

Amenti Sujai, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, Evanston, IL

Doctor of Philosophy, Religion in Society, and Personality

Dissertation: "An Ethic of Resistance: Narratives of Racial and Gender Discrimination among African American Women."

Dr. Kenneth Vaux, Dissertation Chair

Degree Awarded: 1996

GARRETT-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, Evanston, IL

Master of Theological Studies, Religion, Personality and Culture

Degree Awarded: 1992

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Carbondale, IL

MA Program Psychology

Attended: September 1986-December 1986

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Carbondale, IL

Degree Awarded: Bachelor of Arts, Psychology

University Honors

Degree Awarded: 1986

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP

Chair, Religion Department

1/2016 – 5/2021

Allen University

As Chair, I redesigned the department's academic programs to address the needs of students who wanted to pursue a degree in religious studies that would prepare them for graduate school or seminary or students interested in pastoring a church without a seminary degree. My duties included providing an academic schedule to meet the needs of adult learners and ensuring that course offerings enabled students to graduate on time. My duties further included supervising and evaluating faculty, submitting course schedules to the Dean, faculty development, managing faculty leaves, organizing departmental meetings, and responding to student requests, complaints, degree applications, and other departmental support.

Interim Associate Vice President, Academic Affairs

1/2018 – 5/2019

Allen University

My assigned duty was to develop the learning management system for the Allen University faculty (Moodlerooms Learning Management System).

Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs

6/2012 - 6/2013

Martin University

Responsibilities as the university's chief academic officer included strategic oversight of all academic initiatives and programming. My duties further included hiring faculty and implementing innovative curricula and programs. I supervised academic affairs personnel and online learning, oversaw the revision of the Faculty Handbook, and chaired the accreditation reaffirmation committee under the Higher Learning Commission. I met regularly with the President to review the goals and mission of the university and began work on the development of a shared governance plan. I was also honored to attend the Council of Independent Colleges Chief Academic Officers Leadership Training Program.

OTHER LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

St. Matthew United Methodist Church, Greenville, SC.

Pastor

2020 - Present

African and African American Studies Program

Claflin University

Director

1/2005 – 5/2012

Center for the Theological Exploration of Vocation

Claflin University

Associate Director

1/2003 – 5/2012

Women's Center Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Director

8/1987 – 5/1989

ACADEMIC/CHURCH EXPERIENCE

ALLEN UNIVERSITY, Columbia, SC.

Liturgist, Allen University Chapel Services

2015- Present

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Dickerson-Green Seminary at Allen University

Associate Professor of Church History

5/2017- Present

Allen University

Tenured Associate Professor

1/2014 – Present

Claflin University

Tenured Associate Professor

08/2004 – 05/2012

TEACHING COMPETENCIES - UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE

Introduction to Biblical Literature	Feminist and Womanist Ethics
Biblical Studies	Theological Ethics
Introduction to Theology	Womanist Social Ethics
Spiritual Growth and Development	Psychology of Religion
World Religions	History of the Black Church Experience
Women in World Religions	Church/Religious History

FELLOWSHIPS, ACADEMIC LECTURESHIP

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary – Benjamin E. Mays Fellow	9/1987 – 5/1989
University of Nevada – Las Vegas Women’s Studies Lecturer	9/2002 – 5/2003
Youth Theological Initiative, Emory University Guest Lecturer	6/2001 – 7/2001

PUBLICATIONS

Articles:

Meditation in the Sufi Tradition: Resources for Pastoral Theology, Journal of Pastoral Care, 2010

Books:

Dancin’ with the Beloved: Musing of the Inner Heart. Paradigm Shift Publications. 2005

Co-author, *You are the Jewel in the Stone*. Paradigm Shift Publications. 2004

The Jewel in the Stone. Paradigm Shift Publications. Second Edition 2005

PRESENTATIONS, SERMONS, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Presenter Annual Women’s Clergy Retreat	3/30/2022
Presenter - Is it Well with Your Soul? <i>Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention</i>	1/2020
Spiritual Guidance Consultant – Soul Food: Vegetarian Study University of South Carolina	1/2019 --Present

