

**2019 Nominee**

**Robert Strain**

**Coral Gables**

**(Rollover Nomination from 2018)**

# 2018 Roll-Over Nomination

Laurie Berlin

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**From:** llennox@flahum.org  
**Sent:** Monday, July 2, 2018 11:00 AM  
**To:** llennox@flahum.org; lberlin@flahum.org; sseibert@flahum.org; dkelly@flahum.org; bbahr@flahum.org  
**Subject:** Board Nomination Form  
**Attachments:** 57905893\_3 page resume.docx; 57905894\_FHC Letter of Interest.docx

## Nomination Information:

Nomination type: I am nominating myself on the recommendation of someone else.

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## Recommendation Information:

I would like to nominate the following individual for the Florida Humanities Council board:

Nominator Name: Bud Park  
Nominator Preferred Email Address:

Nominee Name:  
Nominee Email:  
Nominee Contact Number:  
Contact Number Type:  
Nomination Comments/Remarks:

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## Candidate Information:

If applicable, name of person that recommended I submit my nomination: Dabney Park

Name: Dr. Robert Strain  
Organizational affiliation, if applicable:  
Address: 115 Mendoza Ave.  
Address, line 2: Apt. #502  
City: Coral Gables  
State: FL  
Postal Code: 33134

Preferred Email Address: rstrain65@yahoo.com  
Contact Number: (305) 712-0284  
Contact Number Type: Cell Number  
Personal or Business Website: rstrain@fmuniv.edu

Please write a brief summary highlighting your strengths and potential contributions to the Florida Humanities Board:

\*25 year teaching career in the humanities at the university level

\*20+ years as a performer in amateur and professional theatre

\*Excellent communication skills

\*Understanding of educational aspect of promoting humanities

Please describe any experience you have had serving as a board member for any other organization. Indicate if you held any particular position on the board, or served on any board committee.

No previous service on board committee. However, I have served on various university committees as a faculty member for 25 years.

Resume:

[https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/2856014/57905893/420283442/57905893\\_3\\_page\\_resume.docx](https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/2856014/57905893/420283442/57905893_3_page_resume.docx)

Letter of Interest:

[https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/2856014/57905894/420283442/57905894\\_fhc\\_letter\\_of\\_interest.docx](https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/2856014/57905894/420283442/57905894_fhc_letter_of_interest.docx)

Support Letters:

## Laurie Berlin

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**From:** Strain, Robert  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 4, 2019 8:07 AM  
**To:** Laurie Berlin  
**Subject:** Re: Florida Humanities Council

Good Morning Ms. Berlin,

Thank you for the email and apologies for my late response. Yes. I would like to accept Bud Park's 2018 nomination of me to the FHC Board of Directors. Please allow it to roll over to this year. Let me know if there is any more information that you might need from me.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert L. Strain, Jr.  
Assistant Professor  
Humanities Department-Communications  
Florida Memorial University  
305-626-3680

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**From:** Laurie Berlin <lberlin@flahum.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 31, 2019 9:31 AM  
**To:** rstrain65@yahoo.com; Strain, Robert  
**Subject:** Florida Humanities Council

Dear Dr. Strain,

I hope you have had a good year since I was last in touch in 2018. I am checking to see if you would like Bud Park's 2018 nomination of you to the Florida Humanities Council's (FHC) Board of Directors to roll over to this year. We have three public vacancies to fill at our September meeting. Unless there are changes to your contact information or substantial changes to your resume/bio, there is no need for you to send anything to us. I just need to hear back from you by our August 9 deadline. For information about the FHC Board, this link takes you to the list of Board Responsibilities - <https://floridahumanities.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2020-BOD-Responsibilities.pdf>.

Please take good care and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Laurie Berlin  
Director of Administration  
Florida Humanities Council  
727-873-2006  
[www.floridahumanities.org](http://www.floridahumanities.org)

Dear Florida Humanities Council Board Members:

Since earning my doctorate in Communication Studies from the University of Kansas in 1993, I have taught a large public university, a private, Jesuit institution, a private research university and a small HBCU (Historically Black College/University) in South Florida. At each of these places, I saw, and continue to see, the importance of humanities education for the success of graduates of all types. The humanities is clearly a foundation for personal/individual growth and community strength.

The work of the Florida Humanities Council's work is something that interests me because of its focus on audiences outside (and, very often, inside) a strict university context. That is appealing to me. I also feel that my experiences in the university environment as a professor give me a strong grounding on what works to help groups/individuals understand how humanities education can benefit their individual lives and the quality of their community life.

For example, in addition to my university teaching, I have worked as a professional actor in South Florida since 2001. This additional experience as performer in scores of plays, readings and volunteer opportunities, has placed me in direct contact with local citizens and given me a first hand view of how at least one form of the humanities (theatre) can positively impact a community. I have performed in plays written by artists as diverse as William Shakespeare, August Wilson and Thornton Wilder and each one has given me a unique perspective on the necessity and power of the humanities.

These aspects of my professional/personal background form the foundation for my interest in becoming a Board Member of the Florida Humanities Council. Whether teaching in the "formal" context of a university setting or through performing on stage, I have always had an interest in spreading the essential power of the humanities. I view my participation as a board member of the Florida Humanities Council as the next step in that journey. I deeply appreciate your consideration of my nomination.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert L. Strain Jr.

