

**Karen Elene Baker-Fletcher**

*Perkins School of Theology  
Southern Methodist University  
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Dallas, TX 75275  
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**Curriculum Vitae**

PhD, Constructive and Historical Theology; Minor: Theology and Literature  
Graduate Program in the Study of Religion, Harvard University 1991

M.A., the Study of Religion, Harvard University, November 1990

Master of Divinity, Harvard Divinity School, Theology and Literature, June 1984

B.A., Wellesley, College, Philosophy and French, June 1981

**Professional Teaching Experience**

Associate Professor of Theology, Tenured, Perkins School of Theology/Southern Methodist University.  
June 30, 2001 to present.

Associate Professor of Theology and Culture, Tenured, Claremont School of Theology, Associate Professor  
of Religion, Claremont Graduate University, School of Religion, July 1997 - June 30, 2001.

Associate Professor of Theology and Culture, non-tenured, Claremont School of Theology, Associate  
Professor of Religion and Culture, Claremont Graduate University, School of Religion, July 1995-1997.

Assistant Professor of Theology and Culture, Claremont School of Theology,; Assistant Professor of  
Religion and Culture, Claremont Graduate University, School of Religion, July 1993-1995.

Assistant Professor of Theology and Culture, Christian Theological Seminary, January 1991-1993.

Chair and Co-Chair, Theology, Ethics, and Culture PhD Program. Claremont School of Theology, 1997-  
2001.

**Publications**

***Published Books***

Baker-Fletcher, Karen. *Dancing With God: A Womanist Perspective on the Trinity*, (St. Louis: Chalice  
Press, November 2006; April 2007).

Baker-Fletcher, Karen. *Sisters of Dust, Sisters of Spirit: Womanist Wordings  
On God and Creation*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1998.

Baker-Fletcher, Karen and Baker-Fletcher, Garth. *My Sister, My Brother:  
Womanist and Xodus God-Talk*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1997.

Baker-Fletcher, Karen. *A Singing Something: Womanist Reflections on Anna  
Julia Cooper*. New York: Crossroad, 1994.

### ***Collaborative Book Contribution***

Hunt, Mary E. ed., with contributors Alpert, Rebecca, Baker-Fletcher, Karen, et al. *A Guide for Women in Religion: Making Your Way from A to Z*. New York: Palgrave/MacMillan, 2004.

### ***Chapter Contributions to Books***

Baker-Fletcher, Karen. "A Singing Something: Womanist Reflections on Anna Julia Cooper" in Kristin Waters et al., eds. *Black Women's Intellectual Traditions: Speaking Their Minds*. Burlington, Vermont: University of Vermont Press; Hanover: Published by University Press of New England, 2007.

\_\_\_\_\_. "A Womanist Journey," in Stacey Floyd Thomas, ed. *Deeper Shades of Purple: Womanism in Religion and Society*. New York: New York University Press, 2006.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Jesus as Dust and Spirit." in Jones, Serene and Lakeland, Paul, eds. *Constructive Theology*. Minneapolis: Augsburg-Fortress Press, 2005.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Black Passion: Womanist Relational Reflections" in Noel, James A. and Johnson, Matthew V. *The Passion of the Lord: African American Reflections*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press, 2005.

Baker-Fletcher, Karen. "Spirituality," in De La Torre Miguel, ed.. *Handbook of U.S. Theologies of Liberation*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2004.

\_\_\_\_\_. "The Erotic in Contemporary Black Women's Writings," in Hopkins, Dwight N. and Pinn, Anthony B., eds. *Loving the Body: Black Religious Studies and the Erotic*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2004.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Something or Nothing: An Eco-Womanist Essay on God, Creation, and Indispensability" in Gottlieb, Roger S., ed. *This Sacred Earth: Religion, Nature, Environment, Second Edition*. New York and London: Routledge, 2004.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Dust and Spirit" in Berquist, John, ed. *Strike Terror No More*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2002.

