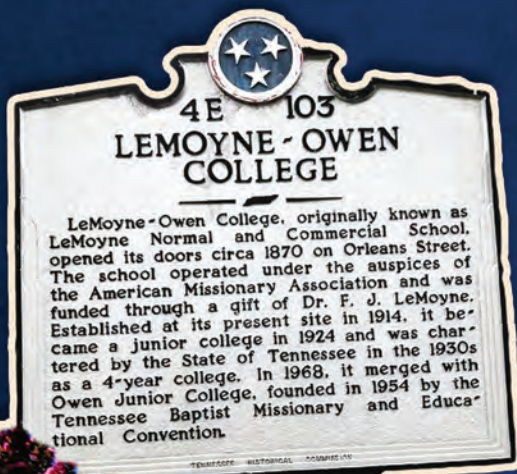


82nd Annual
College Language Association Convention

IN SEARCH OF JUSTICE: LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND THE ACTIVIST SPIRIT

April 10-13, 2024
Hilton Memphis

939 Ridge Lake Boulevard
Memphis, TN 38120



College Language Association Convention Program At-a-Glance

1

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Program Committee Arrival

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

11:00 a.m. Executive Committee Arrival

12:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. LeMoyne-Owen College Pre-Convention Tour & Luncheon (\$25 additional fee)

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Early Arrival Badge Pick-up

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Pre-Convention Meeting of the Executive Committee

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Executive Committee & Past Presidents Dinner

7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. The Writers and Their Critics: Get to Know the *College Language Association Journal* (CLAJ)

Thursday, April 11, 2024

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Badge Pick-up

8:00 a.m. - 8:50 a.m. Welcome Back Coffee for All Members Honoring New Members & First-Time Attendees

9:00 a.m. - 9:50 a.m. Opening Plenary Featuring Membership Engagement and Archives Presentation

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Publications, Vendors, Exhibits

10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Concurrent Sessions I

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. World Languages Presents Lecture by Dr. Dorothy Mosby

12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. Lunch on Your Own

Standing Committee Chairs Lunch (by invitation)

2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions II

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. CLA Annual Standing Committee Meetings

4:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. CLA Authors Meet & Greet

5:45 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Presidential Address

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. CLA Founding City Reception

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Film & Discussion, *Black Scholars in America: The Story of the College Language Association*

9:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. CLA Undergraduate and Graduate Student Social

Friday, April 12, 2024

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Badge Pick-up

8:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions III

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Publications, Vendors, Exhibits

10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Concurrent Sessions IV

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Business Meeting

1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. Lunch on Your Own

2:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. Concurrent Sessions V

4:00 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions VI

5:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. Career Headshot Photo Session

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Pre-Banquet Cash Bar and Book Signing with Banquet Keynote Speaker Dr. Zandria F. Robinson

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. CLA Banquet Featuring Dr. Zandria F. Robinson, Keynote Speaker

9:30 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. President's Homecoming Reception

Saturday, April 13, 2024

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Badge Pick-up

9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Concurrent Sessions VII

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Publications, Vendors, Exhibits

10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions VIII

12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions IX

1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. History of Black Writing and Hathi Trust Research Center Digital Humanities Workshop (Lunch Provided; Pre-registration Required)

4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Post-Convention Meeting with Current & Incoming Executive Committee and Host Committee

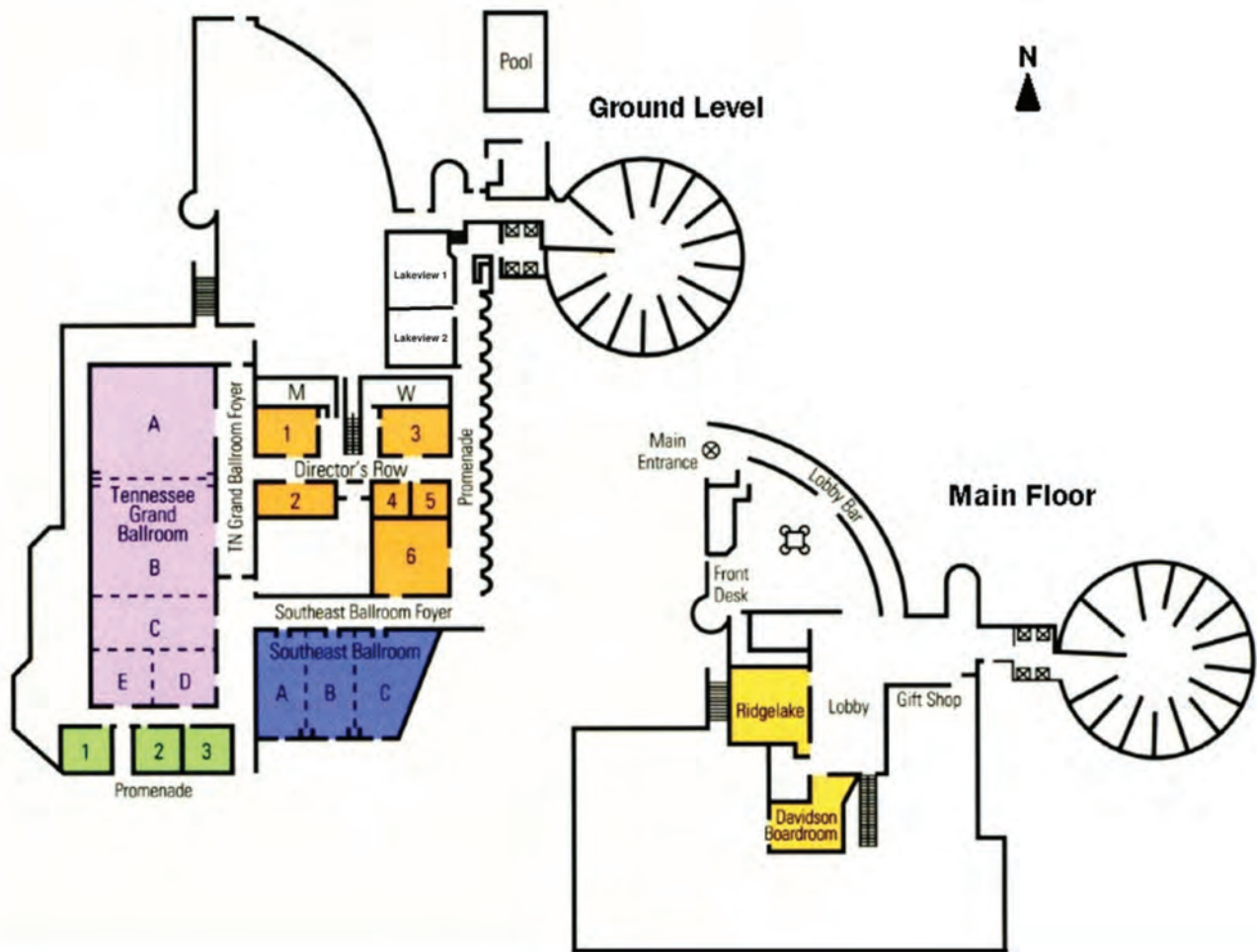
7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Post-Convention Executive Committee Dinner

Hilton Memphis Map



Hilton

MEMPHIS



THE COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION



April 2, 2024

Dear College Language Association Members,

WELCOME HOME!

