James O'Neill Society

1999	Sosland Teaching Award 1998
	Sosland Teaching Award
1984	Award of Excellence, Feature Writing, Association of American Business
	Publications
1978	Barbara Storck Literary Awards, Second Place, Fiction Writing
1977	Barbara Storck Literary Awards, First Place, Fiction Writing

# **Art Exhibits**

"Barns of Rural America: A Vanishing Landscape." University of Missouri-Kansas City, 1999. Photography exhibition.

# References

**Dr. Gregory Maddox** Dean, Graduate School, TSU 713-313-7889

#### Maddox\_gh@tsu.edu

Dr. Alvia Wardlaw Director, TSU Museum 713-313-7127 Wardlaw\_aj@tsu.edu Dr. Rasoul Saneifard Chair, Faculty Senate, TSU 713-313-7689 Saneifard\_rx@tsu.edu

Professor Thomas Meloncon Director, Theatre, TSU 713-313-1313 Meloncont@tsu.edu

Dr. Michael Zeitler Associate Professor, English 713-313-7413 zeitlerma@tsu.edu

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