

CURRICULUM of GAIL MILISSA GRANT

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SUMMARY

In 2001, I retired from the United States Foreign Service after serving more than twenty years as a cultural and public affairs attaché. As a diplomat, I directed international public relations and cultural exchange programs, and recruited and led culturally diverse teams toward that end. I am fluent in French and Italian, and skilled in public speaking and Presidential press advance work. I began my professional career as an assistant professor of art and architectural history at Howard University in Washington, DC.

Writing, however, is my first love and I am now able to pursue it full-time while working as a freelance speaker. My primary writing project, a memoir on my family's impact on the early civil rights movement, was published by the Missouri History Museum in October 2008. It received two awards: the Benjamin Franklin Book of the Year 2009 (autobiography/memoir) and an Award of Merit from the American Association of State and Local History in 2010.

Since retiring, I have worked as a consultant for U.S. Embassies in Italy, France, Austria, and Morocco, traveling throughout these countries to address professors, students and the general public on my book and U.S. civil rights issues. In total, I have spoken before audiences at nearly eighty venues, including Oxford University, Columbia University, and the Smithsonian Institution, and have been interviewed on radio and television.

Besides discussing my writing, topics have included:

- “Antecedents to the Modern Civil Rights Movement”
- “The Pre-1954 Fight for Civil Rights”
- “Black History: Recapturing My Heritage”
- “Contemporary Issues in Black America”
- “The Use of Primary Resource Materials in Writing Memoir”