

**SONNY E. KELLY**

[www.sonnykelly.com](http://www.sonnykelly.com)

**EDUCATION**

**PhD, UNC Chapel Hill**, North Carolina May 2020

Communication (Performance Studies), Advised by Renée Alexander Craft, PhD  
Dissertation: *Pipelines to Pathways: Reframing & Reclaiming Black Youth Identities through Performance*

**MA, St. Mary's University**, San Antonio, Texas, May 2008

Communication Studies, Advised by Alan Cirlin, PhD

**BA, Stanford University**, Palo Alto, California, June 1998

International Relations Major/Economics Minor. Latin American Development

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

- Instructor: *Intro to Interpersonal Communication, Intercultural Communication, and Public Speaking*, Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC) (2020 to present)
- Instructor for Cumberland County's Arts Council *Artists in Schools* (2017 to present)
- Graduate Instructor: *Intro to Performance of Culture* (2019), *Intro to Performance* (2018), *Intro to Performing Literature* (2018), UNC Chapel Hill
- Teaching Assistant, *Intro to Interpersonal Communication*, UNC Chapel Hill (2017)
- Teaching Assistant, *Performing African American History*, UNC Chapel Hill (2017)
- Teaching Assistant, *Introduction to Performance*, UNC Chapel Hill (2017)
- Teaching Assistant, *Intro to Media Production*, UNC Chapel Hill (2016)
- Facilitator of Self-Expression Workshops and Public Performances for youth, Boomerang Youth, Inc., Chapel Hill, NC & Find-A-Friend, Fayetteville, NC (2015 – 2019)
- Facilitator of Interactive Theater, *Theater Delta*, Durham, NC (2015 - present)
- Adjunct Instructor, *Public Speaking*, Robeson Community College, NC (2015 – 2016)
- Adjunct Instructor, *Public Speaking*, FTCC (Aug., 2015 – 2016)
- Adjunct Instructor, *Fundamentals of Speech & Communication*, Northeast Lakeview College, San Antonio, TX (Aug., 2008 - Dec.2011)
- Teaching Assistant, *Business and Professional Communication* (2005), *Fundamentals of Oral Communication* (Fall, 2006), St. Mary's University, TX
- Adjunct Instructor, *English as a Second Language*, FTCC Continuing Educ. (2003-2004)
- Adjunct Instructor, *Success & Study Skills*, FTCC (2003-2004)

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

- *The Ongoing Fight for Freedom: Stories of North Carolina's Black Veterans*, North Carolina Council for Social Studies (2024), UNC-Chapel Hill Digital & Lifelong Learning Black History Month Presentation (2024), Cumberland County Schools (2024)
- *Personally Connected Pedagogy*, Carolina Public Humanities Carolina K-12 (2021 – 2023), Carolina Central Teaching & Learning Hub (2022 – 2023), National Institute for Staff & Organizational Development (NISOD) (2021), North Carolina Community College System First Generation Symposium (2021), Rowan-Cabarrus Community College Growth, Understanding, Inclusion (2021), Diversity, & Equity (G.U.I.D.E.) Conference (2021)
- *Institute for Personally Connected Pedagogy*, North Carolina Community College System Conference (2024); FTCC Center for Faculty Development (2021-2023)

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (Cont'd)**

- *Dynamic Storytelling*, North Carolina Thespians Festival (2024), Delaware Community Health Workers Summit (2022)
- *Meeting Students Where They Are*, Carolina Communication Association (2021)
- *1770 to 2020: Race, Revolt & Resistance*, Carolina Public Humanities Carolina K-12
- *Storytelling for Resilience*, Franklin County Schools (2020)
- *Storytelling for Social Impact*, Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (2019)
- *Autoethnographic Engagements: Surviving with/in Scholarship* (panelist), NCA (2019)
- *Performatively Unpacking the Race Talk*, UNC Greensboro Free Speech Conf. (2021)
- *Trauma-Informed Performance-Based Intervention for Marginalized Youth*, 2018 NCA Annual Convention (Training and Development Division)
- *The Talk* performance at the 2018 NCA Annual Convention (African American Communication and Culture Division)
- *Aspiring Beyond the Achievement Gap: An Analytic Transformation in Education*, 2018 NCA Annual Convention (Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Unit) \**Top Paper*
- *Reframing "The Talk": Aesthetics of Resisting Negative Biotropes of Black Youth*, 2018 NCA Convention (Scholar to Scholar Unit)
- *Pipelines to Pathways: Empowering Marginalized Youth of Color Through Embodied Performance* at the Black Communities: A Conference for Collaboration, Duke University, April, 2018
- *From Sidekicks to Superheroes: The Importance of Positive Black Protagonists in the Development of Self-Concept for Youth of Color* NC State University's African American Cultural Center, 2018
- *Pipelines to Pathways: Empowering Marginalized Youth of Color Through Embodied Performance* at the Black Communities: A Conference for Collaboration, Duke University, 2018
- *The Power of Words: Storytelling for Non-Profits* at Action Pathways Annual Second Harvest Food Bank Partner Training, Fayetteville, NC, October, 2015
- *Winning the Dope Game: A Youth Workers' Guide to Combating the Draw of Sex, Drugs and Technology Among Teens* at the North Carolina Juvenile Services Agency Conference, Carolina Beach, NC. March 11, 2015