I am thrilled to be back in our ***Founding City*** and ***My Hometown*** of **Memphis, Tennessee!**

In 1937, a group of Black scholars gathered from April 22nd to April 24th on the campus of the HBCU then called LeMoyne College for the Initial Conference of the Teachers of English in Negro Colleges. They convened to address what they saw as “the alarming decline of the oral and written expression of the average college student.” Yet, they also took time for moments of community, cultural, and social uplift as they found opportunities to enjoy theater productions, an intercollegiate debate, and even a President’s Tea in the Faculty Garden. They set the very foundation that we enjoy today of a scholarly community that is also firmly committed to Black joy and excellence.

Last year, our 81st Annual Convention in Atlanta hosted by Emory University was a celebration and restoration for so many of us since we were reconvening in person for the first time since COVID-19, and this year we have the opportunity to expand upon that idea with a HOMECOMING in Memphis! We do not have a Host Institution for our 82nd Annual Convention, and the CLA Executive Committee has planned unique moments for us to give back and to celebrate the institution that first gave us a home, the now LeMoyne-Owen College.

I hope that many of you will be participating in our **Pre-Convention Tour and Luncheon of our Founding Institution, [LeMoyne-Owen College](#), Wednesday, April 10th from 12pm – 3:30pm** (\$25 additional fee and pre-registration required). Please also join us for the **CLA Founding City Reception, Thursday, April 11th from 6:30pm – 7:30pm**. **During the Founding City Reception we will take our Convention Photograph**, a return to a tradition that started at the first Conference and that is listed in Program One in the CLA Archives at the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library. The 2nd Annual Conference of the Teachers of English in Negro Colleges was held in Atlanta in 1938 and hosted by Atlanta University, and the conference participants gathered for the photo included in this letter that can be found in our [Archives](#). **We will honor and celebrate our Archives during the Opening Plenary on Thursday, April 11th at 9am.**

Founded in 1937

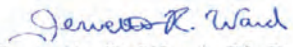


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We hope that you will embrace the Homecoming theme that we are weaving throughout this Convention. Memphis native [Dr. Zandria F. Robinson](#) is our Banquet Keynote Speaker; the President's Reception will be a HOMECOMING Party on Friday night; undergraduate and graduate student members have a social; we will host the first-ever screening of the CLA Documentary, *College Language Association: Black Scholars in America Part 1 – The Movement*; all of this and so much more makes this a Homecoming to remember! **In final celebration of this theme, we invite you to "Rep Your School" for the CLA Founding City Reception where we will take the Convention Photograph. Come out wearing your favorite T-shirt, hoodie, sweatshirt, or paraphernalia from the school you want to Rep for the CLA Archives!**

Finally, please don't forget that this Convention is a CLA Election Year, so make plans to attend the Business Meeting, Friday, April 12th at 11:30am. The full CLA Convention Program will be available on our website and on our [Convention App, Whova!](#) Finally, follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and the [CLA website](#) for updates, and we are excited that you have chosen to join us for the 82nd Annual CLA Convention in Memphis!

In Service,


 Jervette R. Ward, Ph.D.
President
The College Language Association
www.clascholars.org

Founded in 1937

THE COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION



March 28, 2024

Dear Esteemed CLA Colleague,

It's finally here! Welcome to our 82nd CLA Convention, "In Search of Justice: Language, Literature, & The Activist Spirit," April 10-13, 2024 in Memphis, Tennessee! We are excited to bring our members home to our Founding City at our host venue, the Hilton Memphis. Highlighting our Founding location, member presentations, and other special events, we also welcome our Banquet's Keynote Speaker, native Memphian, writer and cultural critic Dr. Zandria F. Robinson.

The CLA Program Committee and Membership Engagement team have been working diligently to curate an experience that all will enjoy. You responded to this year's theme with thoughtful scholarship, dialogues in pedagogy and digital humanities, diasporic engagement and creative work, along with plans for fellowship the CLA way and many exciting events.

We are excited to kick off our Pre-Convention Founding Tour of LeMoyne-Owen College with luncheon on Wednesday, April 10. Also note the World Languages Presents lecture by Dr. Dorothy Mosby, represent your school at our Founding City Reception, and enjoy the screening of our CLA member-produced documentary *Black Scholars in America: The Story of the College Language Association*, followed by a panel featuring our current President Dr. Jervette Ward and past president Dr. Dana Williams, along with distinguished members. As always, our Keynote Banquet and Homecoming-themed Presidential Afterparty will keep you engaged and entertained until the end!

In the spirit of CLA Family, we welcome you to Memphis, our Founding City, and home to CLA!

Sincerely,

Janaka Lewis

Janaka B. Lewis, Ph.D.
Vice President and Program Chair, College Language Association
vicepresident@clascholars.org

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@clascholars

Hashtags: #CLA2024 and #CLA2024Memphis

PROGRAM

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

12pm - 3:30pm

CLA Founding Institution: LeMoyne-Owen College Pre-Convention Tour & Luncheon
(Pre-registration required, with \$25 additional fee)

Meet in Lobby for noon departure

3pm - 5pm

Lobby

Early Arrival Badge Pick-up; Hilton Memphis

4pm - 5pm

Director's Row 1

Pre-Convention Meeting of the Executive Committee

5:30pm-7pm

Lakeview 1

Executive Committee & Past Presidents Dinner

The Writers and Their Critics: Get to Know the *College Language Association Journal (CLAJ)*

Chair: Shauna Morgan, Editor of *College Language Association Journal*

**7:30pm-8:30pm
Tennessee Ballroom B**



Thursday, April 11, 2024

8am - 5pm

Lobby

Convention Badge Pick-Up

8am-8:50am

Tennessee Grand Ballroom Foyer

Welcome Back Coffee for All Members Honoring New Members & First Time Attendees

Opening Plenary

Featuring Membership Engagement and Archives Presentation

9am-9:50am

Tennessee Ballroom A & B

10am-5pm

Tennessee Grand Ballroom Foyer

Publications, Vendors, Exhibits

Thursday, April 11 | 10:00 am-11:15 am | Concurrent Sessions I

1.1 Activism and Geopolitical Contexts, Movements across Place

Director's Row 2

Chair: Edudzi David Sallah, Texas A&M University

- "Blues People for the Black Lives Matter Era: Amiri Baraka, Beyoncé, and Black Power," **Corrie Claiborne**, Morehouse College
 - "Black Transnational Ethos: The "Freedom Church" and Indigeneity in West Africa," **Edudzi David Sallah**, Texas A&M University
 - "Online Diaries and Insta Poetry: The Role of Digital Storytelling in Nigeria's 21st-century Literary Activism," **Oluwafunmilayo Akinpelu**, University of Alabama
-

