Acknowledgments

... the fact of being is what is most private; existence is the sole thing I cannot communicate; I can tell about it, but I cannot share my existence. Solitude thus appears as the isolation which marks the very event of being. The social is beyond ontology.

—Emmanuel Levinas

Books are written, inexorably, from scattered fragments of accumulated notes, solitary moments of meditation, vigorous classroom debates, overheard comments, engaged dialogic reflections, assimilated ideas, and also written against borrowed time: —books are debts owed, gifts received.

I first acknowledge the work of my wonderful editors at SUNY: Larin McLaughlin; Andrew Kenyon; and Laurie Searl; as well as the two anonymous readers of the manuscript-in-process.

Second, I owe an unpayable debt of gratitude to my colleagues, friends, and students, especially these: Madhu Sinha, Sarah Domet, Susan Steinkamp, Suzanne Warren, Kirk Boyle, Kate Polak, George Potter, Nic Chua, Megan Fitzpatrick, Sophia Kartsonis, Walt Bosse, Christian Moody, Soren Palmer, Brock Clarke, Lane Clarke, Stan Corkin, Dan LaBotz, Sherry Baron, Jay Twomey, Molly Gaudry, Bryan Smith, Laura Micciche, Gary Weismann, Lee Person, Jim Schiff, Joanie Mackowski, Don Bogen, John Drury, LaWanda Walters, Cynthia Ris, Lisa Beckelheimer, Julia Carlson, Sharon Dean, Jennifer Glaser, Wayne Hall, Heather Hall, Tamar Heller, Jon Kamholtz, Deb Meem, Lisa Meloncon, Maria Romagnoli, Elissa Sonnenberg, and Jenny Wohlfarth. And, for going the distance: Eliz Harmon, of course!

To our professors we owe more than we can precisely calculate: I am thus immeasurably indebted to Ron Bogue, Nancy Felson, Sarah Spence, Robbie Schwartzwald, Lisa Henderson, Elizabeth Petroff, Cathy Portuges, David Lenson, and R. Radhakrishnan.

Intellectually, I am also indebted to the ideas of Myriam J. A. Chancy, Rhonda Cobham-Sander, Andrea Rushing, Rowland Abiodun, Edwidge Danticat, Renée Larrier, and Alma Jean Billingslea Brown.

With fullness of heart, I extend thanks to favorite friends Julie Gerk Hernandez, Susan Crutchfield, Katie LeBesco, Neil Hartlen, and Annelie Klein; my siblings Julie Crawford, Dawn Kyle, and Ron Evans; my children Jessi Ettelson, Madison Braziel, and Dylan Braziel; and my parents, Ron and Judy Evans.

Finally, for Jim Braziel: thank you for always believing in me, always supporting me.

I am grateful to you all.