

Dr. Latorial Faison was born and raised in Southampton County, VA. She is an assistant professor at Virginia State University with over 25 years of experience in education. Faison completed a BA in English at UVA in Charlottesville and an MA in English at VA TECH. She completed doctoral studies in education at Virginia State University. Faison is a nationally and internationally published poet, Pushcart nominee, recipient of the Tom Howard Prize for poem, "Mama was a Negro Spiritual," a North Street Book Prize finalist, and semifinalist for the Hudson & Cave Canem Poetry Prizes. Her poetry and creative nonfiction have been published in *Obsidian: Literature & Art in the African Diaspora*, *Artemis Journal*, *West Trestle Review*, *PRAIRIE SCHOONER*, *The Southern Poetry Anthology*, *Penumbra*, *RHINO*, *Mandala Journal*, *The Chattahoochee Review*, *Forging Freedom*, *Three Minus One*, *Chickenbones*, *STARS & STRIPES Korea*, *Japan*, *Guam*, *Kanto*, *The Poetry Society of Virginia's 80th Anniversary Anthology*, and elsewhere. Faison is the author of *The Missed Education of the Negro: An Examination of the Black Segregated Education Experience in Southampton County, VA 1950-1970*, trilogy collection, *28 Days of Poetry Celebrating Black History*, *Mother to Son*, and two junior writing anthologies of fiction and poetry. She is a JMU Furious Flower Poetry Center fellow and life member of The Poetry Society of Virginia. Faison is married to COL (Ret) Carl J. Faison; they have three sons.