**ROBERT L. STRAIN JR.**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Humanities  
Florida Memorial University

Home Address:  
115 Mendoza Ave. #502  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
Phone: (305) 569-9220  
E-mail: rstrain@fmuniv.edu

Work Address:  
Department of Humanities  
FMFI Building,  
15800 N.W. 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave.  
Miami, FL 33054  
Phone: (305) 626-3680

Dr. Strain believes that effective oral communication skills, critical thinking ability and a willingness to participate in public discourse are cornerstones of a strong democratic society. When members of a community are able to ethically and openly engage in an exchange of ideas, society reaps infinite benefit. Throughout his experiences as an educator and performer, Dr. Strain has treated learning as an active process, a social action—an activity that gives students an opportunity to learn more effectively. His experience as a professional actor has invigorated his approach to teaching and learning in the classroom. He believes in learning through performance and has utilized role-playing and other performance activities in his teaching.

#### EDUCATION

- 1993 Ph.D.      Communication Studies: University of Kansas  
  
Dissertation: *Jesse Jackson's Presidential Campaign Rhetoric: A  
'New' Movement Approach.*  
Director: Dr. Robert C. Rowland
- 1988 M.A.      Speech Communication: Baylor University  
  
Thesis: *James Cone's Black Liberation Theology and Social Change:  
An Analysis of the Rhetoric of Dialectic.*  
Director: Jeff D. Bass
- 1987 B.A.      Speech Communication: Baylor University

#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- |                              |                                                            |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Assistant Professor          | Florida Memorial College (2000-current)                    |
| Visiting Assistant Professor | University of Miami (1999-2000)                            |
| Assistant Professor          | Saint Louis Univ. (Spring 1996-Spring 1999)                |
| Assistant Professor          | California State University, Fullerton (1993-Fall<br>1995) |

Lecturer	CSU, Fullerton (1991-Spring 1993)
Graduate Teaching Assistant	University of Kansas (1988-1991)
Graduate Teaching Assistant	Baylor University (1987-1988)

Florida Memorial University: Courses Taught

COM 103: Introduction to Public Speaking (both online and face-to-face)  
COM 206: Communication Theory (face to face and hybrid)  
COM 307: Argument and Debate  
COM 422: Research Methods-Communication (face to face and hybrid)  
COM 495: Senior Project-Communication (face to face and hybrid)  
HUM 102: Thinking Critically about Humanities

University of Miami: Courses Taught

AAS 350: Black Leadership in the United States  
AAS 450: Black Identity in the United States  
REL 131: Religion in American Life  
REL 400: The Black Religious Experience in the United States

Saint Louis University : Courses Taught

CMM 100: Human Communication  
CMM 180: Introduction to Public Speaking  
CMM 200: Communication Theory  
CMM 383: Methods of Rhetorical Analysis  
CMM 409: Theories of Persuasion  
CMM 493: Rhetoric of Political Campaigns  
CMM 500: Graduate Study of Communication  
CMM 542: Seminar in Rhetorical Criticism

CSU, Fullerton: Courses Taught

SPCOM 536: Seminar in Communication Theory and Rhetorical Theory  
SPCOM 438: Rhetorical Criticism  
SPCOM 432: Contemporary Rhetorical Theory  
SPCOM 301: Liberal Studies in Communication Processes  
SPCOM 200: Human Communication  
SPCOM 102: Public Speaking  
SPCOM 100: Introduction to Human Communication

University of Kansas: Courses Taught

COMS 235: Rhetoric and Social Influence  
COMS 150: Personal Communication  
COMS 130: Fundamentals of Speech

## CREATIVE PROJECTS AND RECOGNITION IN LOCAL THEATRE 2000-2017

### Theater

<i>Our Town</i>	<i>Dr. Gibbs</i>	Miami New Drama (Miami, FL)
<i>Summer Shorts 2017</i>	Various Roles	City Theatre (Miami, FL)
<i>Dry Powder</i>	Jeff	Gablestage (Coral Gables, FL)
<i>Ruined</i>	Christian	Gablestage (Coral Gables, FL)
<i>The Tempest</i>	Caliban	New Theatre (Coral Gables, FL)
<i>Farragut North</i>	Tom Duffy	Gablestage (Coral Gables, FL)
<i>Radio Golf</i>	Roosevelt	Mosaic Theatre (Plantation, FL)
<i>Cymbeline</i>	Pisanio	New Theatre (Coral Gables, FL)
<i>The Winter's Tale</i>	Leontes	New Theatre (Coral Gables, FL)
<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	Don Pedro	New Theatre (Coral Gables, FL)
<i>The Diaries</i>	Kurt	New Theatre (Coral Gables, FL)
<i>King Lear</i>	Kent	New Theatre (Coral Gables, FL)
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Bottom	New Theatre (Coral Gables, FL)
<i>Tom Walker</i>	Woodsman/Lucius	New Theatre (Coral Gables, FL)
<i>The Boys Next Door</i>	Jack	The Public Theatre (Fort Lauderdale, FL)
<i>Someone Who'll Watch Over Me</i>	Adam	Mosaic Theatre (Plantation, FL)
<i>Electra</i>	Aegisthus	New Theatre (Coral Gables, FL)

### Special Recognition & Training

2013 Carbonell Award	Best Supporting Actor- <i>Ruined</i>
2010 Carbonell Award	Best Ensemble- <i>Farragut North</i>
2002 Carbonell Award Nomination	Best Supporting Actor- <i>Tom Walker</i>
Shakespeare Workshop (TLSF Master Class)	Instructors: Rafael de Acha and Lesley Ann Timlick

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST