

Leonard A. Slade, Jr.

Leonard A. Slade, Jr., received the bachelor's degree in English from North Carolina's Elizabeth City State University of the University of North Carolina System, the master's degree in English from Virginia State University, and the Doctor of Philosophy 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, Director of the Division of Humanities and Fine Arts, 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 of the University of North Carolina System awarded him a Doctor of Humane Letters degree. He studied at the University of Ghana in West Africa. For several summers, he studied poetry at Bennington College, Vermont; at The Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, Middlebury College, Vermont; at The Ragdale Artists' Colony, Lake Forest, Illinois; and as a Poet Fellow at The Martha's Vineyard Institute of Creative Writing in Poetry and Fiction. He studied with Pulitzer Prize winners Stephen Dunn and Donald Justice. Slade also studied African-American Literature with Richard Barksdale (M.A., Ph.D., in English, Harvard University) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and with Keneth Kinnamon (M.A., Ph.D., in English, Harvard University) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He studied American Literature with Edward Davidson (Ph.D. in English, Yale University, and a Guggenheim Fellow) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Slade's Dissertation Advisor was George Hendrick (Ph.D. in English, University of Texas, Austin) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where Hendrick was Chair of the Department of English and a Pulitzer Prize nominee.

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 African-American Studies*, *Peace and Freedom Journal (The United Kingdom)*, and *Education Next: Journal of Opinion and Research at Harvard University*, to name a few. He has published twenty-seven books, including twenty-two 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)*, *For the Love of Freedom (2000)*, *Jazz After Dinner (2006)*, *Triumph (2010)*, *Sweet Solitude (State University of New York Press, 2010)*, *The Season (2011)*, *Chasing the Wind (2012)*, *God Put a Rainbow in the Sky (2014)*, *Nobody Knows (2016)*, *Poems for People of All Ages (2017)*, *I, Too, Am America (2018)*, and *Selected Poems for Freedom, Peace, and Love (2021)*. *Sweet Solitude* was a bestseller at the State University of New York Press. Six of his books were published by McGraw-Hill Publishing Companies and two by the State University of New York Press. Slade received the Editor's Choice Award for six of his poems which were published in the *Today's Best Poets Anthology (Summer 2013)*. *Symbolism in Herman Melville's Moby Dick: From the Satanic to the Divine (1998)* is his second book of literary criticism. Slade's books have been sold in China, Japan, India, Finland, The Netherlands, The United Kingdom, Germany, France, Denmark, and Italy. 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.

Slade is Past Chair, Professor Emeritus of Africana Studies, former Adjunct Professor of English, and 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. He is The Edmund J. James Scholar in English at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and The Poet Fellow at The Martha's Vineyard Institute of Creative Writing in Fiction and Poetry. He was an Eminent Scholar at Virginia State University. Slade has also taught at Skidmore College, Union College, and RPI in New York. He is former National President of Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society, as well as former National President of The Langston Hughes Society. In November 2007, he was named Citizen Academic Laureate at SUNY Albany. In April 2005, he was named a Collins Fellow at SUNY Albany. In October 2016, Slade received the Literary Legend Award from the Albany, New York, Public Library. A past member of the National Research Center on the Teaching of Literature, he has been the recipient of the President's 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 Langston Hughes Society Distinguished Service Award; The Distinguished Service Award from Alpha Kappa Mu National Honor Society; The Kentucky Humanities Council Grant; The Hudson Mohawk Association of Colleges and Universities Award; The Northeast Modern Language Association Research Fellowship for Poetry; The Martha's Vineyard Institute of Creative Writing in Poetry Fellowship; The Ford Foundation Fellowship; The National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education Award in Washington, D.C.; The U.S. Department of State Fellowship for Postdoctoral Study in West Africa; The Ragdale Artists' Poetry Fellowship, Lake Forest, Illinois; The Southern Conference on African-American Studies Poetry Book Award; The Henry M. Minton Fellow Award from The Boulé Foundation of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity; The Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity's Distinguished Educational Leadership Award; The Poetry Gold Medal of Excellence Award; The Editor's Choice Award from Poetryfest in Oregon; and The Poet of the Year Award from The Institute for Advanced Poetic Studies. Slade is a member of Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society, The Modern Language Association, The Southern Conference on African-American Studies, and The College Language Association. 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. He lives with his wife in Albany, New York, and has one daughter.