### **PUBLICATIONS**

- **"Getting the Message from Gen ME to Gen Z"**, *Up & Coming Weekly*, September 25, 2024
- **"Mental Health During COVID-19: Community-Based Arts Addressing African American Experiences"** by Marie A. Garlock, Eunice N. Sahle, Sonny E. Kelly, Michael S. Williams, and Stacey L. Kirby, in *African Public Interest Journal* (Volume 1, Spring 2023)
- **"SEL in History Class: Social and Emotional Learning in Context"** by Terrence McAllister & Sonny Kelly, in *The Journal of Social & Emotional Learning* (February 2022, Vol. 3, Issue 8)
- **"All Things Work Together"**, in *Be Encouraged by Black Men* (Ed. Jerrica Stovall) (2020)
- **"The Talk: Crucial Conversations for Contemporary Kids of Color in the New South"** for publication in the Fall 2019 special issue of *Southern Cultures*
- **"Mike Wiley is A Multi-Faceted Artist on a Mission for Social Change"** (November 2018), in *The Routledge Companion to African American Theatre and Performance*. Edited by Kathy A. Perkins, Sandra L. Richards, Renée Alexander Craft and Thomas F. DeFrantz.

## **INSTITUTIONAL GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS**

- NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Educator Award (2024)
- FTCC 2024 League of Excellence Award for Teaching
- FTCC SGA Students' Choice Mark Sorrells Leadership Award for Teaching (2023)
- National Institute for Staff & Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Award, 2022
- UNC Chapel Hill *Tanner Teaching Assistants Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching*, 2018
- National Institute for Staff & Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Award, 2022
- UNC Chapel Hill, Department of Communication, *Sherrill-Pence Award for Applied/ Engaged Communication*, 2019
- UNC Chapel Hill College of Arts & Sciences *Lamley Graduate Fellowship*, 2018-2019
- UNC Chapel Hill Initiative for Minority Excellence, *Chancellor's Doctoral Candidacy Award*, 2018
- UNC Chapel Hill *Tanner Teaching Assistants Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching*, 2018
- UNC Chapel Hill Department of Communication *Martha Nell Hardy Award for Outstanding Achievement in Teaching*, 2018
- UNC Chapel Hill *Student Undergraduate Teaching and Staff Award for Undergrad Teaching*, 2017
- UNC Chapel Hill *The Maynard Adams Fellowship for Public Humanities Fellow*, 2017-2018
- UNC Chapel Hill *Carolina Center for Public Service Community Engagement Fellow*, 2017
- UNC Chapel Hill *Institute of African Amer. Research Grad Student Summer Research Grant*, 2017
- UNC Chapel Hill *Graduate Certificate in Participatory Research Seed Grant*, summer 2016
- Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County *Regional Artist Project Grant*, 2016
- *FTCC Foundation, Inc. Award for community performances* 2016
- UNC Chapel Hill *Performing Arts Special Activity Grant*- community performance, 2015 – 2016
- UNC Chapel Hill *North Carolina Excellence Fellowship*, 2015 – 2016

## **PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE**

*Communication Instructor*, Fayetteville Technical Community College (March 2020 – present)

- Lead teacher for Interpersonal Communication, Intercultural Communication, & Public Speaking

*Actor, Writer, Director, Storyteller, Public Speaker & Facilitator* (1990 - present)

- Producer, writer, and facilitator of community/school/youth workshops and performances

*Director of Operations & Programs*, Fayetteville Urban Ministry (July 2012 -July 2015)

- Public speaker, advocate, and translator for non-profit industry and clients
- Trained, coached, and managed a staff of 13 employees and a budget of \$950,000

*Director, Find-A-Friend*, Fayetteville Urban Ministry (January 2012 – July 2012)

- Facilitated discussions, workshops and programming for marginalized youth
- Recruited and trained adult volunteers to become mentors and youth workers

*Director, Children & Youth Council*, New Creation Christian Fellowship (Sep 2009 –Dec 2011)

- Taught large groups of youth and young adults in character development and leadership
- Developed and implemented a plan to serve 400 K-12 youth with moral and emotional support

*Healthcare Representative*, Pfizer, Inc. (February 2006 – September 2009)

- Consistent excellent performance, recognized internationally for outstanding performance

*Admissions Counselor*, St. Mary's University, TX (May 2005 – February 2006)

- Conducted recruitment and orientation campaigns in Mexico, TX, LA and GA

*Coordinator, Governor's One-on-One*, Fayetteville Urban (January 2003 – June 2004)

- Recruited, trained, equipped, and supervised over 40 volunteers to mentor at-risk youth

*Air Force Intelligence Officer* (August, 1998 - December, 2002)

- Managed multiple personnel, research projects, and presentations to enhance war fighters' awareness