

Rhondda Robinson Thomas

Rhondda Robinson Thomas, Ph.D., '78, is an Associate Professor of African American Literature in the College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities at Clemson University. Dr. Thomas earned her Ph.D. in English from the University of Maryland and also holds master's degrees in Literature and Journalism, and a bachelor's degree in Communication/Media Journalism.

Rhondda's research and teaching interests are in 19th-century African American literature and culture, politics of black identity, autobiographical scholarship, African American literature and the Bible, race and culture studies, African American historiography, migration narratives, and African American women writers.

Dr. Thomas's published works and funded research are extensive. Her writings and research have appeared in journals such as *Southern Quarterly*, *South Carolina Review*, and *African American Review*. She has written and edited books on African American thought and culture, as well as edited scholarly volumes, monographs, and anthologies. Her more recent sponsored research has focused primarily on African Americans in the history of Clemson University. Her work, *Black Clemson*, will utilize an interactive traveling museum exhibit to share the stories of six generations of African Americans who were subjected to enslavement, coercion, or discrimination yet developed their own cultural practices and community institutions.

Dr. Thomas's heart for young people is evident in her personal interactions with her students, as well as the broader Clemson community. She invests herself generously in the lives of others in many ways, including a recent visit to GCA to inspire and encourage our students.

Rhondda and her brothers, Donald, '77, and Carlton, '82, graduated from Georgia-Cumberland Academy and have gone on to successful careers in academia, banking, and law, respectively. Rhondda is married to her "beloved husband of 18 years," William Thomas, who is a computer network architect.

In her spare time, Rhondda actively volunteers in church ministries that support families in difficult life transitions, as well as volunteering in the church's community garden, serving on the health committee, and working with the education department to develop programs for students and young adults. She enjoys travel, visiting historical sites, reading, watching documentaries, cooking vegan food, running, iPhone photography, and gardening.