1.2 Literature, Aesthetics, and Activism

Promenade 1

Chair: Chelsea Osademe, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

- "Literary History is Not Exempt from History: Examining Shifts in Scholarly Discourse and Approaches to the Black Arts," **Barbra Chin**, Howard University
- "The Right to Self-determination: Migration and Gothic Aesthetics in *Lovecraft Country* and *Song of Solomon*," **Chelsea Osademe**, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities
- "Enacting Mental Health Activism Through Jacqueline Woodson's *Another Brooklyn* and Tayari Jones' *Leaving Atlanta*," **Tosha Sampson-Choma**, Kansas State University

Thursday, April 11 | 10:00 am-11:15 am | Concurrent Sessions I

1.3 Rhetoric, Intersectionality, and Activism

Director's Row 1

Chair: Christopher Peace, Georgia Institute of Technology

- "Womanist Rhetoric in Black Mysticism," **Christopher Peace**, Georgia Institute of Technology
 - "The Friendship of Feminism: Examining the Relationship Between Dorothy Pittman Hughes and Gloria Steinem," **Akila Wilson**, St. Augustine's University
 - "Imagining Black Spaces: The Role of Anarchy in Producing Black Spaces in *Wild Seed* by Octavia & *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston," **Cameron Carter**, Georgia State University
-

1.4 Reclaiming the "Familiar"

Director's Row 3

Chair: Crystal Harris, University of Central Arkansas*

- "Activism & Womanish Fear in Bambara's 'A Girl's Story,'" **Crystal Harris**, University of Central Arkansas
 - "Disturbing the Listening Air: Black Noise and the Activist Poetics of Frances E.W. Harper's 'The Slave Mother,'" **JP Sloan**, Rutgers University
 - "The Activist Spirit of Phillis Wheatley Peters in Turn-of-the-Century African American Literature," **Barbara McCaskill**, University of Georgia
-

1.5 Artistic, Literary, and Spiritual Movements

Director's Row 5

Chair: Jeremiah Morris, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

- "Disrobed Flesh and the Fact of Gendered Blackness in Andrea Lee's *Sarah Phillips* and *Rhineland v. Rhineland*," **Simone Drake**, Ohio State University
 - "Voices of Resilience: Black Female Memoirs and the Activist Spirit," **Sonia Mae Brown**, Philander Smith University
 - "State of Abjection Pentecostalism and the Erotics of Political Belonging," **Marlon Millner**, Northern Illinois University
-



Thursday, April 11 | 11:30 am-12:30 pm

**World Languages Special Presentation
Dr. Dorothy Mosby, Keynote Speaker
Southeast Ballroom**

Thursday, April 11 | 12:30 pm-1:45 pm

Lunch on Your Own

Standing Committee Chairs Lunch (by invitation)

Thursday, April 11 | 2:00 pm-3:15 pm | **Concurrent Sessions II**

2.1 Gender, Resilience, and Liberation

Director's Row 5

Chair: Rondrea Mathis, Bethune-Cookman University

- A Glance at Conflict and Cooperation in Black Women's Fiction, **Jade Harrison**, University of Kansas
- "America's Got a Problem: On the Making of *Mamas, Martyrs, and Jezebels: Myths, Legends, and Other Lies You've Been Told About Black Women*," **Rondrea Mathis**, Bethune-Cookman University and **Clarissa West-White**, Bethune-Cookman University
- "Combatting a Corrupt Ethic: Hughes's Prophetic Prescription for an Unjust Nation," **Wallis Baxter**, Maple Springs Bible College & Seminary

2.2 Audience, Publics, and Hierarchical Power

Director's Row 2

Chair: Kenny Wesley, Universidad de Alcalá

- "Blacks at the Borders: The Struggle for Migratory and Linguistic Justice," **Kenny Wesley**, Universidad de Alcalá
- "Phillis Wheatley and Amanda Gorman: Wheatley as the Poetic Origins of the Decree 'Black Lives Matter,' Gorman Reiterates that Race Still Matters in These United States," **Philip Lythcott**, Georgia State University
- "A Retrospective: Lifelong Activist Spirit in the Academy battling Racism and Betrayal, unbent and unbroken," **Dorothy Randall Tsuruta**, San Francisco State University

Thursday, April 11 | 2:00 pm-3:15 pm | Concurrent Sessions II

2.3 Literary Activism and Critical Interventions in Black Feminist Studies

Promenade 1

Chair: Antiwan Walker, Georgia Gwinnett College

- Alice Walker's Job: Using Celie as Black Feminist Religious Activism, **Antiwan Walker**, Georgia Gwinnett College
- SAY HER NAME, **Christel Woods**, Washington State University
- "Navigating the Complexities of Intersectionality: African American Women in *Memphis: A Novel*," **Daniyel Johnson**, University of Memphis

2.4 Masculinity, Care, and Healing

Director's Row 3

Chair: Donovan L. Ramon, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville

- "He Mad Mad: An exploration of the Intersections of oppressive economics, toxic masculinity, and mental illness in Cyrus Colter's *The Hippodrome*," **Nicole Lavalais**, Chicago State University
- "Reading Wellness, A Panel on Students and Care," **Jeremiah Morris**, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- "Is Bigger Still here?" Analysis of Manhood and Emasculation in Richard Wright's *Native Son* and Alice Walker's *The Third Life of Grange Copeland*," **Reginald Watson**, East Carolina University

2.5 Journal Publishing Tips for the Early Career Scholar

Director's Row 1

Chair: Katy Chiles, University of Tennessee-Knoxville

Katy Chiles, University of Tennessee-Knoxville

Cassander Smith, University of Alabama

2.6 From Axé to Action: Afro-Brazilian Writings and the Transformative Power of Words

Southeast Ballroom A

Chair: Dawn Duke, University of Tennessee-Knoxville

- "Literature, Feminism, and Militancy: Concepts of Analysis Within Afro-Brazilian Women's Writings," **Dawn Duke**, University of Tennessee-Knoxville
- "Cadernos Negros (Black Notebooks): 45 years of uninterrupted publication in Brazilian Literature," **Maria Aparecida Salgueiro**, UERJ - State University of Rio de Janeiro)
- "Ebony seedes: the meanings of writing children's literature with black protagonists," **Alexandra Lima da Silva**, UERJ- State University of Rio de Janeiro)

Thursday, April 11 | 2:00 pm-3:15 pm | Concurrent Sessions II

2.7 “Women Seeking Justice in the Works of James Baldwin, Sistah Souljah, and Tara Stringfellow”

Lakeview 1

- “‘Superwomen’: Resistance, Resiliency, and Survival Against Patriarchy and the Christian Master Narrative Bias in James Baldwin’s *Go Tell It on the Mountain*,”

Derwin Campbell, North Carolina State University

- “Women and Girls Need Not Apply: No Restorative Justice in *Memphis* by Tara Stringfellow,” **Joyce Russell**, St. Augustine’s University

