

# ABOUT Giles Wilkeson Gray

**LSU**  
Department of  
Communication Studies

The late **Giles Wilkeson Gray**, professor emeritus of the Department of Speech at LSU, was born in Shelbyville, Indiana, on December 11, 1889. He received a B.A. from DePauw University in 1914, an M.A. from the University of Wisconsin in 1923, and a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in 1926.

After teaching at the University of Illinois and the University of Iowa, Gray came to the Department of Speech at LSU, where he remained until his retirement in 1960. He held visiting professorships at the University of Wisconsin, the University of Georgia, St. Louis University, and the University of California, Berkeley.

Gray was active in the Speech Association of America. He was a member of the council of the association from 1938 to 1944, editor of the *Quarterly Journal of Speech* from 1939 to 1941, and served as president of the Southern Speech Association from 1936 to 1937.

One of Gray's important contributions to the speech association was completion of the 50-year index to the *Quarterly Journal of Speech* and *Speech Monographs*. He published original scholarship in speech science, public address, speech education, parliamentary law, and linguistics.

While at LSU, Gray coauthored-with C. M. Wise the widely recognized *Bases of Speech* and with Waldo W. Braden-*Public Speaking: Principles and Practice*. He brought to his classes a broad knowledge of speech and its place in democratic society. In 1932 Gray established one of the early laboratories in speech science and experimental phonetics. He directed 37 theses and 14 dissertations.

Gray died August 27, 1972. His teaching and scholarship extended far beyond the department at LSU. As few others have done, he shaped an entire professional field, expanding its knowledge, directing its focus, and endowing its permanent values.

## Giles Wilkeson Gray Lecture Series

Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, LA

March 12, 2025  
4:30 PM

Hill Memorial Library  
Lecture Hall



# Communicating Across the Boundaries of Death

In his presentation for the 2025 Giles Wilkeson Gray Lecture, Bryant Keith Alexander draws from his work on epistolary and family auto/ethnography. The presentation will be a mixture of theorizing on autoethnography as a means of critically examining lived experience and communicating with the dead through performance and performative writing.

Bryant Keith Alexander, Ph.D. is dean of the College of Communication and Fine Arts at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA. He is Professor of Communication, Performance, Gender (Queer) and Cultural Studies. He is author of over 200 scholarly publications and the author, coauthor, or coeditor of nine books including Epistolary Autoethnographies on Loss, Memory and Resolution: Reflections on Black Motherhood (February 2025), and co-author of Black Poetic Inquiry: A Daily Writing Project on Race, Culture, and Life (March 2025).



**Bryant Keith Alexander**  
**PhD. Southern Illinois University**

**Dean, Professor**

College of Communication and Fine Arts  
Loyola Marymount University

<b>1985</b> Franklyn S. Haiman <i>Northwestern University</i>	<b>1997</b> James McCroskey <i>West Virginia University</i>	<b>2009</b> Peter Andersen <i>San Diego State University</i>
<b>1986</b> George A. Kennedy <i>University of North Carolina</i>	<b>1998</b> Barbara Warnick <i>University of Washington</i>	<b>2010</b> Robert Cox <i>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>
<b>1987</b> Bruce E. Gronbeck <i>University of Iowa</i>	<b>1999</b> Brant Burleson <i>Purdue University</i>	<b>2011</b> Tim Miller <i>Internationally acclaimed performance artist</i>
<b>1988</b> Thomas O. Sloane <i>University of California, Berkeley</i>	<b>2000</b> Paul Gray <i>University of Texas</i>	<b>2012</b> Charles R. Berger <i>University of California-Davis</i>
<b>1989</b> Kathleen Hall Jamieson <i>University of Texas at Austin</i>	<b>2001</b> Ronald H. Carpenter <i>University of Florida</i>	<b>2013</b> Deidre McCloskey <i>University of Illinois at Chicago</i>
<b>1990</b> Lloyd F. Bitzer <i>University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>	<b>2002</b> Howard Giles <i>University of California-Santa Barbara</i>	<b>2014</b> Leslie A. Baxter <i>University of Iowa</i>
<b>1991</b> Charles Guggenheim <i>Guggenheim Productions, Inc.</i>	<b>2003</b> Della Pollock <i>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>	<b>2015</b> Carole Blair <i>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>
<b>1992</b> Beverly Whitaker Long <i>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>	<b>2004</b> Karlyn Kohrs Campbell <i>University of Minnesota</i>	<b>2016</b> Charles E. Morris III <i>Syracuse University</i>
<b>1993</b> George Gerbner <i>The Annenberg School of Communication</i>	<b>2005</b> Mary Frances HopKins <i>Louisiana State University</i>	<b>2017</b> Michael Roloff <i>Northwestern University</i>
<b>1994</b> Robert Ivie <i>Indiana University</i>	<b>2006</b> Linda Putman <i>Texas A&amp;M University</i>	<b>2018</b> Richard Schechner <i>New York University</i>
<b>1995</b> Robert M. O'Neil <i>Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression</i>	<b>2007</b> Robert Hariman <i>Northwestern University</i>	<b>2019</b> Raka Shome <i>National University of Singapore</i>
<b>1996</b> Richard Leo Enos <i>Texas Christian University</i>	<b>2008</b> Philip Auslander <i>Georgia Institute of Technology</i>	<b>2024</b> Denise Haunani Solomon <i>Penn State University</i>

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