

VITA

MARCELLUS MONTE MERRITT

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EDUCATION:

- 1992 B.A. in Psychology, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHARLOTTE, Charlotte, North Carolina.
- 1994 M.S. in Psychology, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT SANTA CRUZ, Program in Psychology, Santa Cruz, California. Major in Social Psychology.
- 1997 Ph.D. in Psychology, HOWARD UNIVERSITY, Department of Psychology, Washington, DC. Major in social psychology. Dissertation: "The Relationships of Spirituality, John Henryism, Daily Hassles, and Sociodemographic Variables to Self-Reported Somatic Symptoms for African-American College Students". Chairman: Dr. A. Wade Boykin.

EMPLOYMENT:

- July 2006 – Present: Assistant Professor, Psychology Department, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MILWAUKEE, Milwaukee, WI.
- August 2005 – May 2006: Visiting Assistant Professor, Psychology Department, CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY, Cleveland, OH.
- September 2000 to August 2005: Intramural Research Training Fellow, Laboratory of Personality and Cognition, Gerontology Research Center, NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON AGING, Baltimore, MD.
- July 1997 to July 2000: Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Behavioral Medicine Research Center, Department of Psychiatry, DUKE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER, Durham, N. C.

May - June 1997: Assistant Professor, Psychology Department, HOWARD UNIVERSITY, Washington, D. C.

December 1995 - May 1997: Project Administrator/Research Assistant, Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs, AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, Washington, D. C.

August 1995 - June 1997: Graduate Research Assistant, HOWARD UNIVERSITY, Minority Biomedical Research Support program, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Washington, D. C.

March - May 1994: Teaching Assistant, Department of Psychology, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT SANTA CRUZ, Santa Cruz, California.

September - December 1993: Instructor, Kresge College, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT SANTA CRUZ, Santa Cruz, California.

September - December 1993: Graduate Student Preceptor, Porter College Housing, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT SANTA CRUZ, Santa Cruz, California.

May - August 1993: Research Internship, Bayview-Hunter's Point Foundation, Treatment Research Unit, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT SAN FRANCISCO, San Francisco, California.

January - May 1992: Research Internship, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHARLOTTE, Community Relations Commission, Charlotte, North Carolina.

HONORS AND AWARDS:

2008- Center Scientist, Self-Management Science Center (SMSC), University Of Wisconsin Milwaukee College of Nursing

NOTE. In October 2008, I was invited to become a member of the Center. As part of the Center, I have to perform research and/or services related to self-management of medical conditions.

2008 Center on Aging and Community (CAC) Travel award (for poster presentation at the 2008 Gerontological Society of America meeting). Title of presentation: *John Henryism active coping and diurnal salivary cortisol patterns among diverse female dementia family caregivers.*

2008 Scholar, Summer Institute Program to Increase Diversity (SIPID) National Heart , Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) Grant Mentoring Program for Cardiovascular Health Disparities: Brooklyn, New York. Title of proposal: ***Maximizing Diagnosis and Treatment for diverse Alzheimer's/dementia Caregivers: Finding Relevant Behavioral and Psychophysiological Mechanisms.***

NOTE. In April 2008, I was invited by the NLHBI to become one of nine young scholars in the Cardiovascular Health Disparities program. The main goal of the program is to provide scholars with in-depth training and access to the NIH grant submission/review process and to cutting-edge research on cardiovascular health disparities. I attended the first part of the training program at SUNY-Brooklyn this past summer and will attend the second part next summer.

Primary mentor

- **Rhonda Montgomery, Ph.D.** – University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, Applied Gerontology Program, Center on Age and Community, Director

Secondary mentor

- **Mark Sagar, M.D.** –Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute, Director

SIPID program mentor(s)

- **Jason Lazar, M.D.**, SUNY-Brooklyn Downstate Medical Center, Cardiology program

2008 Alternate, African-American Mental Health Research Scientist (AAMHRS) NIMH B-Start Mentoring Program: Athens, Georgia. Title of proposal: *Study of cardiovascular aging, psychosocial stress, and coping among diverse age-related disease caregivers in Milwaukee.*

2007 Center on Aging and Community (CAC) Travel award (for poster presentation at the 2008 Society of Behavioral Medicine meeting). Title of presentation: *John Henryism, active coping and diurnal salivary cortisol patterns among African- American and European-American female dementia family caregivers.*

- 2003 Recipient, Nathan Shock Postdoctoral Poster Award. National Institute on Aging Intramural Scientific Retreat: Baltimore, Maryland.
- 2002 Clinical Science Fellows Representative, Gerontology Research Center, National Institute on Aging, Intramural Research Program: Baltimore, Maryland.
- 2001 Recipient, Nathan Shock Postdoctoral Poster Award. National Institute on Aging Intramural Scientific Retreat: Baltimore, Maryland.
- 1995 Recipient, Trustee Scholarship, Howard University, Washington, D. C.
- 1992 Recipient, three-year Minority Fellowship from the American Psychological Association, Washington, D. C.
- 1992 Recipient, Graduate Opportunity Fellowship, University of California at Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, California.
- 1992 Recipient, Tuition Fellowship, University of California at Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, California.
- 1991 Chancellor's List, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, N.C.
- 1991 Dean's List, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, N.C.
- 1991 Psi Chi Honor Society, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, N.C.
- 1991 Golden Key Honor Society, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, N.C.
- 1986 Recipient, Omega Psi Phi Scholarship from Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Shelby, N.C.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS:

Expert Reviewer, National Institute on Aging (NIA) program project (P01) grant submission. July 2008.

Ad hoc reviewer for the professional journal: Journal of the National Medical Association, 2003 to present.