\_\_\_\_\_. "God as the Strength of Life" in Townes, Emilie, ed. *Embracing the Spirit*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1998.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Passing on the Spark: A Womanist Perspective on Theology and Culture," in Hopkins, Dwight and Davaney, Sheila, eds. *Changing Conversations: Religious Reflection And Cultural Analysis*. New York: Routledge, 1996.

### ***Essays in Journals***

Baker-Fletcher, Karen. "Moving at Mid-Career." *Teaching Theology and Religion*. Volume 8, Issue One. January 2005.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Providence, National Destiny, and the Knowledge of Good and Evil," in *Quarterly Review: A Journal Of Theological Resources For Ministry*. Volume 23, Number 3, Fall 2003.

\_\_\_\_\_. "The Difference Race Makes: Sexual Harassment and the Law in the Thomas/Hill Hearings." *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, Spring 1994, vol.10, no. 1.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Dusting off the Texts: Historical Materials as a Resource for Womanist Ethics" in

Andolsen, Barbara ,ed., *Annual for the Society of Christian Ethics*, 1994.

\_\_\_\_\_. “Tar Baby and Womanist Theology.” *Theology Today*, vol. L, no. 1, April 1993.

\_\_\_\_\_. “A Womanist Ontology of Freedom and Equality.” *The Journal of Religions Thought*. Winter-Spring 1993.

\_\_\_\_\_. “Violence and American Crisis.” *The Encounter*, vol. 54, no. 1, Winter 1993.

\_\_\_\_\_. “Whose Responsibility?” in Hoots, Allegra. *Prophetic Voices: Black Preachers Speak on Behalf of Children*. Children’s Defense Fund, Black Family Ministry Project, March 1993.

\_\_\_\_\_. “An Irresistible Power Not Ourselves.” *The Encounter*. Summer 1992.

\_\_\_\_\_. “Thinking God’s Thoughts After God.” *The Encounter*, vol. 53, no. 2. Spring 1992.

### ***Collaborative Essays in Journals***

Baker-Fletcher, Karen, David Carr, Esther Menn, and Nancy Ramsey. “Taking Stock at Mid-Career.” *Teaching Theology and Religion*. Volume 8, Issue One. January 2005.

Madsen, Catherine; Baker-Fletcher, Karen, et al. “Roundtable: If God is She, She is Not Nice.” *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, Spring 1989, vol. 5. no. 1.

### ***Essays in Academic Conference Monographs***

Baker-Fletcher, Karen. “Whiteheadian Metaphysics as a Resource for a Womanist, Relational Theology.” *Process Thought and East Asian Culture: Process Theology*. Seoul, Korea: Whitehead Society of Korea and International Process Network, 2004.

\_\_\_\_\_. “Why Womanist Theology? Process-Relational Reflections.” *Process Thought and East Asian Culture: Keynote Lecture*. Seoul, Korea: Whitehead Society of Korea and International Process Network, 2004.

### ***Essays in References: Dictionary and Encyclopedia Entries***

Baker-Fletcher, Karen. ” Womanist Theology” in Taylor, Bron, and Kaplan, Jeffrey, eds. *Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature*. New York: Continuum International, 2005.

\_\_\_\_\_. “Alice Walker” in Taylor, Bron, and Kaplan, Jeffrey, eds. *Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature*. New York: Continuum International, 2005.

\_\_\_\_\_. “Cooper, Anna Julia” and “Truth, Sojourner,” in Hayes, John H., ed. *Dictionary of Biblical Interpretation*. Abingdon, 1999.

\_\_\_\_\_. “Anna Julia Cooper and Sojourner Truth: Two Nineteenth-Century Black Feminist Interpreters of Scripture” in Elisabeth Schussler-Fioorenza, ed., *Searching the Scriptures, Volume I*.

New York: Crossroad, Herder & Herder, 1993; 1997.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Difference" and "Womanist Voice" in Clarkson, J. Shannon and Letty Russell, eds. *Dictionary of Feminist Theologies*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Soprano Obligato: Black Women's Voices and American Conflict," in Townes, Emilie, ed. *A Troubling in My Soul: Womanist Perspectives on Evil and Suffering*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1993.