Thursday, April 11

3:30 pm-4:30 pm

Southeast Ballroom

CLA Annual Standing Committee Discussion

4:45 pm-5:30 pm

Southeast Ballroom Foyer

CLA Authors Meet & Greet

5:45 pm-6:30 pm - Presidential Address

Dr. Jervette R. Ward, College Language Association President

Tennessee Grand Ballroom AB

6:30 pm-7:30 pm

Tennessee Grand Foyer

CLA Founding City Reception

7:30 pm-9:30 pm

Southeast Ballroom

Black Scholars in America: The Story of the College Language Association

Film Screening & Discussion with invited panelists

9:30 pm-11:00 pm

Lakeview 1

CLA Undergraduate and Graduate Student Social

Friday, April 12, 2024

8:00 am-5:00 pm

Lobby

Convention Badge Pick-Up

Friday, April 12 | 8:30 am-9:45 am | Concurrent Sessions III

3.1 Narratives of Race and Gender

Promenade 1

Chair: Obri Richardson, University of Memphis

- "Toward the Destruction of the Hog: Ernest Gaines' *A Lesson Before Dying* as a Source for Reimagining Black Malehood," Obri Richardson, University of Memphis
- "Masculinity in Morrison's *Tar Baby*," **Matt Farmer**, University of Memphis
- "Towards a Coming-of-South: Revising the Bildungsroman in Kiese Laymon's *Heavy: An American Memoir*," **Matthew Mills**, Georgia State University

3.2 Black Intellectualism Across Time & Space

Director's Row 2

Chair: Camille Banks, Richard J. Daley College/City Colleges of Chicago

- "Maroons of the Pen: The Independent Scholar as the Crusader of the African Diaspora" **Camille Banks**, Richard J. Daley College/City Colleges of Chicago
- "Carnival as Trope: Ritual Possession as Narrative Structure," **Kela Francis**, The University of Trinidad and Tobago
- "Feminist Crossings: Discursive and Poetic Practices and Interventions in Diasporic Women Writing," **Simone A. James Alexander**, Seton Hall University

3.3 Le monde Afrique: Changing the Language of Racial Justice

Director's Row 3

Chair: Edwin Philip Julien, Morgan State University

- "Jan Mapou and Felix Morisseau-Leroy: The Defenders of the Haitian-Creole Faith," **Edwin Philip Julien**, Morgan State University
- "Specter-Presences and 'counterhumanism' in Makenzy Orcel's *L'Ombre animale* and in ROAs Street Art," **Iona Wynter Parks**, Oglethorpe University

3.4 Confronting the Digital Divide: Narratives from the Black Book Interactive Project

Southeast Ballroom A

Chair: Maryemma Graham, University of Kansas

- "Black Ludology: Theorizing Play in Black Literature," **Austin Anderson**, Howard University
 - "Literary Recovery, Recognition, and Mapping of the Lynching of Black Women in America," **Griselda Thomas**, Kennesaw State University
 - "Developing Web-Content as Part of my DH Initiative on Black Women/Girls in Speculative Fiction," **Karima Jeffrey-Legette**, Hampton University
 - "Lossless Digital Recordings: Intricate Patterns in Black Women's Playwrighting," **Jalylah Burrell**, Loyola Marymount University
-

3.5 Cultivating Change: Faculty Perspectives on Social Justice, Activism, and Pedagogy

Director's Row 5

Chair: Sonia Mae Brown, Philander Smith University

- "Words That Change the World: Teaching Rhetorical Fluency for Activism," **Subrinia Bogan**, Philander Smith University
 - "Transforming the Digital Classroom: Online Instruction and Social Justice," **Elise Song**, Philander Smith University
 - "Faith, Activism, and Academic Exploration: A Spiritual Perspective," **Jaiem'z Williams**, Philander Smith University
 - "The Oral Revolution: Language and Literature as Catalysts for Social Change," **Jesse Hargrove**, Philander Smith University
-

10 am-5:00 pm

Tennessee Grand Foyer

Publications, Vendors, Exhibits

Friday, April 12 | 10:00 am-11:15 am | Concurrent Sessions IV

4.1 Literature and Memory

Southeast Ballroom AB

Chair: Sharon Jones, Ball State University

- "Feminist Strategies and Epistemologies: Activist Communities in *Angela Davis: An Autobiography, Women, Race and Class, and Abolition. Feminism. Now*," **Sharon Jones**, Ball State University
- "The Changing Same: Wright and Achebe's Activist Staging of Disastrous White Civilizing Mission in "Long Black Song" and *Things Fall Apart*," **Christopher Okonkwo**, Florida State University
- "Monsters of Memory and the Atomic Bomb Blues: Parallel Readings of Traumatic History in Kaiju Cinema and Black Speculative Fiction," **Alexander Brickler**, Florida A&M University
- "Unveiling Justice: Exploring Virginie Despentès' Literary Activism in Language, Literature, and Society," **Liana Babayan**, Augusta University

4.2 Genre and Activist Strategy

Director's Row 2

Chair: Simone A. James Alexander, Seton Hall University

- "The Poetics of Bob Marley's Resistance Narratives," **Denise M. Jarrett**, Morgan State University
 - "Black Prophetic Rhetoric as Protest: Examining Proclamation Through the Black Literary Tradition," **Obri Richardson**, University of Memphis
 - "Troubling the Water: Occasional Poetry as a Rhetorical Activist Strategy," **Marcus Jamison**, Howard University
-

4.3 Honoring the Activist Spirit through Pedagogical Practice

Director's Row 3

Chair: Valerie Frazier, College of Charleston

- "Thick Thinking and Risks In the Composition Classroom," **Jennifer C. Morrison**, Xavier University of Louisiana
 - "Culturally Responsive Reading: Exploring the LIST Paradigm," **Durthy Washington**, U.S. Air Force Academy (Retired)
 - "Pick[ing] up a camera" and capturing truths about social justice," **Valerie Frazier**, College of Charleston
-

4.4 Creative Legacies of Activism in Language and Literature

Promenade 1

Chair: Rachel Ansong, University of Rhode Island

- "A Sistas' In'rospection: (Re)reading 'On being brought from AFRICA to AMERICA' through Audre Lorde's "Poetry is not a Luxury,"" **Rachel Ansong**, University of Rhode Island
 - "Journey to Albion: Amiri Baraka, 1966," **Aldon Nielsen**, Penn State University
 - "True to This, Not New to This: Activism in African American Literary Works," **Tamalyn L. Peterson**, Stillman College
-

4.5 Celebrating Paule Marshall: Friendship, Family, Work, and Activism (Wintergreen Women Writers)

Director's Row 1

Chair: Opal Moore, Spelman College

- "Literary Friendships, Literary Legends," **Daryl Cumber Dance**, University of Richmond and Virginia Commonwealth University, Emerita
- "Out of Her Head and into Real World Challenges," **Trudier Harris**, University of Alabama
- "Finding Our Roots: A Trip to Carriacou," **Joanne Veal Gabbin**, James Madison University
- "Daughters: A Riddle Tale of Heresy and Hope," **Opal Moore**, Spelman College
- "Growing up with My Literary Auntie, Paule Marshall," **Daryl Lynn Dance**, Hampton University

**4.6 “Supporting Student Recruitment, Retention, and Career Readiness as Activism: Examples from MLA Pathways” (Undergraduate and Graduate Student Committee)
Tennessee Ballroom B**