Ad hoc reviewer for the professional journal: Psychology and Aging, 2001 to present.

Ad hoc reviewer for the professional journal: Annals of Behavioral Medicine, 2001 to present.

Ad hoc reviewer for the professional journal: Psychosomatic Medicine, 2001 to present. (*high impact factor = 4.60*)

Ad hoc reviewer for the professional journal: American College of Cardiology, 1999 to present. (*high impact factor = 3.10*)

Ad hoc reviewer for the professional journal: Journal of Behavioral Medicine, 2005.

Ad hoc reviewer of applications for American Psychological Association Minority fellowships, 2001 to present.

Ad hoc reviewer for the professional journal: Health Psychology, 1999, 2002.

Reviewer of abstracts for annual meetings of the Society of Behavioral Medicine and American Psychosomatic Society, 2004 to present.

American Psychosomatic Society (APS), Member, 1999 to present.

Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM), Member, 1996 to present.

Gerontological Society of America (GSA), Member, 2007 to present.

Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA), Member, 2007 to present.

RESEARCH GRANTS:

“TimeSlips: Impact on Physiological Outcomes in Persons with Alzheimer’s disease in Nursing Homes.” Co-PIs: Thomas Fritsch, Anne Basting, Marcellus M. Merritt. American Health Assistance Foundation grant application mechanism. Submitted 10/20/08. \$400,000/3 years.

NOTE. This research clinical trial will examine how nursing home patients with dementia respond to a 12-week storytelling intervention by measuring resting blood pressure, daily salivary cortisol/DHEA and cognitive function across the protocol.

“Psychosocial Factors in Stress Response study” with UWM students. PI: Marcellus M. Merritt. UWM Start-up funds. 2006-2009. \$95,000.

NOTE: We have run 25 (half African-American) participants through the protocol which includes: an online survey, two lab visits for cardiovascular reactivity measures, and field measures of saliva on class and exam days for neuroendocrine function.

“Reducing the Stigma of Depression in African Americans.” National Institute of Mental Health. PI: Jonathan Kanter, Role: Co-Investigator, 2007, (PAR-04-112). R01 application (PA-06-154). Submitted 2/5/07. (currently under second review).

NOTE. This field-based study will include focus groups, surveys, and in-home interviews to assess how African-Americans at risk for depression deal with stress in their lives and what types of interventions they perceive as effective. Project has helped me get entrée into community health research networks.

“Wavelet Transform and Pharmacodynamics Anyalysis of Atropine and Propanalol-Induced Changes in Human Heart Rate Variability.” National Institute on Aging. PI: Darrell R. Abernethy, Role: Co-Investigator, 2003-2005.

NOTE. This experimental study tested variation in heart rate response to pharmacological intervention and tilt table stress for diverse populations of adults.

“Attentional and Affective Regulation in the Elderly.” National Institute on Aging (NIA) Intramural grant. PI: Julian F. Thayer, Role: Co-Investigator, 2000-2005.

NOTE. This experimental study tested cardiovascular responses to mental and physical stress among diverse populations of adults in national longitudinal studies aging and health.

PUBLISHED ARTICLES:

O'Connell-Edwards, C., Edwards, C.L., Pearce, M., Wachholtz, A.B., Wood, M., Muhammad, M., Leach-Beale, B., Shelby, R., McDougald, C., Harrison, M.O., Feliu, M., Edwards, L., Whitfield, K.E., Merritt, M., Wellington, C., Byrd, G., Edmonds, H., Robinson, E. (2009). Religious Coping and Pain Associated With Sickle Cell Disease: Exploration of a Non-linear Model. *Journal of African American Studies*, 13, 1, 1-13.

NOTE: *Results from this study extend current research on the stress-buffering role of religiosity in pain among Sickle Cell Disease patients by showing how moderate levels of religiosity predict more lower pain reporting than extreme levels.*

Merritt, M. M., Bennett, G. G., Edwards, C. L., & Whitfield, K. E. (in press). Perceived racism and cardiovascular reactivity and recovery to stress among Black men: Potential psychosocial mechanisms. *Journal of Minority Issues and Economic Development: Special Issue on Men*.

NOTE: *Results from this study were referenced in the July 15, 2007 Sunday edition of the Boston Globe newspaper (based in part on a phone interview with Dr. Merritt). Results from this study were cited in an article in the May 10, 2007 edition of the Medscape Psychiatry and Mental Health online journal.*

Sollers, J. J. III, Yonezawa, Y., Silver, R., Merritt, M., & Thayer, J. F. (in press). An ambulatory recording system for the assessment of heart-rate variability across multiple days. *SPIE*.

Sollers, J. J. III, Merritt, M. M., Silver, R. A., Sadle, T. N., Ferrucci, L., & Thayer, J. F. (2006). Comparison of arterial compliance indices derived via beat-to-beat blood pressure waveforms: aging and ethnicity. *Biomedical Sciences Instrumentation*, 42: 518-23.

Merritt, M. M., Bennett, G. G., Williams, R. B., Edwards, C. L., & Sollers, J. J. III (2006). Perceived racism and cardiovascular reactivity and recovery to personally-relevant stress. *Health Psychology*, 25, 3: 364-9.

Whitfield, K. E., Brandon, D. T., Robinson, E., Bennett, G., Merritt, M., & Edwards, C. (2006). Sources of variability in John Henryism. *Journal of the National Medical Association*, 98, 4: 641-7.

Sollers, J. J. III, Silver, R. A., Merritt, M. M., Evans, M. K., Zonderman, A. B., & Thayer, J. F. (2005). Understanding blood pressure variability: spectral indices as a function of gender and age. *Biomedical Sciences Instrumentation*, 41: 43-47.

Bennett, G. G., Merritt, M. M., & Wolin, K. Y. (2004). Ethnicity, education, and the cortisol response to awakening: A preliminary investigation. *Ethnicity and Health*, 9, 4: 337-47.

Bennett, G. G. Jr., Merritt, M. M., Sollers, J. J. III, Edwards, C. L., Whitfield, K. E., Brandon, D. T., & Tucker, R. D. (2004). Stress, coping, and health outcomes among African-Americans: A review of the John Henryism hypothesis. *Psychology and Health*, 19, 3: 369-83.

Mager, D. E., Merritt, M. M., Kasturi, J., Witkin, L. R., Urdiqui-MacDonald, M., Sollers, J. J. III, Evans, M. K., Zonderman, A. B., Abernethy, D. R. & Thayer, J. F. (2004, March). Kullback-Leibler clustering of continuous wavelet transform measures of heart rate variability. *Biomedical Sciences Instrumentation*, 40: 337-342.

Bennett, G. G. Jr., Merritt, M. M., Edwards, C. L., & Sollers, J. J. III. (2004, March). Perceived racism and affective responses to ambiguous interpersonal interactions among African-American men. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 47, 7: 963-976.

Merritt, M. M., Bennett, G. G. Jr., Williams, R. B., Sollers, J. J. III, & Thayer, J. F. (2004, January). Low educational attainment, John Henryism and cardiovascular reactivity and recovery to personally-relevant stress. *Psychosomatic Medicine*, 66, 1: 49-55.

Thayer, J. F., Merritt, M. M., Sollers, J. J. III, Zonderman, A. B., Evans, M. K., Yie, S., & Abernethy, D. R. (2003, December). Effect of angiotensin-converting enzyme insertion/deletion polymorphism DD genotype on high-frequency heart rate variability in African-Americans. *American Journal of Cardiology*, 92: 1487-1490.

Terracciano, A., Merritt, M. M., Zonderman, A. B., & Evans, M. K. (2003, December). Personality traits and sex differences in emotion recognition among African-Americans and Caucasians. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 1000: 309-312.

Merritt, M. M., Sollers, J. J. III, Evans, M. K., Zonderman, A. B. & Thayer, J. F. (2003, April). Relationships among spectral measures of baroreflex sensitivity and indices of cardiac vagal control. *Biomedical Sciences Instrumentation*, 39: 193-198.

Sollers, J. J. III, Ahern, G. L., Merritt, M. M., & Thayer, J. F. (2002, April). Time frequency analysis of the cardiovascular response during the intracarotid amobarbital test. *Biomedical Sciences Instrumentation*, 38: 267-271.

Harrell, J. P., Merritt, M. M., & Kalu, J. (1998). Racism, stress and disease. African-American Mental Health. In R. Jones, (Ed.), (pp. 247-280). Cobb & Henry: Hampton, VA.

Merritt, M. M. (1997). Training Capacity Grants for the recruitment, retention, and training of psychologists of color at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Communique: Public Interest Directorate, Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs, American Psychological Association. February, 44-47.

Merritt, M. M. (1996). APA launches Training Capacity Grants for the recruitment, retention, and training of psychologists of color in Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Communique: Public Interest Directorate, Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs, American Psychological Association. February, 13-14.

Merritt, M. M. (1996). APA awards Training Capacity Grants to three departments of psychology at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Communique: Public Interest Directorate, Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs, American Psychological Association. July, 25-26.

PEER REVIEWED PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS:

Merritt, M. M., Edwards, C. L., Bennett, G. G., Koenig, H. G., & Abdullah, M. (2008, March). A non-linear role of religiosity in cardiovascular reactivity to personally-relevant stress?: The moderating role of educational attainment. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, 35 (2008 Supplement): p. S127.

Merritt, M. M., McCallum, T. J., & Fritsch, T. (2008, March). John Henryism, active coping and diurnal salivary cortisol patterns among African- American and European-American female dementia family caregivers. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, 35 (2008 Supplement- Rapid Communication): p. 68-69.

Edwards, C.L., Johnson, S., Bennett, G.G., Wood, M., DeCastro, L., Feliu, M., Harrison, M.O., Robinson, E., Merritt, M., & Whitfield, K. (April, 2005). High effort coping (JH), chronic pain and morbidity in patients with sickle cell disease (SCD). *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, 29 (2005 Supplement): p. S26.

Merritt, M. M., Bennett, G. G. Jr., Sollers, J. J. III, Thayer, J. F., & Edwards, C. L. (2005, April). John Henryism and cardiovascular risk: Potential behavioral and psychosocial mechanisms. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, 29 (2005 Supplement): p. S141.

Merritt, M. M., Sollers, J. J. III, Evans, M. K., Zonderman, A. B., Abernethy, D. R. & Thayer, J. F. (2005, March). Endothelial nitric oxide synthase and angiotension converting enzyme I/D polymorphisms genotypes and resting heart rate variability among African Americans. *Psychosomatic Medicine*, 2005 Supplement.

Merritt, M. M., Sollers, J. J. III, Evans, M. K., Zonderman, A. B., & Thayer, J. F. (2005, March). Hypertension and reduced autonomic response to affective stimuli among African American adults. *Psychosomatic Medicine*, 2005 Supplement.

Anokhin, A., Sollers, J. J. III, Silver, R., Merritt, M. M., & Thayer, J. F. (2005, March). Heritability of heart rate variability in young women. *Psychosomatic Medicine*, 2005 Supplement.

Merritt, M. M., Jonassaint, C., Sollers, J. J. III, Evans, M. K., Zonderman, A. B., & Thayer, J. F. (2005, March). An interaction between Neuroticism and Agreeableness predicts vascular responses to affective stimuli among African-American adults. *Psychosomatic Medicine*, 2005 Supplement.

