

Joanne V. Gabbin

Joanne V. Gabbin is the former Executive Director of the Furious Flower Poetry Center and Professor Emerita of English at James Madison University. She is author of *Sterling A. Brown: Building the Black Aesthetic Tradition* and a children's book, *I Bet She Called Me Sugar Plum*. She is also the editor of *The Furious Flowering of African American Poetry*, *Furious Flower: African American Poetry from the Black Arts Movement to the Present*, *Mourning Katrina: A Poetic Response to Tragedy*, *Shaping Memories: Reflections of African American Women Writers*, and *Furious Flower: Seeding the Future of African American Poetry*, with co-editor Lauren K. Alleyne. She is also the founder and organizer of the Wintergreen Women Writers' Collective. A dedicated teacher, poet, and scholar, she has received numerous awards for excellence in teaching, scholarship and leadership. Among them are the College Language Association Creative Scholarship Award; the SCHEV Outstanding Faculty Award; the Provost Award for Excellence; the JMU Distinguished Faculty Award; and induction in the International Literary Hall of Fame. Recently, a building at James Madison University, Joanne V. and Alexander Gabbin Hall, was named in honor of her and her husband for their outstanding contributions to the university and the community.