Chair: Ayanni C. H. Cooper, Modern Language Association

Jessica Edwards, University of Delaware

Paula Krebs, Modern Language Association

Dana Williams, Howard University

Friday, April 12 | 11:30 am-1:00 pm

**CLA Business Meeting and Elections
Tennessee Ballroom AB**

CLA Business Meeting Agenda

Presiding: Jervette R. Ward, *CLA President*

Call to Order/Welcome: Jervette R. Ward, *CLA President*

Memorial Moments: Reginald Bess, *CLA Immediate Past President*

Approval of 2023 Business Meeting Minutes: Jason Hendrickson, *CLA Secretary*

Executive Committee Reports

Executive Committee Updates: Jervette R. Ward, *CLA President*

College Language Association Journal: Shauna M. Morgan, *CLAJ Editor*

Treasurer's Report: Constance Bailey, *CLA Treasurer*

Membership & Standing Committees: McKinley E. Melton, *CLA Membership Engagement Director*

Standing Committees

Constitution – Dana A. Williams, *Chair*

Archives – Shanna Benjamin, *Chair*

Awards – Warren J. Carson, *Chair*

Black Studies – Thabiti Lewis, *Chair*

CLA & Historically Black Colleges – helen j. crump, *Chair*

CLA & Historically White Colleges – Xavia Burton, *Chair*

Creative Writing – Alana King, *Chair*

Curriculum: English – Aaron Oforlea, *Chair*

Curriculum: World Languages – Leroy T. Hopkins Jr., *Chair*

Membership – McKinley E. Melton, *Chair*

Nominations – Elizabeth J. West, *Chair*

Research – Carlynn Ferrari, *Chair*

International Outreach and Exchange – Clément A. Akassi, *Chair*

Undergraduate and Graduate Student – Anthony Boynton II, *Chair*

2024-2026 CLA Elections

Announcements

Friday, April 12 | 1:00 pm-2:15 pm

Lunch on Your Own

Friday, April 12 | 2:30 pm-3:45 pm | Concurrent Sessions V

5.1 "The Furious Flower Syllabus Project: Opening the World of Black Poetry"

Southeast Ballroom A

Chair: McKinley E. Melton, Gettysburg College

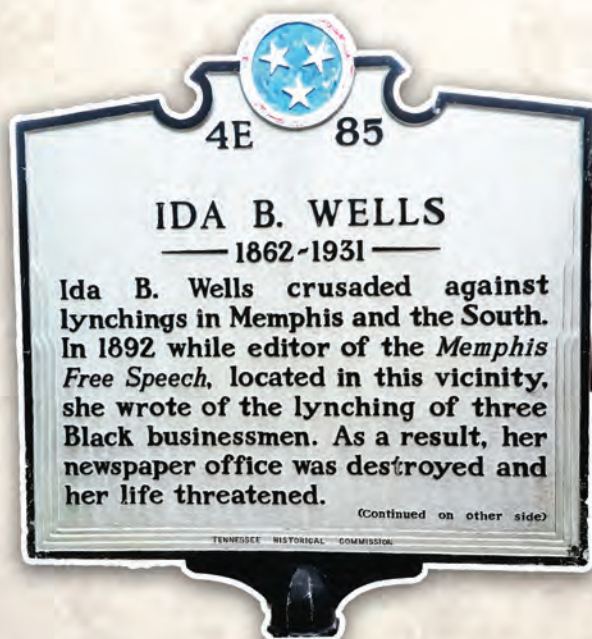
- **Allia Abdullah-Matta**, CUNY-LaGuardia Community College
- **L. Lamar Wilson**, Florida State University
- **David Wooley**, Westhill High School
- **Angel Dye**, Rutgers University

5.2 Art, Memory and Activism

Director's Row 2

Chair: Laura Barrio-Vilar, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

- "The Language of Clothing is Activism: Look at Me," **Milford Jeremiah**, Morgan State University
- "Vinyl Culture: Listening for the Melody, Memoir, and Meaning in Album Cover Art," **Aneeka Ayanna Henderson**, Amherst College
- "More Than Bearing Witness to Genocide: Searching for Justice in *Murambi, The Book of Bones*," **Laura Barrio-Vilar**, University of Arkansas at Little Rock



5.3 Black Lives, Black Narratives: Exploring the Language of Change and Transformation

Director's Row 3

Chair: Shelby Crosby, University of Memphis

- "The Language of Liberation: George Washington Lee and the construction of a civil rights narrative in Memphis, Tennessee," **Charles McKinney**, Rhodes College
 - "I Can't Separate America's Mass Shootings From its Long History of Racial Terrorism," **Norrell Edwards**, Le Moyne College
 - "I Heard You Went to Nam': Frontier Mythology, Violence, and the Afterlife of the Vietnam War in Percival Everett's *Walk Me to the Distance*," **Keith Mitchell**, The University of Massachusetts Lowell
-

5.4 Activism and Pedagogical Practice

Director's Row 5

Chair: Michelle Jones, University of Kansas

- "Black Feminist Theory—Reexamining BFT in Teaching Courses," **Michelle Jones**, University of Kansas
 - "Teaching Algeria through the Lens of Feminism," **Ima Hicks**, Virginia Union University
 - "But I'm not an English Major: Literary Studies for non-Humanities Students," **Stephanie Hankerson**, Albany State University
-

5.5 Agency, Comedy, and Place

Lakeview 1

Chair: Terrence Tucker, University of Memphis

- "Amen to Agency: Analyzing Thelma Frye's Inner Sula Peace," **Madison 'Mocha' Hunter**, University of Memphis
 - "A Rage So True, It's Funny: 21st Century Comic Rage from Obama's Luther," **Terrence Tucker**, University of Memphis
 - "No One Should Have to Live on a Street Named Gurgling Brook: Spatial Justice and Black Placemaking in Aaron McGruder's *The Boondocks*," **Trevon A Pegram**, Howard University
-

5.6 Bridging Black Intellectualism across Europe, Latin America and the Arab World

Lakeview 2

Chair: Mark Sanders, University of Notre Dame

- "Juan Latino in the Black Intellectual Tradition," **Baltasar Fra-Molinero**, Bates College
- "'A World beyond this One': Sustaining Afro-brasilidade through Language, Ritual, and Culture Teaching in Northeastern Brazil," **Adrienne Ronee Washington**, West Virginia University
- "Existential Freedom and Blackness in the Poetry of Rómulo Bustos," **Mark Sanders**, University of Notre Dame

5.7 Charles Waddell Chesnutt and the Problem of Justice (Charles Chesnutt Association)

Director's Row 1

Chair: Elizabeth J. West, Georgia State University

- "Chesnutt's Search for Justice: Charles Chesnutt's Complicated Friendship and Extended Argument with Booker T. Washington," **Bianca Swift and Kenneth M. Price**, University of Nebraska Lincoln
- "Exposing Connections: Past Violence and Present Intimidation in Chesnutt's 'The Doll,'" **Stephanie Browner**, The New School
- "'A Small But Remarkable Collection': Books As Inheritance and Aids to Justice in *The House Behind The Cedars*," **Amina Gautier**, University of Miami
- "Charles W. Chesnutt's Biological Justice: When Insecure Humans Accept Nature's Genetics," **SallyAnn Ferguson**, University of North Carolina, Emerita

Friday, April 12 | 4:00 pm-5:15 pm | Concurrent Sessions VI

6.1 Genre and Activist Strategy

Director's Row 1

Chair: Seretha Williams, Augusta University

- "Agenda for Action: Margaret Walker's Black Futurity," **Seretha Williams**, Augusta University
- "Pauline Hopkins and the World of Wakanda," **Bonita Davis**, Georgia State University
- "Tonight's Featured Guest: How Cameo Appearances Expand Communal Viewing Experiences," **Tikenya Foster-Singleton**, Spelman College
- "We Got a Right to Fight: The Image of Student Activism on Television," **Rashell Smith-Spears**, Jackson State University

6.2 Language and Linguistic Justice

Director's Row 2

Chair: Eva Michelle Wheeler, Providence College

- "Linguistic Justice in the Classroom and the Writing Center," **Daryl Lynn Dance**, Hampton University
- "Ain't This An English Class: The Fight for Linguistic Justice in ELA Classrooms," **Amira Wallace**, Jackson State University
- "Blackness and the Multilingual Speaker: In Search of Justice in the Language Classroom and Beyond," **Eva Michelle Wheeler**, Providence College

6.3 Collaborations and Debates Among and Between Writers of a Shared Historical Moment

Director's Row 3

Chair: Wallis Tinnie, Independent Scholar

- "They so meager and we so gross": Black Abundance and Decentering Whiteness in *Heavy*," **Lydia Ezell**, Georgia State University
 - "Kincaid and Bakhtin: Discourse in A Small Place," **Wallis Tinnie**, Independent Scholar
 - "Vengeance is Mine," I Will Repay: One Black Veteran's Promise," **Patricia Young**, Western Illinois University
-

6.4 "Women's Wisdom: Readings and Conversations about Black Women's Poetry and Poetics"

Lakeview 1

Chair: Tara T. Green, University of Houston

- "The Bones Beneath," **Sheila Smith McKoy**, University of San Francisco
 - "Lot's Daughters: It's All In the Telling," **Opal Moore**, Spelman College
-

6.5 Feminist Theology, Womanism, and Girlhood

Lakeview 2

Chair: DoVeanna Fulton, Norfolk State University

- "Loves Struggle: Black Women's Theology and Social Justice," **DoVeanna Fulton**, Norfolk State University
 - "A Black Girl's Barrettes: Activist Poetics in Jasmine Mans's *Black Girl, Call Home*," **Marquita R. Smith**, Rowan University
 - "In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens AND Justice: Alice Walker and the Activist Spirit," **Charlotte C. Teague**, Alabama A&M University
 - "Cultivating Care: Black Women's Communal Gardening as Activism," **Carlyn Ferrari**, Seattle University
-

6.6 Literature, Leadership and Professional Development

Director's Row 5

Chair: Robin Brooks, University of Pittsburgh

- "Pay for a Shift: Professional Development, Coaching, & Self-Care," **Robin Brooks**, University of Pittsburgh
 - "Lay all that mess down': Toni Morrison's *Beloved* as a Praxis for Black Higher Education Leadership and Liberation," **Ebony Lumumba**, Jackson State University
 - "Devising and Developing the Method': James Weldon Johnson, Creative Writing, and Race Work at Fisk University, 1931-38," **Magana Kabugi**, Fisk University
-

6.7 "Sula at 50, the Nobel Lecture at 30" (Toni Morrison Society)

Southeast Ballroom AB

Chair: Dana Williams, Howard University

- "Toni Morrison: A More than Noble/Nobel Champion of Peace," **Reginald Wilburn**, University of North Texas
- "Toni Morrison's *Sula*, 50 Years Later," **Molly E. O'Connor**, University of Dallas
- "The Poetics of Justice: Morrison's work and the Re-articulation of Freedom," **Marie Sairsingh**, University of the Bahamas
- "Reading *Sula* then and now: "Remaining whole" by Extending the Boundaries of the Reader's Moral Imagination," **Emmanuelle Andres**, La Rochelle Université

Friday, April 12

5:30 pm-6:15 pm

Director's Row 5

Career Headshot Photo Session

6:30 pm-7:30 pm

Tennessee Grand Foyer

Pre-Banquet Cash Bar and Book Signing with Banquet Keynote Speaker Dr. Zandria F. Robinson

Friday, April 12
**Convention
 Banquet &
 Awards
 Ceremony**

7:30 pm-9:30 pm

Tennessee Grand Ballroom

Dr. Zandria F. Robinson,
 Keynote Speaker



9:30 pm-12 am

Southeast Ballroom

President's Homecoming Reception

Saturday, April 12, 2024

8:00 am-12:00 pm

Lobby

Convention Badge Pick-Up

10:00 am-12:00 pm

Tennessee Grand Foyer

Publications, Vendors, Exhibits

Saturday, April 13 | 9:00 am-10:15 am | Concurrent Sessions VII

7.1 Faint, Frail, and Free: Re/constructing the Black Female Body Otherwise

Director's Row 2

Chair: Angel Dye, Rutgers University

- "Looking and Limp: Re/constructing Color-Struck Black Femininity in *The Blacker the Berry*," **Angel Dye**, Rutgers University
 - "The World As Is and the World Reimagined: Explorations of Fainting and Flashing in Sherley Anne Williams' *Dessa Rose*," **Bria Paige**, Rutgers University
 - "Forced to Some Experiment": Harriet E. Wilson's Claims to Frailty in *Our Nig*," **Rudrani Sarma**, Rutgers University
-

7.2 Breaking Away from the Margins: Modern Perspectives on Womanhood and Resistance

Lakeview 1

Chair: Jennifer D. Williams, Howard University

- "Navigating Social Death: Girlhood and Resistance in Harriet Jacobs' *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*," **Emily Duru**, Howard University
 - "Women In The Spaces They Are Not Supposed To Be: Analyzing Imposed Confinement Through *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* and *Trees of Peace*," **Priyanshi Madhukar**, Howard University
 - "Poetic Reconstructions of War: Amanda Gorman, Honoree Fanonne Jeffers, and Tracy K. Smith's Archival Experiments," **Laura E Vrana**, University of South Alabama
-

7.3 Narratives and (In-)Justice: Reading and Teaching Black Lives

Promenade 1

Chair: Cassander L. Smith, University of Alabama

- "The Stories We Resist Knowing: Teaching Counternarratives and Critical Thinking," **Lauren Cardon**, University of Alabama
- "'There was no such thing for Black people': Chronic Illness, Recovery, and the Life of Delores Phillips," **Delia Steverson**, University of Alabama
- "Narratives of Victimhood and Wasteful Bodies: Black Legend Rhetoric at the Borders of West Africa and the Caribbean in the 16th Century," **Cassander Smith**, University of Alabama

7.4 Critical and Scholarly Responses to Literary Works, Movements, and Figures Director's Row 5

Chair: Rita B. Dandridge, Virginia State University

- "Mary Church Terrell: Short Story Satirist for Justice," **Rita B. Dandridge**, Virginia State University
- "Miss Emma and Tante Lou: Ernest Gaines's Overlooked Activists," **Sheronda Gipson-Marion**, Rust College