**Church/Academy Publication: Contributions to "Earth Letter" a Quarterly Journal of Earth Ministry**

Baker-Fletcher, Karen. "AfroAmerican Thoughts on God in Creation" in Jim Mulligan, ed., *Earth Letter: Earth Ministry, Caring for All Creation*. Seattle: Spring 2007

\_\_\_\_\_. "Creation, Environmental Justice, and God: A Personal Reflection." *Earth Letter: Earth Ministry, Caring for All Creation*. Spring 2004.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Heart Kiss." *Earth Letter: Earth Ministry, Caring for All Creation*. Spring 2004.

**Service to the Academy: Distinguished Lectures and Keynote Lectures**

April 7, 2008. "Womanist, Relational Theology." Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogota, Colombia.

January 25, 2008. "Breath of God, Winds of Nature: Global Perspective." Pacific School of Religion, GTU, Berkeley, California.

March, 2007. "Holy Boldness: 19<sup>th</sup> Century Holiness Women and Mysticism." Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, TN.

December 5, 2006. "Breath of God, Winds of Nature," Lutheran School of Theology, Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

April, 2006. "Dancing With God in A World of Crucifixion," William James Lecture, Harvard Divinity School, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

February 2006, "God-talk by African American Theologians," School of Theology at Drew University, Madison, New Jersey

May 27, 2004. "Why Womanist Theology?" Keynote Lecture, International Whitehead Conference, Seoul, Korea.

May 7, 2004. "Whiteheadian Metaphysics as a Resource for Womanist Theology," Keynote Lecture, Conference on Process-Relational and Women's Theologies." Center for Process Studies, Claremont, California.

May 8, 2004. Dialogical Lecture with Monica Coleman on "Whiteheadian and Hartshornian Metaphysics in Womanist and Black Feminist Discourse.", Center for Process Studies, Claremont, California

March 12, 2004. Bluffton College in Bluffton, Ohio. Keynote Lecture: "The Call to Ministry: A Womanist Perspective."

April 1995., Morton/Bennett Lecture. "Eco-womanist Reflections on Creation, Freedom, and Wildness." Claremont School of Theology.

Nov. 1992. Keynote Lecture: "The Difference Race Makes," sponsored by Women's Caucus, AAR.

March 1992. Eastern Michigan University. Keynote Lecture on “Anna Julia Cooper: Freedom and Equality.”

February 1992. Franklin College. Keynote Lecture: Franklin, Indiana. “Keeping the Dream Alive.”

### **Service to the Academy: Professional Papers, Presentations, and Panels**

April 23d, 2007. “Breath of God, Winds of Nature,” Theologian in Residence Lecture, Case Study, and Discussion. Pastoral Center for Counseling and Education, Dallas

February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007. “Dancing with God in a World of Crucifixion,” Theologian in Residence Lecture, Case Study, and Discussion. Pastoral Center for Counseling and Education, Dallas.

November 20, 2006. “Loves the Spirit,” Paper for Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Group, American Academy of Religion.

“September 30-October 2. 2005. “Poetic Reflections,” Eco-Sophist Conference. School of Theology at Drew University.

November, 2004. Paper: “Thinking from the Ground: Eco-womanist Thoughts on the 2004 U.S. Elections.” AAR, Religion and Ecology Group, Session on “Religion, Ecology, and the Politics of 2004,” San Antonio, TX.

November, 2004, AAR, San Antonio, TX. Respondent to Stephanie Mitchem, “A Real Woman With A Dollar In Her Shoe,” Womanist Group Session on Prosperity Churches.

May, 2004. Keynote Lecture: “What is Womanist Theology?” International Process Studies Network, Bi-Annual Meeting. Seoul, Korea.

May, 2004. Lecture: Whiteheadian Metaphysics as a Resource for a Womanist, Relational Theology. Sungkonghoe University, Korea.