Merritt, M. M., Sollers, J. J. III, Evans, M. K., Zonderman, A. B., Abernethy, D. R. & Thayer, J. F. (2004, October). Endothelial nitric oxide synthase genotypes and total peripheral resistance at recovery from perception of affect among African Americans: Gender differences. *Psychophysiology*, 41 (Supplement 1): p. S94.

Merritt, M. M., Sollers, J. J. III, Evans, M. K., Zonderman, A., & Thayer, J. F. (2004, June). Ethnic differences in cardiovascular response to emotional stimuli. *Ethnicity and Disease*, 14, 4 (2004 Supplement): p. S2-53.

Sollers, J. J. III, Merritt, M. M., Evans, M. K., Zonderman, A., Abernethy, D. R., & Thayer, J. F. (2004, April). Depressive symptomology and heart rate variability in African-Americans: Gender differences. *Psychosomatic Medicine*, 66 (2004 Supplement): p. 50.

DeBlasio, K. L., Silver, R. A., Merritt, M. M., Sollers, J. J. III, & Thayer, J. F. (2004, March). Cardiovascular reactivity to perception of affect among older adults. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, 27 (2004 Supplement): p. S72.

Merritt, M. M., Sollers, J. J. III, Evans, M. K., Zonderman, A. B. & Thayer, J. F. (2003, October). Depression and autonomic and vascular responses to affective stimuli among older African-American adults. *Psychophysiology*, 40 (Supplement 1): p. S59.

Merritt, M. M., Bennett, G. G. Jr., Williams, R. B., Sollers, J. J. III, & Thayer, J. F. (2003, March). Low educational attainment, John Henryism and cardiovascular reactivity and recovery to personally-relevant stress. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, 25 (2003 Supplement): p. S30.

Yie, S., Merritt, M., Sollers, J. J., Nie, Z., Zonderman, A., Evans, M., Abernethy, D., & Thayer, J. (2003, October). Effect of angiotensin-converting enzyme I/D polymorphisms on heart rate variability in a community based African-American sample. *Gerontologist*, 42 (1): p. 132.

Bennett, G. G. Jr., Merritt, M. M., Edwards, C. L., & Williams, R. B. (2002, April). Ethnicity moderates the relation between depression and cortisol secretion. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, 24 (2002 Supplement): p. S104.

Tsai, J. L., Roberts, N., Brown, L., Merritt, M., & Harrell, J. (2002). What has psychophysiology revealed about ethnicity and emotion? *Psychophysiology*, 39 (Supplement 1): p. S8.

Merritt, M. M., Abernethy, D. R., Evans, M. K. Sollers, J. J. III, Zonderman, A. B. & Thayer, J. F. (2002, October). Cardiovascular reactivity to perception of affect among older African-American adults. *Psychophysiology*, 40 (Supplement 1): p. S59-S60.

Bennett, G. G. Jr., Merritt, M. M., Edwards, C. L., & Williams, R. B. (2002, April). Ethnicity moderates the relation between depression and cortisol secretion. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, 24 (2002 Supplement): p. S104.

Merritt, M. M., Abernethy, D. R., Evans, M. K. Sollers, J. J. III, Zonderman, A. B. & Thayer, J. F. (2002, April). Autonomic and vascular responses to affective stimuli among older African-American adults. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, 24 (2002 Supplement): p. S103.

Merritt, M. M., Bennett, G. G. Jr., & Williams, R. B. (2002, April). Subtle racism and elevated cardiovascular reactivity among Black males. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, 24 (2002 Supplement): p. S18.

Murphy, R. A., Bennett, G. G. Jr., Merritt, M. M., Noll, A. R., Merritt, M. M. (2002, April). Hostility in African-American adults may be related to low socioeconomic status in early life. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, 24 (2002 Supplement): p. S75.

Merritt, M. M., Abernethy, D. R., Evans, M. K. Sollers, J. J. III, Zonderman, A. B. & Thayer, J. F. (2001, November). The effect of emotionally salient sentences and faces on the cardiovascular responses of a community-based African-American sample. *Psychophysiology*, 38 (Supplement 1): p. S66.

Merritt, M. M., Bennett, G. G. Jr., & Williams, R. B. (2001, January). Low hostility and high state negative affect are linked with elevated blood pressure responses to mental stress in Black males. *Psychosomatic Medicine*, 63 (1): p. 117.

Killough, A. L., Edwards, C. L., Drewes, D., Bennett, G., & Merritt, M. (2000, November). Psycho-socio-behavioral systems models: Measures that reflect cultural differences. *International Journal of Behavioral Medicine*, 21, (Supplement). 1, pg. 113.

Bennett, G. G. Jr., Merritt, M. M., Edwards, C. L., & Killough, A. (2000, January). Hostility buffers cortisol responses to stress in African-American males with low social support. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, 22 (Supplement): p. 7.

Bennett, G. G. Jr., Merritt, M. M., & Williams, R. B. (2000, January). The effects of John Henryism and job control on cortisol responses to stress. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, 22 (Supplement): p. 7. *Abstract accepted for press release.*

Merritt, M. M., Bennett, G. G. Jr., & Williams, R. B. (2000, January). John Henryism, low educational attainment, and cardiovascular reactivity to stress. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, 22 (Supplement): p. 141.

Merritt, M. M., Bennett, G. G. Jr., & Williams, R. B. (2000, January). Religiosity enhances cardiovascular reactivity among Black males with low education. *Psychosomatic Medicine*, 62 (1): p. 139.

Merritt, M. M., Bennett, G. G. Jr., & Williams, R. B. (2000, January). Subtle racism enhances cardiovascular reactivity to stress among Black males with low education. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, 22 (Supplement): p. 141.

