

Leonard A. Slade, Jr.

Leonard A. Slade, Jr., received the bachelor's degree in English from North Carolina's Elizabeth City State University, the master's degree in English from Virginia State University, and the Ph.D. degree in English from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He taught for twenty-two years at Kentucky State University, where he was Chair of the Division of Literature, Languages, and Philosophy, and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. In May 1989, Kentucky State University awarded him the degree Doctor of Humane Letters. In May 1996, Elizabeth City State University awarded him a Doctor of Humane Letters degree. For several summers, he studied poetry at Bennington College, Vermont; at The Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, Middlebury College, Vermont; and at the Ragdale Artists' Colony, Lake Forest, Illinois. He studied with Pulitzer Prize Winners Stephen Dunn and Donald Justice.

He has published in *Essence Magazine*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *The Courier-Journal*, *Ebony Magazine*, *The College Language Association Journal*, *The American Poetry Review*, *The Zora Neale Hurston Forum*, *The English Journal: Publication of the National Council of Teachers of English*, *The Journal of Southern History*, *The Black Scholar*, *The Kentucky Poetry Review*, *KOLA Magazine (in Canada)*, *Emerge Magazine*, *The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education*, *Catalyst*, *The ALAN Review: Publication of the National Council of Teachers of English*, *Little Magazine*, *The Griot: Journal of the Southern Conference on Afro-American Studies*, and *Education Next: Journal of Opinion and Research at Harvard University*, to name a few. He has published seventeen books, including twelve books of poetry: *Another Black Voice: A Different Drummer* (1988), *The Beauty of Blackness* (1989), *I Fly Like a Bird* (1992), *The Whipping Song* (1993), *Vintage* (1995), *Fire Burning* (1995), *Pure Light* (1996), *Neglecting the Flowers* (1997), *Lilacs in Spring* (1998), *Elisabeth and Other Poems* (1999), and *For the Love of Freedom* (2000). *Symbolism in Herman Melville's Moby Dick: From the Satanic to the Divine* (1998) is his second book of literary criticism. *Jazz After Dinner*, his twelfth volume of poetry, was published by the State University of New York Press in July 2006. He has read his poetry at Ohio State, Williams College, Skidmore College, Norfolk State, Virginia State, the Universities of Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, Arkansas, Illinois, Tufts, Duke, and Harvard, among others. His poetry has been praised by Maya Angelou, Gwendolyn Brooks, and Houston A. Baker, Jr.

Slade is Past Chair and currently Professor of Africana Studies (Tenured), Adjunct Professor of English, and the Past Director of the Humanistic Studies Doctoral Program and of the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Program at the State University of New York at Albany. In November 2007, he was named Citizens Academic Laureate at SUNY Albany. In April 2005, he was named a Collins Fellow at SUNY Albany. A past member of the National Research Center on the Teaching of Literature, he has been the recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award at Kentucky State University and at the State University of New York, Albany; The Professor of the Year Award from the SUNY NAACP Chapter; The Kentucky Humanities Council Grant; The Hudson Mohawk Association of Colleges and Universities Award; The Northeast Modern Language Association Research Fellowship; The Ford Foundation Fellowship; The U.S. Department of State Fellowship for Postdoctoral Study; The Ragdale Artists' Fellowship, Lake Forest, Illinois; and the Recipient of the Southern Conference on African-American Studies Book Award. Under his leadership as Chair of the Department of Africana Studies, the Master's Program in Africana Studies was ranked number two in America three years in a row (2005, 2006, and 2007). He lives with his wife in Albany, New York.