Presenter - Environmental Justice Institute, Allen University. <i>Millennials, Environmental Justice and the Garden of Eden.</i>	1/2019
Presenter - Images of God and Self-Awareness among College Students at HBCUs <i>Center for the Education and Equity of African American Students</i> (CEEAAAS) University of South Carolina	12/2019
Presenter - Self Identity and Self-Care <i>United Methodist Women South Carolina Annual Conference</i>	10/2019
Participant - Participant in the <i>More Justice Movement</i> housing, elder care, and community violence within a political context.	6/2019
Paper on "Sufi Tradition and the African American Religious Experience." Presented at the Society for the Study of Black Religion Annual Meeting.	4/2011
Sermon Presentation on "Abraham, Purpose, and Vocation." Presented at the First African Presbyterian Church.	8/2010
Paper on "Meditation in the Sufi Tradition: Resources for Women's Pastoral Counseling." Presented at the Society for Pastoral Theology Annual Meeting.	6/2010
Paper on "Women's Awareness and Images of Diversity." Presented at the Society for Pastoral Theology Annual Meeting.	6/2009
Paper on "God Images in Alice Walker's "The Color Purple." Presented at the University of Las Vegas and Nevada.	10/2002
Consultant - Youth Theological Initiative <i>Youth Theological Initiative at the Candler School of Theology</i> <i>at Emory University, Atlanta, GA.</i>	6/2002
Paper on "Spirituality, a Spiritual Path of Vocation." Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL, September 1999	9/1999
Paper on "Images of God among African-American Children." Presented at the 106th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association in San Francisco, CA,	8/1998

SHARED GOVERNANCE

Allen University	
Member – Faculty Grievance Committee Library Committee	8/2019 – Present
Mentor – Senior Class, Student Affairs	8/2019 – Present
Chair – Institutional Advancement Committee	8/2017 – Present

Team Member - SACSCOC on Substantial Change for the Dickerson- Green Seminary at Allen University (Principal Coordinator on Curriculum Development)	5/2017 – 8/2018
Member - Institutional Strategic Plan Member – IT Committee Coordinator and Administrator – Moodlerooms LMS Committee	5/2017 – 8/2019
Martin University	
Chair - Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Reaffirmation Accreditation Process	8/2012 - 6/2013
Member of President’s Committee on Higher education	8/2012 - 6/2013
Claflin University	
Member - SACS Review Committee	8/2011 - 5/2012
Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) SACS Re-accreditation process	8/2011 - 5/2012
Member - Homecoming Committee	8/2011 - 5/2012
Library Committee	8/2011 - 5/2012
Claflin University FASACIOA (Institutional Advancement) Committee	8/2011 - 5/2012
Member - FASACIOA Committee	8/2011 - 5/2012
Member - Assessment Committee	8/2009 - 5/2012
Member - African American Studies Curriculum Review Committee	8/2004 - 5/2005
Leader - Reorganization of Black Studies Program Committee	8/2004 - 5/2005
Member - Wellness Task Force Committee	8/2004 - 5/2005

PROFESSIONAL/CIVIC/SOCIAL MEMBERSHIPS

Board of Trustees	6/2022
South Carolina United Methodist Advocate Newspaper	
SACSCOC Committee	4/2019 – Present
Society for Pastoral Theology	
Steering Committee Member	2010-2011
Member	1997-Present
Society for the Study of Black Religion	
Ritual Elder	2010
Member	2008-Present
The American Academy of Religion	
Member	1997-Present

American Psychological Association
Division #36 Member
Member 1997-Present

The Association of Black Psychology
Chicago Chapter
Member 1997- Present

Zeta Phi Beta, Inc. 2001