

Tim Tyson, Ph.D.

Tim Tyson grew up in several congregations of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, descended from more than 150 years of Free Will Baptist and Methodist preachers in eastern North Carolina and son of the late Rev. Vernon C. Tyson and Martha Tyson, a veteran elementary school teacher who lives in Raleigh. He currently teaches at the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University.

Tyson is the author of four prizewinning books. His 2017 New York Times bestseller, *The Blood of Emmett Till*, won the Robert F. Kennedy Award and was a finalist for the National Book Award. Vann R. Newkirk, II of the *Atlantic Monthly* calls it “a critical book [that] manages to turn the past into prophecy and demands that we do the one vital thing we aren’t often enough asked to do with history: learn from it.”



Blood Done Sign My Name was selected for UNC's incoming class to read in 2005 and won the Southern Book Award, the Grawemeyer Prize in Religion from the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and became a 2010 feature film. The National Association of Black Journalists gave its Excellence Award to Tyson's 2006 *Ghosts of 1898: Wilmington's Race Riot and the Rise of White Supremacy*. His 1999 *Radio Free Dixie: Robert F. Williams and the Roots of Black Power* won two major awards from the Organization of American Historians and provided the basis for a 2006 PBS documentary; Issa Rae Productions of Hollywood recently bought the feature film rights. He is currently finishing a book called “*Revolution of the Heart: Black Women at the Heart of American Democracy*.”

Tyson graduated from Emory University in 1987, in 1994 earned his Ph.D. in History at Duke University, and was Professor of Afro-American Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for eleven years. He teaches African American and Southern history to students at Duke, UNC, NCCU, Durham Tech, and the general public. A lifelong activist, he has served on the executive board of the North Carolina NAACP since 2007 and also at the UNC Center for Civil Rights. He works with Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II as a founding board member of *Repairers of the Breach*. He lives in Durham with his wife, Perri Morgan, not far from their two children and two grandchildren.