May 28, 2004. Lecture: Whiteheadian Metaphysics as a Resource for Womanist Theology. Methodist Theological Seminary of Korea.

May, 2004. Sermon: “The Goodness of God in the Land of the Living.” Yonsei University. Seoul, Korea.

April 23-25, 2004. Constructive Theology Group. Respondent to panels on Post-Colonial Theology re: planning. Scarrett-Bennet Center, Nashville, Tennessee.

March 14, 2004. Bluffton College in Bluffton, Ohio. Sermon: “The Call to Ministry, Male and Female.” Text: Isaiah 6:5.

March 12-March17, 2004. Bluffton College in Bluffton, Ohio. Guest Lecturer on Womanist Theology, Eco-Theology, and Liberation Theology in Religion and Theology classes.

June 14-15, 2003, Conference on *Gaia and the Sacred* with Rosemary Ruether, Carolyn Merchant, John Cobb, and Carol Christ. Workshop on “*Sisters of Dust, Sisters of the Spirit,*” and discussion panelist.

February 2-4, Lecture: “Resisting as Dust and Spirit.” 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Brown Symposium, “Spiritualities of Resistance,” Southwestern University, , 2003 with James Cone, Winona LaDuke, and Roger Gottlieb. June 6-13, 2002. Presentation on “Theological Imagination” for pedagogy panel. Wabash Center for Teaching

and Learning, Mid-Career Faculty Workshop, Wabash, Indiana.

March 2002. AAR Committee Meeting Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession.

February 21-24, 2002. School of Theology at Drew University, *God-Talk with Black Thinkers*. Keynote Lecture: "What is Womanist Theology?"

February 21-24, 2002. School of Theology at Drew University. Sermon, "The Goodness of God in the Land of the Living," for *God-Talk With Black Thinkers*.

November 6, 2001. Lectures "A Theology of Dust and Spirit Post-9/11." Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, Rochester, NY.

November 2001. Paper: "Dust and Spirit: Post 9/11." AAR Annual Meeting, Constructive Theology Section.

March 21-23, 2001. Anna Howard Shaw Lecture: "Resurrecting Whole Selves in Community." Boston University School of Theology, Conference on "Women and the Word."

November 17<sup>th</sup> 2000. Lecture: "A Womanist Analysis of Paul Tillich's *The Courage to Be*." North American Paul Tillich Society, AAR Additional Meeting.

Nov. 1999. Paper: "A Womanist Perspective on Race and Ancestry." AAR, Special Topics Forum sponsored by the Committee on the Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession.

October 19<sup>th</sup> 1999. Drew Divinity School, Lecture on "Greening the Church: A Womanist Perspective," delivered *en absentia* by Lynne Westfield.

Feb. 1997., Lecture: "People of the Land, People of the Spirit: Womanist Wordings on God and Creation." Hendrix College, Arkansas.

Feb. 2-3, 1997. Lecture: "Environmental Racism as a Public Health Issue." Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA,

January 14, 1997. Dialogue and Workshop on Karen and Garth Baker-Fletcher, *My Sister, My Brother*. University of Southern California, January 1997. Dialogue with Garth Baker-Fletcher, "Womanist and Xodus God-Talk. Disciples Seminary Foundation, Claremont, CA.

Nov. 1996. Lecture: "A Womanist Concept of Spirit and Creation." AAR, Womanist Group.

Nov. 3-4, 1996, "Sisters of Dust, Sisters of Freedom: Womanist Reflections on Freedom and Creation," Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska.

April 1996. Episcopal Women's Conference. Stockton, California. Keynote Lecture: "A Womanist Vision of Creation, Nativity, and Freedom."

February 24, 1996. Pilgrim Place, Claremont, CA. Lecture and discussion, "God as the Strength of Life."

AAR, Nov. 1995, Women's Caucus, Philadelphia, PA. Presentation on "Interviews and Mentors."