7.5 Teaching Resistance Through Black Women's Speculative Fiction (Octavia E. Butler Literary Society)

Director's Row 1

Chair: Shelby Crosby, University of Memphis

- "We Know a Place: Black Women's Speculative Sanctuaries," **Phyllis Lynne Burns**, Otterbein University
- "Journey of Resistance," **Ebony Gibson**, Georgia Gwinnett College
- "(R)evolution Begins with the Self: Transformation as Resistance," **R. Nicole Smith**, Spelman College

7.6 "I Want My Ham.": Justice and Activism in August Wilson's American Century Cycle (August Wilson Society)

Director's Row 3

Chair: Ladrica Menson-Furr, University of Memphis

- "Liberation Historiography as Justice Work: August Wilson's Influence on (African) American Drama," **Khalid Y. Long**, Howard University
- "Take Me to the Water: Ritual Passages and Just Engagements in *Gem of the Ocean* and *In the Red and Brown Water*," **Isaiah Matthew Wooden**, Swarthmore College
- "A Defense of August Wilson's Warriors," **Sandra G. Shannon**, Howard University

Saturday, April 13 | 10:30 am-11:45 am | Concurrent Sessions VIII

8.1 Movements, Stories, and Black Sonics

Southeast Ballroom A

Chair: Earl Brooks, University of Maryland - Baltimore County

- "Black Orientalism's Enchantment from Islam to BlerDCon," **Mark Villegas**, Franklin & Marshall College
 - "Play it Loud: The Sonic Revolution in Black Television and Film," **Earl Brooks**, University of Maryland - Baltimore County
 - "Waring Cuney, Langston Hughes, and World War II," **Verner D. Mitchell**, University of Memphis
 - "Searching for Justice while Serving the Country: African American Writers of World War II," **Cynthia Davis**, San Jacinto College
-

8.2 Narrative and Resistance

Director's Row 2

Chair: Linda White, LeMoyne-Owen College

- "Slave Narratives: Voices of Resistance", **Jorge Pérez de Jesús**, Purdue University
 - "Living Without a Personal History: Reimagining Dana in Octavia E. Butler's *Kindred*," **Linda White**, LeMoyne-Owen College
 - "On Resistance to Plantation Power," **Latrice Johnson**, University of Mississippi
-

8.3 Walking Miles in Her Shoes: Exploring Octavia E. Butler's Archives (Octavia E. Butler Literary Society)

Director's Row 1

Chair: Kendra R. Parker, Georgia Southern University

- "Developing Female Protagonists: Exploring Drafts of Butler's Early Works," **Barbara Simerka**, Queens College/CUNY
 - "Walking Off a Cliff: Western Values and West African Mysticism in Octavia E. Butler's *Xenogenesis*," **Ebony Gibson**, Georgia Gwinnett College
 - "Walk Thoughts': Experiencing Butler's Living Archive," **Kendra R. Parker**, Georgia Southern University
-

8.4 Literary Reckonings with White Riots Roundtable

Director's Row 3

Chair: Sheila Smith McKoy, University of San Francisco

Griselda Thomas, Kennesaw State University
Sheila Smith McKoy, University of San Francisco

8.5 Active Academic Justice: At the Intersection of Mentoring and Activism in the Academy (CLA-HBCU Standing Committee)

Promenade 2

Chair: helen j. crump, Jackson State University

- "Mentoring Junior Faculty 'By Any Means Necessary,'" **Preselfannie Whitfield McDaniels**, Jackson State University
- "Activist Voices Then, Activist Voices Now: Preparing Our Student Activists & Civic Participants through Rhetoric & Expression," **Monica Flippin-Wynn**, Gardner Institute
- "BlkWomentoring: Forging Revolutionary Relationships in the Academy," **Shanna L. Smith**, Jackson State University

Saturday, April 13 | 12:00 pm-1:15 pm | Concurrent Sessions IX

9.1 Establishing Publication Equity for Faculty: Writing Boot Camps, Virtual Writing Groups, Writing Mentors, and More

Director's Row 2

Chair: Preselfannie McDaniels, Jackson State University

- "Always Had My Back!: Collaborating and Creating a Reflective, Transparent and Supportive Community," **Monica Flippin Wynn**, Gardner Institute
- "Pushing Institutional Boundaries: Mentorship and Interdisciplinary Publishing," **Rico Self**, North Carolina State University
- "Guarding the Yard!: Working to Provide Avenues of Publication Success for Women Junior Faculty," **Preselfannie McDaniels**, Jackson State University

9.2 Literary Representations of LGBTQ+ Sexualities in the Black Diaspora (African Literature Association)

Director's Row 3

Chairs: Sue E. Houchins, Charles I. Nero, Bates College

- "After and With Owen Dodson," **Maurice Wallace**, Rutgers University
- "Representations of Non-Binary Sexualities in the Diaspora," **Sue E. Houchins**, Bates College
- "Black Women and Queer Sexuality in the Archive: The Case of Alice Dunbar-Nelson," **Tara T. Green**, University of Houston
- "African Manhood and Sexual Vulnerability in Colonial Brazil," **Matthew J. Pettway**, University of South Alabama

9.3 Ruminations on Language, Imagery, and Activism: Reading Metaphor, Memory, and Inspiration in the works of Black and Diasporic Writers (Howard University - Department of English)

Director's Row 5

Chair: Julius Fleming, University of Maryland

- "Memorializing the Activist Spirit in Julia Alvarez's *In the Time of the Butterflies*," **Paola Yuli**, Howard University
- "Inspiration & Creation: Genre and Activist Strategy in Pauline Hopkins's *Of One Blood*," **Sabrina Bramwell**, Howard University
- "Indigenous Time in Helon Habila's *Oil on Water* (2010)," **Sarah Jenkins**, Howard University

**9.4 Creative Writing Committee: Special Session
Lakeview 2**
Chair: Alana King, Austin Community College

Alana King, Austin Community College
Shauna Morgan, University of Kentucky
Angel C. Dye, Rutgers University
Madison "Mocha" Hunter, University of Memphis

**9.5 The Speculative Mission of Historical Recovery
Lakeview 1**
Chair: Anthony Boynton, University of Kansas

- "Ghostly Lives and Queer Afrofuturism," **Anthony Boynton, University of Kansas**
- "Literary Activism Through Embodied Technologies in Liselle Sambury's *Blood Like Magic*," **Sandra (Alessandra) Jacobo, University of Kansas**
- "Authentic Histories: Speculative Reinventions of Nat Turner," **Anna Sophia Flood, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign**

9.6 Writing as Resistance: Strategies for Surviving the Tenure Track (Early Career Scholars)

Director's Row 1
Chair: Norrell Edwards, Le Moyne College

Roundtable Participants:
Norrell Edwards, Le Moyne College
Jacinta Saffold, University of Delaware
Donavan L. Ramon, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville

Saturday, April 13 | 1:30 pm-5:00 pm

Project on the History of Black Writing and HathiTrust Research Center Digital Humanities Workshop (Lunch Provided; Pre-registration Required)
Southeast Ballroom

Chair: Ayesha Hardison, University of Kansas

Janet Swatscheno (Digital Scholarship Librarian/Associate Director of Outreach and Education for the HathiTrust Research Center)

Ryan Dubnicek (Digital Humanities Specialist, School of Information Sciences, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)

