

CREST Residential Fellowship Application Cover Sheet
Academic Year 2011-2012

Name ZONE SHIVERS
Rank ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
Department ENGLISH
Campus address 444 WESTERN AVE.
Campus phone [REDACTED] Home phone [REDACTED]
Email address [REDACTED]
Previous CREST Residential Fellow? NO If yes, give year _____
Title of Research Project THE CODESWITCHERS: A NOVEL

Application materials:

- a. One copy of proposal narrative of roughly 1,500 words with cover sheet attached. Proposals should describe the project clearly and concisely for a multidisciplinary evaluation panel and address its relevance to current directions of research in the field. Please double-space proposals and use a 12-point type.
- b. One copy of bibliography not to exceed one page.
- c. One copy of *curriculum vitae*

Note to department heads:

- a. Residential Fellows will be released from one course during the fellowship year.
- b. This semester will tentatively be Fall 2011 or Spring 2012 (please circle one)

Department Head signature Catherine Cavanaugh

Printed CATHERINE CAVANAUGH

If appointed in two departments:

Additional Department Head signature _____

Printed _____

Signature of Applicant [Signature] (ZONE SHIVERS)

Applications must be received by Tuesday, November 23, 2010

Please mail to:

Dr. John Williams-Searle, Director
Center for Citizenship, Race, and Ethnicity Studies (CREST)
The College of Saint Rose
432 Western Avenue
Albany, NY 12203-1490

CREST Residential Fellowship Proposal Narrative***“The Codeswitchers: A Novel-in-Progress”*****PROJECT OVERVIEW**

My project is a novel-in-progress entitled *The Codeswitchers*, and is about what happens when a long-removed diaspora returns to its point of origin. Set in Haiti in the near future after a protracted, low-level civil war between the country's social and economic factions, the novel charts the careers of two individuals: Richard G. Plantagenet, a Belgian-born-but-Haitian-by-descent, son of a former diplomat who goes on to become one of Haiti's most influential Prime Ministers; and Richard's cousin, American-born Charles Walker, who achieves no small measure of power due to his insistence that he is *not* Haitian, despite his familial connections.

Narrated by those who die or meet debilitating ends because of the direct and indirect actions of Richard, Charles, and their close circle of acquaintances, the novel draws heavily upon the schism that is currently developing between those Haitians who live in Haiti and what is commonly known as the Haitian “10th Department”: those who involve themselves and attempt to exert control over Haitian national policies and affairs, although they often live outside of the country. As the Haitian diaspora grows larger, the 10th Department has grown to include many individuals who have few social or cultural ties to Haiti, save for grandparents or parents who once lived there.

But if one is not born or has never lived in the country one belongs to, can one then really claim to be from (or better still, “of”) that country, simply because of one's lineage? That is to say, Richard, Charles, and the political party they belong to, the MCP