AAR, Nov. 1994. Lecture: "Womanist Reflections on Anna Julia Cooper."

Jan 1993. Concordia College, Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, and Keynote Lecture: "Is the Dream Still Alive?"

Nov. 1993, Panelist for “Womanist Perspectives on Evil and Suffering.” Paper: “Soprano Obligato.” AAR.

October 1992. University of Missouri, Columbia. “A Womanist Vision of Nativity and Wildness.”

### **Service to the Academy: Leadership and Participation in Professional Group Meetings**

March 4-6, 2005. Committee on the Status for Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Meeting, American Academy of Religion. Atlanta, Ga. Regular planning meeting + meeting with 8 additional participants to plan style, format, organization, and content for a handbook for Racial Ethnic Minorities in the Profession of Religious Studies.

October 1-3, 2004. Participant, ATS Conference on Women of Color in Theological Education.

March 2004. AAR Standing Committee Meeting. Committee on the Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession.

January 21-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2004, Writing Workshop participant for Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning Mid-career Faculty Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. Meeting for a journal on teaching and learning for Mid-Career faculty.

March 2003. AAR Committee Meeting. Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession.

November 2001. AAR Annual Meeting. Presided, Committee on the Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession, Plenary Session.

March 2001. AAR Committee Meeting, Atlanta, Ga. Status on Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession.

October 21, 2000. *WECSOR* (Western Regional Conference of the AAR), Teaching Workshop, “Teaching in A Multicultural Context: Teaching Theology and African American Religions,” Claremont School of Religion, Claremont, CA.

September 22-24, 2000. AAR Representative and Facilitator, Undergraduate Workshop; Facilitator for George Tinker’s session on New Testament Theology and Native American Tradition. Recruitment 2000, Minority Recruitment Conference jointly sponsored by SBL, AAR, FTE, ATS, and Hispanic Theological Initiative, GTU, Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, CA

March 2000. AAR Committee Meeting. Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession.

February 2000. AAR, Minority Recruitment 2000 planning Meeting.

September 1999. AAR representative for Recruitment 2000 planning committee, Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, CA.

May 1998, Participant, Buddhist/Christian Encounter, Indianapolis, IN.

April 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 1999. Respondent, Buddhist Christian Encounter, Indianapolis, Indiana.

March 1999. AAR Committee Meeting. Atlanta, Georgia. Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession

March 1998. AAR Committee Meeting. Atlanta, Georgia. Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession.

March 1997. AAR Committee Meeting. Atlanta, Georgia. Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the

Profession.

## Church

June 1, 2007. "Breath of God, Winds of Nature," Keynote Presentation. Interfaith Creation Festival, Seattle Washington.

May 31<sup>st</sup>- June 3, 2007. Press interviews (print, television, and radio), panel discussions, and guest: Interfaith Creation Festival, Seattle Washington.

June 6th-10, 2005. Adult Vacation Bible School. Lecture/discussion for "Reelizing the Vision: *The Color Purple* and *Hotel Rwanda*. St. Luke "Community" Church, Community Life Center. Dallas, TX.

April 20, 2005. Two Lecture/ Workshops, Morning and Evening.. "On Earth As it Is in Heaven." The Ursuline Spirituality Center. Dallas, TX.

February 2005-present. Children's Church Ministry. Grace Outreach Center. Two Saturday evenings per month. Plano, TX.

February 2005. National Council of Churches Theological Statement on the Environment. Co-signing theologian with John Cobb, Sallie McFague, and other leading theologians.

March 6, 2004. Perkins School of Theology for the Laity, Dallas, TX. Lecturer for all-day course: "On Earth As It Is In Heaven."

February 21, 2004. Dallas School of Theology for the Laity. Keynote lecture and workshop. "A Relational Approach to Spirituality."

August-September 2004. Reader: National Council of Churches Documents on the Environment. (Invited to participate in drafting of NCC Theological Statement on the Environment with other leading theologians, but chose to participate as co-signer instead).