Murphy, R. A., Bennett, G. G. Jr., Merritt, M. M., & Williams, R. B. (2000, January). Dissonance between childhood and adult socioeconomic status alters cortisol responsivity to stress. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, 22 (Supplement): p. 142.

Brummet, B. H., Lane, J. D., Merritt, M., Sheaks, J., Siegler, I. C., & Barefoot, J. C. (1999, January). Cardiovascular reactivity is associated with induced anger and depressive affect. *Psychosomatic Medicine*, 61 (1): p. 115.

Merritt, M. M. & Harrell, J. P. (1998, January). The relationships of somatic symptoms with coping strategies, life satisfaction, and daily hassles. *Psychosomatic Medicine*, 60 (1): p. 114.

PAPERS IN PREPARATION:

Merritt, M. M., McCallum, T. J., & Fritsch, T. John Henryism active coping positively predicts dysregulated diurnal salivary cortisol patterns among African American female dementia family caregivers. *Paper submitted to the Journals of Gerontology: Psychological and Social Sciences.*

Merritt, M. M., Bennett, G. G., Edwards, C. L., Koenig, H. G., Whitfield, K. E., McDougald, C., Kulland, A. M., & Abdullah, M. For Church and Money: Impact of religiosity and socioeconomic status on cardiovascular autonomic control in African American Men. *Paper submitted to the Annals of Behavioral Medicine.*

Merritt, M. M., Bennett, G. G. & Thayer, J. F. Affect in cardiovascular reactivity as a function of sympathetic functioning in African Americans. In *The Handbook and Behavioral Medicine and Diversity: Understanding Issues of Disease in Diverse Populations*. C. L. Edwards, Editor.

Cacioppo, J. T., Merritt, M. M., Evans, M. K., Sollers, J. J. III, Zonderman, A. B., Thayer, J. F., & Anderson, N. B. Loneliness, perception of affect (PAT), and elevated vascular resistance in a community-based African-American sample.

Merritt, M. M., Sollers, J. J. III, Evans, M. K., Zonderman, A. B., Abernethy, D. R., Thayer, J. F. & Anderson, N. B. Endothelial nitric oxide synthase genotypes and total peripheral resistance at recovery from perception of affect among African Americans: Gender differences.

Merritt, M. M., Sollers, J. J. III, Evans, M. K., Zonderman, A. B., Thayer, J. F., & Anderson, N. B. Ethnic differences in cardiovascular response and recovery to perception of affect.

Merritt, M. M., Evans, M. K., Sollers, J. J. III, Zonderman, A. B., Thayer, J. F., McCubbin, J. & Anderson, N. B. Elevated cardiovascular responses at baseline predict reduced emotion recognition in a community-based African-American sample.

Bennett, G. G. Jr., Merritt, M. M., Edwards, C. L., Sollers, J. J. III & Williams, R. B. Biological alterations associated with occupational stress: I. High effort coping, job demands, and the cortisol response to awakening.

Jackson, B., Bennett, G. G. Jr., Merritt, M. M. & Edwards, C. L. The role of experimenter race effects in behavioral medicine outcomes.

Merritt, M. M. & Harrell, J. P. The stress-buffering and stress-enhancing roles of racial identity, spirituality, John Henryism, and academic adjustment among Black college students.

Killough, A., Edwards, C. L., Merritt, M. M., Bennett, G. G. Jr., & Drewes, D. Bio-psycho-socio-behavioral structures: Cultural antecedents to essential hypertension in African-American males.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS:

Merritt, M. M., McCallum, T. J., & Fritsch, T. (March, 2009). How Much Striving is too Much? John Henryism Active Coping Predicts Worse Diurnal Salivary Cortisol Patterns for Burdened African-American Female Dementia Family Caregivers. Poster accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the American Psychosomatic Society: Chicago, IL.

Merritt, M. M., Bennett, G. G., Edwards, C. L., Koenig, H. G., Whitfield, K. E., McDougald, C., Kulland, A. M., & Abdullah, M. (March, 2009). For Church and Money: Impact of Religiosity and Socioeconomic Status on Cardiovascular Responses in African American Men. Poster accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the American Psychosomatic Society: Chicago, IL.

Killough, A. L., Edwards, C. L., Russell, W., Robinson, E., Merritt, M., et al. (November, 2008). Does Culture Matter - Structural Systems Framework Using Underlying Construct Analysis to Conceptualize and Evaluate Approaches to Risk Reduction and HIV Prevention Intervention among Minorities. Health Equality: Honoring Culture While Closing the Gap. 2008 OMMH National Health Disparities Conference, Prior Lake, MN.

Merritt, M. M., McCallum, T. J., & Fritsch, T. (2008, November). John Henryism active coping and diurnal salivary cortisol patterns among diverse female dementia family caregivers. Poster presented at the 2008 meeting of the Gerontological Society of America: National Harbor, MD. (see CAC Travel award above)

Edwards, C. L., Pells, J., Merritt, M., Robinson, E., Johnson, S., Bennett, G. G., James, S. A., DeCasto, L., & Whitfield, K. (2008, September). The effects of John Henryism (JH) on weight and functionality in African Americans with Sickle Cell Disease (SCD). Paper presented at the 2008 annual meeting of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America (SCDAA): New Orleans, LA.

Wellington, C., Edwards C. L., Feliu, M., Wood, M., McDougald, C., Whitfield, K., Decastro, L., Byrd, G., Robinson, E., Harrison, M. O., Pells, J., Leach-Beale, B., Mathis, M., Merritt, M., Whitworth, E., Abrams, M., Edwards, L., Pritchette, P., O'Garro, K., Jonassaint, J., McNeil, J., Cobb, A., Logue, P., Raynor, R. D. (August, 2008). Psychosocial contributors to Sickle Cell Disease (SCD): A Genetic Disorder. Poster presented at Southeastern Regional Genetics Group (SERGG): Charleston, SC.

Abdullah, M., Merritt, M. M. (2008, May). Religiosity predicts reduced cardiovascular and neuroendocrine reactivity to personally-relevant stress: Yet only at high education levels. Poster presented at the 2008 meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association: Chicago, IL.

Merritt, M. M. (2008, May). John Henryism active coping, educational attainment, and cardiovascular and neuroendocrine reactivity to personally-relevant stress: The unusual role of hostility. Poster presented at the 2008 meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association: Chicago, IL.

Merritt, M. M., Edwards, C. L., Bennett, G. G., Koenig, H. G., & Abdullah, M. (2008, March). A non-linear role of religiosity in cardiovascular reactivity to personally-relevant stress?:

The moderating role of educational attainment. Poster presented at the 2008 meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine: San Diego, CA.

Merritt, M. M., McCallum, T. J., & Fritsch, T. (2008, March). John Henryism, active coping and diurnal salivary cortisol patterns among African- American and European-American female dementia family caregivers. Poster presented at the 2008 meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine: San Diego, CA. (see CAC Travel award above)

Merritt, M. M. (2007, March). Continuing the path: Racism stress and psychophysiologic responses as indicators of long-term risk. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine: Washington, DC. (Invited)

Abdullah, M., Merritt, M. M. (2007, July). Religiosity, anger coping and cortisol output to personally-relevant stress. Paper presented at the annual UWM Ronald McNair Scholars program summit: Milwaukee, WI.

James, S. A., Whitfield, K. E., Jonassaint, C.R., Merritt, M.M., Edwards, C.L., & Robinson, E. (2006, March). John Henryism and health outcomes among African-Americans: A Reconceptualization. Symposium presented at the 64th Annual Scientific Conference of the American Psychosomatic Society, Denver, CO.

Sollers, J. J. III, Merritt, M. M., Evans, M. K., Zonderman, A. B., & Thayer, J. F. (2005, March). Blood pressure and heart rate variability among African-American adults. Paper presented at the 41st Annual Rocky Mountain Bioengineering Symposium: Fort Collins, CO.

Sollers, J. J. III, Yonezawa, Y., Silver, R., Merritt, M., & Thayer, J. F. (2005, March). An ambulatory recording system for the assessment of heart-rate variability across multiple days. Paper presented for presentation at the annual meeting of the International Society for Optical Engineering: Orlando, FL.

Merritt, M. M., Sollers, J. J. III, Evans, M. K., Zonderman, A. B., Abernethy, D. R. & Thayer, J. F. (2005, March). Endothelial nitric oxide synthase and angiotension converting enzyme I/D polymorphisms genotypes and resting heart rate variability among African Americans. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychosomatic Society: Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Merritt, M. M., Sollers, J. J. III, Evans, M. K., Zonderman, A. B., & Thayer, J. F. (2005, March). Hypertension and reduced autonomic response to affective stimuli among African American adults. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychosomatic Society: Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Anokhin, A., Sollers, J. J. III, Silver, R., Merritt, M. M., & Thayer, J. F. (2005, April). Heritability of heart rate variability in young women. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychosomatic Society: Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Merritt, M. M., Jonassaint, C. R., Sollers, J. J. III, Evans, M. K., Zonderman, A. B., &

Thayer, J. F. (2005, March). An interaction between Neuroticism and Agreeableness predicts vascular responses to affective stimuli among African-American adults. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychosomatic Society: Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Merritt, M. M., Bennett, G. G. Jr., Sollers, J. J. III, Thayer, J. F., Edwards, C. L. (2005, March). John Henryism and cardiovascular risk: Potential behavioral and psychosocial mechanisms. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine: Boston, MA.

Edwards, C. L., Johnson, S., Bennett, G. G., Wood, M., DeCastro, L., Feliu, M., Harrison, M. O., Robinson, E., Merritt, M. M., & Whitfield, K. (2005, March). High effort coping, chronic pain and morbidity in patients with sickle cell disease. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine: Boston, MA.

Merritt, M. M., Sollers, J. J. III, Evans, M. K., Zonderman, A. B., Abernethy, D. R. & Thayer, J. F. (2004, October). Endothelial nitric oxide synthase genotypes and total peripheral resistance at recovery from perception of affect among African Americans: Gender differences. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Psychophysiological Research: Santa Fe, NM.

Merritt, M. M., Sollers, J. J. III, Evans, M. K., Zonderman, A., & Thayer, J. F. (2004, June). Ethnic differences in cardiovascular response to emotional stimuli. Poster presented at the annual meeting of International Society of Hypertension in Blacks: Detroit, MI.

Thayer, J. F., Merritt, M. M., Evans, M. K., Sollers, J. J. III, & Zonderman, A. B. (2004, March). Elevated cardiovascular responses at baseline predict reduced emotion recognition in a community-based African-American sample. Paper presented at the annual National Institute on Aging Retreat: Baltimore, MD.

Mager, D. E., Merritt, M. M., Kasturi, J., Witkin, L. R., Urdiqui-Macdonald, M., Sollers, J. J. III, Evans, M. K., Zonderman, A. B., Abernethy, D. R., & Thayer, J. F. (2004, March). Kullback-Leibler clustering of continuous wavelet transform measures of heart rate variability. Poster presented at the 41st Annual Rocky Mountain Bioengineering Symposium: Fort Collins, CO.

