

## Resume



### **Dr. Vanessa Wynder Quainoo**

**Chief Intercultural Engagement Officer-**

**Wheaton College**

**Wheaton, Illinois**

**July 1, 2022**

## **I. PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION**

### **Employment History**

#### **Associate Professor**

Department of Communication Studies

University of Rhode Island

*(Associate Professor Appointment 1992 – 2022)*

#### **Chairperson (2009 – 2021)**

Africana Studies Department

#### **Communication Studies**

#### **Department Chairperson**

Dr. Norbert Mundorf

#### **College Designation:**

College of Arts & Sciences

#### **Dean:**

Dr. Jeanette Riley

#### **Earned Degrees:**

1993 / PH.D. Rhetoric

University of Massachusetts

Amherst, Massachusetts

1984 / M.A. Oral Performance

Western Illinois University

Macomb, Illinois

1981 / B.A. Speech Communication

Wheaton College

Wheaton, Illinois

### **Courses Taught In-Person and Online**

With more than thirty years of teaching experience in higher education, Dr. Quainoo has taught a wide variety of Communication and Africana Studies Courses including the following courses:

Communication 101  
Public Speaking 202  
Rhetoric/Persuasion 210  
Oral Interpretation 231  
Spoken Word 310\*  
Oral Performance of African American Literature 333\*  
Readers Theater 334\*  
Rhetoric of Race in the Media 441\*  
Communication Theory 501 (*Graduate*)  
Graduate Seminar in Race Discourse 540 (*Graduate*)\*

*\*Represents new courses designed and implemented by Dr. Quainoo*

The teaching schedule is three courses per semester and two semesters per year. Winter Break and Summer teaching are considered overload classes.

Many of the courses have been taught online using several different programs. The major program used in 2016 – 2019 was Sakai. The University of Rhode Island changed to Brightspace 2020 – 2021.

Dr. Quainoo has taken several online training workshops. Three of the trainings include the Sakai training in 2016, Brightspace training in 2020 and *Successfully Teaching Online- A Training Designed for Faculty of Color* 2020.

A comprehensive list of courses is available upon request.

### **Ghana Study Abroad**

Along with her husband, Dr. Joseph Quainoo, Dr. Quainoo designed and implemented the first URI Study Abroad Program to Africa. The Program enrolled an average of 14 students for a summer semester abroad at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana, West Africa. The Program ran each summer from 2009 – 2018.

With the support of the Provost, the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and several departments, the Study Abroad to Ghana was cited as one of the most successful study abroad programs at The University of Rhode Island.

Students earned 3 – 6 credits, enrolling in one or both of the following classes:

-Rhetoric of Contemporary Ghanaian Public Speeches

-Learning the Language of Twi – *An Introduction to one of the major Ghanaian Languages*

### **Most Significant Recent Awards**

- 2021      ***University Lifetime Achievement Award  
For Excellence in Teaching, Mentoring and Promoting Diversity***  
*University of Rhode Island*  
*This award is granted by the President of the University in Recognition of sustained contributions to the University. Given annually, it is one of the University's highest and most respected awards.*
- 2020      ***Inaugural Department Chair***  
*Africana Studies*  
*University of Rhode Island*  
*This recognition acknowledges Dr. Quainoo's leadership in Navigating the Afro-American Program that existed at the University for twenty-five years into the Africana Studies Department. Gaining departmental status was a long, arduous journey. Dr. Quainoo was at the helm for twelve years. She led the Interdisciplinary team of Faculty who submitted an in-depth proposal to petition successfully for the change from program to department.*

### **Selected Publications and Presentations**

- 2015      *Negotiating the Intercultural Moment – Study Abroad and Conflict Mediation between African American and African Students: A Case Study (Journal of Intercultural Communication Studies)*
- 2016      *Cry Elmina (Readers' Theater Presentation at The Elmina Slave Castle Museum, Elmina, Ghana)*
- 2017      *Asomdwee (West African term meaning 'Harmonious Peace'), The Praxis of Peace in West African Conflict Management (Paper Presented at the BRIDGE Conference, Accra, Ghana)*
- 2019      *Asomdwee Lessons From West African Interpersonal Conflict Communication (Paper Presented at the BRIDGE Conference, Accra, Ghana)*
- 2020      *Asomdwee: What Can the Interpersonal Communication Practices of West African Conflict Management Teach Us (Lecture Presented at The Harrington Forum of Faculty Research Presentations at The Harrington School of Communication & Media at The University of Rhode Island – Dr. Scott Kushner, Facilitator)*

- 2021 *African American Women Clergy and Their Sermons – A Rhetorical Analysis* (Under Review, Church, Communication and Culture Journal)
- 2020 *Cry Elmina* (Readers’ Theater Presentation at The University of Ghana, Accra, Ghana)
- 2021 *Conversations on Race*  
*George Floyd and the African American Rhetorical Response* (University of Rhode Island Printing)
- 2022 *When All Hearts and Minds Are Clear*  
*Lessons We Can Learn About Conflict Management in the African American Church* (Under Review, Journal of Conflict Management)

#### **Inspirational Publications and Presentations**

- 2011 *Speak Life: The Blessing of Speaking to Bless Others* (Xulon Press – Self-published)
- 2016 *Virtue Mentoring*  
*A Bible Study Guide for Women* (New Covenant Printing)
- 2019 *The River Shalom* (Presentation of an Original Poem At The InterVarsity Northeast Faculty Retreat at The University of Rhode Island)

#### **Recorded or Print Sermons Available upon Request**

#### **Community Service**

Dr. Quainoo has strong record of scholarship and community service, including the following:

\*Volunteer Ministry at a local Congregation in the African American community in Providence, RI

\*Volunteer Administrative Ministry in the national office of A major Church denomination

\*Volunteer Ministry, InterVarsity

\*Faculty Advisor, Sankofa Campus Ministry for Students of Color at the University of Rhode Island

\*2019 Grant recipient – University of Rhode Island Innovation Grant for Race Relations

\*2020 Grant recipient – URI Assessment Grant for Implementing Anti-racism in Communication Studies Curriculum

\*2020 Keynote Speaker – Peace dale Congregational Church (Rhode Island) Black History Month Address

\*2021 Consultant for the Jamestown, RI Black History Consortium

\*2021-2022 Board Member, Rhode Island Historical Society

**References for Dr. Vanessa Wynder Quainoo:**

(Contact Information Available upon request)

**Dr. Winifred Brownell**, Former Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences  
The University of Rhode Island

**Professor Robert Burns**, Adjunct Professor  
Department of Communication Studies  
The University of Rhode Island

**Ms. Kathy Cooper**, Director of Graduate Ministries  
InterVarsity

**Dr. John McCray**, Former Vice Provost and Dean  
College of Continuing Education

**Dr. Carol Parks '81**, Associate Professor  
Department of Community Health  
Temple University, Philadelphia, PA

**(Former Students) References:**

**Attorney Oluwadamilol Animashaun**  
Howard University

**Ms. Alice Odhiambo**, Marketing Personnel  
Brooklyn Tabernacle Church

**Dr. Wilson Okello**, Assistant Professor  
Department of Educational Leadership

**Personal Information & Interests**

Dr. Quainoo is married to Dr. Joseph Quainoo  
In addition to their academic work, they both  
serve their Church in local, national, and international ministry.

Dr. Quainoo's personal interests include spending quality time with her family,  
enjoying Christian Fellowship, reading, creative writing, and gardening.