March 9, and March 11-April 8, 2003. St. Luke "Community" UMC. African American Heritage Bible Study, Women's History Month, Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00. Weekly Bible Study on "Sisters of Dust, Sisters of Spirit."

Sunday March 9, 2003. St Luke Community United Methodist Church. Book Signing, *Sisters of Dust, Sisters of Spirit: Womanist Wordings on God and Creation*.

May 2002, Hamilton UMC, poetry reading and book signing for Women's Day Service.

October 14, 2000, Laverne Church of the Brethren, Laverne, CA. Sermon on Matt. 21:31-46, "When Did We See You?" and Workshop on AIDS Orphans in Africa.

September 10, 2000, Wesley UMC, Long Beach, CA. Sermon, "Radicals for Jesus."

May 6, 2000. Workshop Presentation on "Reproductive Choice and the Black Family." Conference for Black Church Coalition on Reproductive Choice, Holman United Methodist Church, Los Angeles, CA.

April 1999. Guest Preacher, Barnes UMC, Indianapolis, IN.

1997-1999. Occasional preacher and liturgist at Grace UMC, Pasadena, CA.

January 1996, Pilgrim Congregational Church, Pomona, CA. Featured King Speaker, "Living the Dream."

January 1996, First New Christian Fellowship, South Los Angeles. Sermon, "We Have Overcome."

October 1995, Scott United Methodist Church, Pasadena, CA. Sermon, "God's Arithmetic of Love."

October. 24, 1993, Altadena, UMC, Altadena, CA. Guest Preacher.

November 1992, Mount Zion Baptist Church. Sermon, "The Power of Prayer."

### ***Facilitating Roles and Presentations at Perkins***

Facilitator, Diversity Within Diversity Faculty Group, 2006-2007

Perkins Chapel. Preacher. Sermon commemorating Emmett Till and Mamie Till Bradley. October 12, 2005.

Perkins Theological School for the Laity, March 6 2004. Laity Course: "On Earth As It Is in Heaven," 9:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (See "Church," above)

Perkins School of Theology, Fall 2002. Sermon, "Renewing Our Minds."

Perkins School of Theology, November 2002. Guest Lecturer on "Sisters of Dust, Sisters of Spirit," for Theodore Walker's class, "Intro to Theology."

Perkins School of Theology, October 2002. Respondent to Urban Ministry Panel.

Perkins School of Theology, January 2002. Respondent to Joerg Rieger, Faculty Symposium.

Perkins School of Theology, April 2002. Sermon: "The Goodness of God in the Land of the Living."

Perkins School of Theology, March 2002. Team-Sermon with Marjorie Procter-Smith, Jaime Clark-Soles, and Isabel Docampo.

### **Grants**

Perkins School of Theology Scholarly Outreach Grant, 2007

Perkins School of Theology Scholarly Outreach Grant, 2004

Wabash Center For Teaching and Learning Mid-Career Faculty Institutional Grant: Multicultural Pedagogy (2003-2005, \$5,000.00)

SMU University Research Travel Grant, For Korea International Process Studies Conference on Alfred North Whitehead, May 2004

### **Professional Organizations**

American Academy of Religion (AAR)

Constructive Theology Group

International Process Network (IPN)

Society for the Study of Black Religion (SSBR)

Editor of SSBR Newsletter 2001-2004

Buddhist/Christian Encounter (1990s)

### **Professional Committees**

Board Member. International Process Network. 2005-

AAR Standing Committee Member. Status on Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession. 1997-2005.

AAR Steering Committee Member. Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Group. 1994-1998.

Journal for Feminist Studies in Religion. Reader and Reviewer for submitted articles. 1994-1996.

### **Fellowships, Scholarships, and Honors**

William James Lecturer, Harvard Divinity School 2006

FTE Doctoral Fellow 1985-1991

Harvard Scholar 1985-1991

Wellesley College Scholar 1981

Indiana University Honors Abroad, St. Brieux, Bretagne, France and Paris, France, 1976