

VITA

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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 personality psychology; minor 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:

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:

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

Reviewer of abstracts for annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, 2004-2005.

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

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

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

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

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

Ad hoc reviewer for the professional journal: American Journal of Cardiology, 1999.

Society for Psychophysiological Research (SPR), Member, 2001 to present.

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

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

RESEARCH GRANTS:

“Wavelet Transform and Pharmacodynamics Anyalysis of Atropine and Propanalol-Induced Changes in Human Heart Rate Variability.” PI: Darrell R. Abernethy, Role: Co-Investigator, 2003, \$50,000 per year.

PUBLISHED ARTICLES:

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: p. 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: p. 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: p. 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:

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 angiotensin 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., 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 (special issue 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., Bennett, G. G., Edwards, C. L., Koenig, H. G., Sollers, J. J. III (under review). High levels of religiosity buffer increased cardiovascular reactivity to mental stress: but only for highly educated Black men. *Psychosomatic Medicine*.

Merritt, M. M., Bennett, G. G. & Thayer, J. F. (in preparation). 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.

Merritt, M. M. & Harrell, J. P. The stress-buffering and stress-enhancing roles of racial identity, 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.

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

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS:

James, S., Whitfield, K., Jonassaint, C.R., Merritt, M.M., Edwards, C.L., Robinson, E. (March, 2006). 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 accepted 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 angiotensin 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 accepted 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 accepted 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, Colorado.

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. (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.