Merritt, M. M., Abernethy, D. R., Evans, M. K. Sollers, J. J. III, Zonderman, A. B. & Thayer, J. F. (2003, October). Cardiovascular reactivity to perception of affect among older African-American adults. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Psychophysiological Research: Washington, D. C.

Merritt, M. M., Bennett, G. G. Jr., Williams, R. B., Sollers, J. J. III, & Thayer, J. F. (2003, March). Low educational attainment, John Henryism and cardiovascular reactivity and recovery to personally-relevant stress. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine: Salt Lake City, UT.

Sollers, J. J. III, Merritt, M. M., & Thayer, J. F. (2002, August). The effects of gender and habitual physical activity on diurnal heart rate and heart rate variability. Paper presented at the

Seventh International Congress of Behavioral Medicine: Helsinki, Finland.

Merritt, M. M., Abernethy, D. R., Evans, M. K. Sollers, J. J. III, Zonderman, A. B. & Thayer, J. F. (2002, August). Cardiovascular reactivity to perception of affect among older African-Americans. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Autonomic Society: Hilton Head, S. C.

Sollers, J. J. III, Ahern, G. L., Merritt, M. M., & Thayer, J. F. (2002, April). Time frequency analysis of the cardiovascular response during the intracarotid amobarbital test. Paper presented at the annual Rocky Mountain Bioengineering Symposium: Copper Mountain, CO.

Merritt, M. M., Abernethy, D. R., Evans, M. K. Sollers, J. J. III, Zonderman, A. B. & Thayer, J. F. (2002, November). Cardiovascular reactivity to perception of affect among older African-American adults. Paper submitted to the annual meeting of Society for Psychophysiological Research: Washington, D. C.

Merritt, M. M., Abernethy, D. R., Evans, M. K. Sollers, J. J. III, Zonderman, A. B. & Thayer, J. F. (2002, April). Autonomic and vascular responses to affective stimuli among older African-American adults. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine: Washington, D. C.

Merritt, M. M., Abernethy, D. R., Evans, M. K. Sollers, J. J. III, Zonderman, A. B. & Thayer, J. F. (2002, March). Cardiovascular responses to perception of affect. Paper presented at the annual National Institute on Aging Retreat: Baltimore, MD.

Merritt, M. M., Abernethy, D. R., Evans, M. K. Sollers, J. J. III, Zonderman, A. B. & Thayer, J. F. (2001, November). The effect of emotionally salient sentences and faces on the cardiovascular responses of a community-based African-American sample. Poster presented at the annual meeting of Society for Psychophysiological Research: Montreal, Ontario, Canada.

Merritt, M. M., Sollers, J. J. III, & Thayer, J. F. (2001, March). The effect of emotionally salient stimuli on the cardiovascular responses of older African-Americans in the field. Poster presented at the annual National Institute on Aging Retreat: Baltimore, MD.

Merritt, M. M., Sollers, J. J. III, Thayer, J. F., & Bennett, G. G. Jr. (2001, March). Age, anger control, and prayer responses to racism predict high frequency blood pressure variability. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine: Seattle, WA.

Killough, A. K., Merritt, M., Bennett, G., & Edwards, C. L. (2001, March). Cognitive mapping: Where individual systems end and human systems begin. Powerpoint presentation for the Bio-Behavioral Research Institute, JLC-BBRI Seminar Series. North Carolina Central University, Durham, NC. (Invited).

Merritt, M. M., Bennett, G. G. Jr., & Williams, R. B. (2001, March). Low hostility and high state negative affect are linked with elevated blood pressure responses to mental stress in Black males. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychosomatic Society: Monterey, CA.

Killough, A. L., Edwards, C. L., Drewes, D., Bennett, G. G. Jr., & Merritt, M. M. (2000, November). Psycho-socio-behavioral systems models: Measures that reflect cultural differences. International Society of Behavioral Medicine.

Merritt, M. M., Bennett, G. G. Jr., & Williams, R. B. (2000, April). Subtle racism enhances cardiovascular reactivity to stress among Black males with low education. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine: Nashville, TN.

Merritt, M. M., Bennett, G. G. Jr., & Williams, R. B. (2000, April). John Henryism, low educational attainment, and cardiovascular reactivity to stress. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine: Nashville, TN.

Bennett, G. G. Jr., Merritt, M. M., Edwards, C. L., & Killough, A. (2000, April). Hostility buffers cortisol responses to stress in African-American males with low social support. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine: Nashville, TN.

Bennett, G. G. Jr., Merritt, M. M., & Williams, R. B. (2000, April). The effects of John Henryism and job control on cortisol responses to stress. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine: Nashville, TN. *Poster received citation award*.

Murphy, R. A., Bennett, G. G. Jr., Merritt, M. M., & Williams, R. B. (2000, April). Dissonance between childhood and adult socioeconomic status alters cortisol responsivity to stress. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine: Nashville, TN.

Merritt, M. M., Bennett, G. G. Jr., & Williams, R. B. (2000, March). Education level, religiosity, and cardiovascular reactivity among Black males. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychosomatic Society: Savannah, GA. *Abstract accepted for press release*.

Brummet, B. H., Lane, J. D., Merritt, M., Sheaks, J., Siegler, I. C., & Barefoot, J. C. (1999, March). Cardiovascular reactivity is associated with induced anger and depressive affect. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychosomatic Society: Vancouver, British Columbia.

Merritt, M. M. (1998, November). The moderating roles of John Henryism and sociodemographic factors in cardiovascular reactivity to a racism speech stressor for Black men. Paper presented at the Technical Assistance Workshop of the National Institute of Aging: Philadelphia, PA. *Paper received citation award*.

