

BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1964 in Valdosta, Georgia to Harold and Beverly Reddick, Niles grew up in the small town of Hahira, Georgia with his three younger siblings--Brett, Dana, and Jared. He graduated from Lowndes High School, where served as editor of the yearbook. He also worked full time at Days Inn during high school as a busboy, dishwasher, cook (for one week), and finally, hotel clerk. Prior to that, he had mowed yards for folks around Hahira.

He began college at Valdosta State University and graduated with a B.A. in Philosophy, earning a Philosophy award at Honors Day. During the years at Valdosta State, Niles worked at both the Ramada Inn and Quality Inn as a desk clerk, and then worked for four years at Moody Air Force Base in the Services Squadron as an auditor in the Billing office. After graduating from Valdosta State, Niles began a M.A. program in Psychology at the University of West Georgia, studying under Mike Aarons and Anne Richards, both former Graduate assistants to Abraham Maslow. He also studied with parapsychologist William Roll and best-selling author Raymond Moody. While in Graduate school, he worked as a Mental Health Counselor in the Atlanta area and was the recipient of an assistantship as the Coordinator of Graduate Admissions for the Psychology Department. After graduating from the University of West Georgia, Niles began a Ph.D. program at Florida State University in Humanities with an emphasis in Literature and Psychology. He had the good fortune to study under Jerome Stern, David Kirby, Anne Rowe, among others. His dissertation, *Eccentricity as Narrative Technique*, included interviews with Lee Smith, Clyde Edgerton, and Janice Daugharty.

Reddick worked as an Academic Advisor at Florida State University while working on his doctorate, worked as a part time admissions counselor at a mental health facility, and taught English and Psychology at Thomas University in Thomasville, Georgia and Georgia Military College at Moody AFB, Georgia, before accepting an English teaching position at Motlow College in Lynchburg, Tennessee.

At Motlow, he coordinated the Writer's festival that had visiting and renowned writers as Michael Lee West, Manette Ansay, Gurney Norman, Gwendolyn Brooks, Jerry Bledsoe, Sharyn McCrumb, and many others. He also served as Editor of *The Distillery* for two years, taking the journal from a regional publication to an international one distributed around the world by Ingram Periodicals and one that received recognition and acclaim from *The Literary Magazine Review* and *Library Journal*. Reddick was asked to serve as Director of the Smyrna campus for Motlow College and served in that capacity for several years before being appointed the Dean of Humanities and Social Science for Motlow College.

In 2007, Reddick and his family returned to Georgia, where he accepted a position as Vice President for Academic Affairs at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Georgia. There, he was successful in adding multiple bachelor degrees and securing over

\$20m in grants. In 2014, Reddick and his family moved to Jackson, Tennessee, where he was appointed Vice Provost for the University of Memphis, Lambuth. While he continues to serve on the editorial board for Honors in Practice, a journal published by the National Collegiate Honors Council, PRISM housed at Eastern Kentucky University, and the Journal of Rural and Community Development in Canada, he also serves as a volunteer editor for the United Nations and has worked on projects in Nigeria, Tanzania, and Nepal. In Jackson, he serves on the Executive Board for the Chamber of Commerce, the First United Methodist Church board, the Jackson Arts Council, a committee of the Jackson Madison School Board, the Jackson Downtown Development Board, and is a member of Rotary. He and his wife Michelle have been married for over 21 years and have two children--Audrey and Nicholas.