

ABOUT Giles Wilkeson Gray

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.

LSU

Department of
Communication Studies

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

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

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