Merritt, M. M. & Harrell, J. P. (1998, March). The relationships of somatic symptoms with coping strategies, life satisfaction, and daily hassles. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychosomatic Society: Clearwater Beach, FL.

Merritt, M. M. & Harrell, J. P. (1998, March). The roles of personality and coping strategies in somatic symptoms for Black college students. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine: New Orleans, LA.

Merritt, M. M. (1997, March). The stress-buffering role of spirituality in the academic adjustment and daily hassles of Black college students. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine: San Francisco, CA.

Merritt, M., Harrell, J. P., & Boykin, A. W. (1995, March). Life satisfaction and racial identity in Black college students. Paper presented at the Howard University Graduate Research Symposium: Washington, D. C.

Merritt, M., Harrell, J. P., & Boykin, A. W. (1996, May). The complex relationship between life satisfaction and racial identity in Black college students. Paper presented at the Minority Bound Research Support Mini-Conference: Washington, D. C.

Merritt, M., Dixon, P., & Harrell, J. P. (1996, May). Racial identity and physical stress in African-American college students: A preliminary analysis. Poster presented at the Minority Bound Research Support Mini-Conference: Washington, D. C.

Merritt, M., Dixon, P., Harrell, J. P., & Boykin, A. W. (1995, August). Dimensions of physical stress symptoms across racial identity stages. Paper presented at the annual convention of the Association of Black Psychologists: Los Angeles, California.

Merritt, M. (1994, February). Ethnic attitudes and behavioral responses of African-American students in a predominately white college. Paper presented in UC-Santa Cruz Social Psychology Colloquium Series: Santa Cruz, CA.

Stanley Hagan, M., Plaut, S., Merritt, M., & Spragins, M. (1992, March). Intimacy in late adolescent relationships: a comparison of dating relationships, same-sex friendships, and opposite-sex friendships. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence: Washington, D. C.

Merritt, M. (1991, April). Racial stereotypes and prejudice: automatic or controlled? Paper presented at the Southeastern Undergraduate Sociology Symposium: Athens, GA.

PLENARY OR NAMED LECTURE:

Merritt, M. M. (2007, August). Racism stress and psychophysiological responses as indicators of long-term risk: Continuing the path. Marquette University psychology department seminar series, Milwaukee, WI. (Invited).

Merritt, M. M. (2004, May). High effort coping, psychosocial correlates, and cardiovascular reactivity and recovery to personally relevant stressors. Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences psychology department seminar series, Bethesda, MD. (Invited).

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES:

March - May 1994: Volunteer Counselor, BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF SANTA CRUZ, Santa Cruz, California. I volunteered as a counselor at a local Boys & Girls Club as part of the field component of a field methods course. Activities included participant observation, interviewing of staff members, and maintaining a daily log of observations.

January - April 1992: Volunteer, Minority Research Group, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHARLOTTE, Charlotte, N. C. Black students in psychology tutored and counseled black elementary school children with learning problems.

August 1991 - April 1992: Independent Research, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHARLOTTE, Charlotte, N. C. I was responsible for coding videotaped dyadic interactions between dating couples and their friends.

1994 Survey Research Center, Eight-week summer program, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

1999 NIA Summer Institute, One-week summer program, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGING, Airlie, Virginia.

2006 – 2008: Non-Animal Science Member, Animal Care and Animal Use Committee, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MILWAUKEE, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

2007– Present: Graduate Program Committee (Department of Psychology), UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MILWAUKEE, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

2007 – Present: Member, Ph.D. in Public Health Program Planning Committee for the Social and Behavioral Sciences, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MILWAUKEE, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

2007- Present: Member, Center on Aging and Community (CAC), UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MILWAUKEE, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

NOTE. As part of the CAC, I have taken a leading role in planning Emerging Scholars meetings for those interested in discussing aging and health.

COURSES TAUGHT (all in Psychology):

- 2008 – present Administrator of Social/Health Psychology Preliminary Exam- University of Wisconsin Milwaukee
- 2008 - present Research Methods (undergraduate)- University of Wisconsin Milwaukee
- 2007 - present Social Psychology Seminar (graduate)- University of Wisconsin Milwaukee
- 2006 - present Race, Ethnicity and Health (undergraduate)- University of Wisconsin Milwaukee
- 2007 Social Psychology Seminar (undergraduate)- University of Wisconsin Milwaukee
- 2006 Brain and Cognition (undergraduate)- Cleveland State University
- 2005-6 Statistics (undergraduate)- Cleveland State University
- 2005-6 Research Methods (undergraduate)- Cleveland State University
- 2000 Statistics (undergraduate)- Howard University
- 1994 Social Psychology (undergraduate)- University of California Santa Cruz

OTHER DEPARTMENT RESEARCH COMMITTEE SERVICE:

- Erin Vest Rogers (dissertation committee member)
- Olga Shcheslavskaya (dissertation committee member)
- Moto Nakajima (dissertation committee member)
- Jason Levine (Master's thesis committee member)
- Alicia Helion (dissertation committee member)
(all in Health Psych.)
- Jose Eluvathingal (dissertation committee member, in Educational Psychology)
- Muneebah Addullah (McNair Scholars program)
- Nicole Wesley (McNair Scholars program)
- Veth Soumphonphakdy (Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship program)

PREVIOUS CIVIC ENGAGEMENT WORK:

2001-2003: Volunteer Mentor, BIG BROTHER'S/SISTER'S PROGRAM. Durham, N.C.

March - May 1994: Volunteer Counselor, BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF SANTA CRUZ, Santa Cruz, California.

January - April 1992: Volunteer, Minority Research Group, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHARLOTTE, Charlotte, N. C. Black students in psychology tutored and counseled black elementary school children with learning problems.