4:00 p.m. - 6:30 pm Post-Convention Meeting with Current & Incoming Executive Committee and Host Committee

7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Post-Convention Executive Committee Dinner

END OF CONVENTION

PAST CLA SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVICE AWARDS

2023 Atlanta, GA

Elizabeth J. West, *Finding Francis: One Family's Journey from Slavery to Freedom*

2022 Online (Virtual)

Christopher N. Okonkwo, *Kindred Spirits: Chinua Achebe and Toni Morrison*

2021 Memphis, TN (Virtual)

Christel N. Temples, *Black Cultural Mythology*

2020 Raleigh, NC

Michelle Hartman, *Breaking Broken English: Black-Arab Literary Solidarities and the Politics of Language*

2019 Raleigh, NC

Derik Smith, *Robert Hayden in Verse: New Histories of African American Poetry in the Black Arts Movement*

2018 Chicago, IL

Aaron N. Oforlea, *James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, and Black Male Subjectivity*

2017 Dallas, TX

Kameelah Martin, *Envisioning Black Feminist Voodoo Aesthetics*

2016 Houston, TX

Reginald A. Wilburn, *Preaching the Gospel of Black Revolt: Appropriating Milton in Early African American Literature*

Trimico Melancon, *Unbought and Unbossed: Transgressive Black Women, Sexuality, and Representation*

Yakini B. Kemp, For Distinguished Service to CLA

Emma Waters Dawson, For Distinguished Service to CLA

2015 Dallas, TX

Simone A. James Alexander, *African Diasporic Women's Narratives: Politics of Resistance, Survival, and Citizenship*

2014 New Orleans, LA

Keith Clark, *The Radical Fiction of Ann Petry*

2012 Atlanta, GA

Lawrence Jackson, *The Indignant Generation: A Narrative History of African American Writers and Critics, 1934-1960*

2010 Brooklyn, NY

Frances Smith Foster, *'Til Death or Distance Do Us Part: Love and Marriage in African America*

Trudier Harris, *The Scary Mason-Dixon Line: African American Writers and the South*

2009 Cambridge, MD

La Vinia Delois Jennings, *Toni Morrison and the Idea of Africa*

Lovalerie King, *Property Matters in African American Literature: Race, Theft, and Ethics*

2008 Charleston, SC

Margaret Wade-Lewis, *Lorenzo Dow Turner, Father of Gullah Studies*

2007 Miami, FL

Naomi Long Madgett, *Pilgrim Journey*

2006 Birmingham, AL

Bernard W. Bell, *The Contemporary African American Novel: Its Folk Roots and Modern Literary Branches*

2003 Washington, DC

Karla F. C. Holloway, *Passed On: African American Mourning Stories: A Memorial*

2002 Memphis, TN

Herman F. Bostick, For Distinguished Service to CLA

2001 New Orleans, LA

Helena Woodard, *African-British Writings in the Eighteenth Century: The Politics of Race and Reason*

Renée Larrier, *Francophone Women Writers of Africa and the Caribbean*

2000 Baltimore, MD

Louis Rivers, For Distinguished Service to CLA

1999 Fayetteville, NC

Mary Kemp Davis, *Nat Turner Before the Bar of Judgment: Fictional Treatments of the Southhampton Slave Insurrection*

Richard L. Jackson, *Black Writers and Latin America: Cross-Cultural Affinities*

Robert J. Hudson, For Distinguished Service to CLA

1998 Tallahassee, FL

Sandra G. Shannon, *The Dramatic Vision of August Wilson*

Earle D. Clowney, For Distinguished Service to CLA

1997 Atlanta, GA

J. Lee Greene, *Blacks in Eden: The African American Novel's First Century*

Robert P. Smith Jr., For Distinguished Service to CLA

1996 Winston-Salem, NC

Joyce Pettis, *Toward Wholeness in Paule Marshall's Fiction*

Cason L. Hill, For Distinguished Service to CLA

Ruthe T. Sheffey, For Distinguished Service to CLA

1995 Baton Rouge, LA

Thadious M. Davis, *Nella Larsen, Novelist of the Harlem Renaissance: A Woman's Life Unveiled*

1994 Durham, NC

Frances Smith Foster, *Minnie's Sacrifice, Sowing and Reaping, Trial and Triumph: Three Rediscovered Novels by Frances E. W. Harper*

Karla F. C. Holloway, *Moorings & Metaphors: Figures of Culture and Gender in Black Women's Literature*, CLA Scholarly Discovery Award

Thelma D. Curl, For Distinguished Service to CLA

1993 Daytona Beach, FL

Richard K. Barksdale, *Praisesong of Survival: Lectures and Essays, 1957-89*

1992 Knoxville, TN

Margaret Walker Alexander, For Distinguished Contribution to Literary Scholarship and Creative Activity

1991 Columbia, SC

Ian Isidore Smart, *Nicolás Guillén: Popular Poet of the Caribbean*

1990 Columbus, OH

Bernard W. Bell, *The Afro-American Novel and Its Tradition*

Russell Brooks, For Distinguished Service to CLA

1989 Frankfort, KY

Houston A. Baker Jr., *Modernism and the Harlem Renaissance*

Maggie Daniels, For Distinguished Service to CLA

1988 Greensboro, NC

Pinkie Gordon Lane, *I Never Scream: New and Selected Poems*

Naomi L. Madgett, *Octavia and Other Poems*

1987 Washington, DC

Trudier Harris, *Black Women in the Fiction of James Baldwin*

Arnold Rampersad, *The Life of Langston Hughes Vol. 1: 1902-1942: I, Too, Sing America*

1986 Norfolk, VA

Joanne V. Gabbin, *Sterling A. Brown: Building the Black Aesthetic Tradition*

Therman B. O'Daniel, *A Twenty-Five Year Author-Title Cumulative Index to the CLA Journal (1957-1982)*

1985 New York, NY

Gloria Wade Gayles, *No Crystal Stair: Visions of Race and Sex in Black Women's Fiction*

1984 Nashville, TN

John F. Matheus, In Recognition of Outstanding Contributions to CLA (Posthumously accepted by Ellen Matheus)

1983 Philadelphia, PA

Martha K. Cobb, *Harlem, Haiti, and Havana: A Comparative Critical Study of Langston Hughes, Jacques Roumain, and Nicolás Guillén*

Marian Russell, *Melvin Tolson: Harlem Gallery*

1982 Charlotte, NC

George E. Kent, For Distinguished Service to CLA

1978 Memphis, TN

Hugh M. Gloster, in Honor of His Founding the Organization and For Distinguished Service to CLA

1977 Jackson, MS

Therman B. O'Daniel, for 20 years as editor of the *CLA Journal* and for initiation and editorship of a series of critical evaluations of principal Afro-American authors

1976 Savannah, GA

Michael W. Peplow and Arthur P. Davis, *The New Negro Renaissance: An Anthology*

1975 New Orleans, LA

Arthur P. Davis, *From the Dark Tower: Afro-American Writers 1900-1960*

1974 Baltimore, MD

Theodore Hudson, *From LeRoi Jones to Amiri Baraka*

1966 Atlanta, GA

Ruthe T. Sheffey, *From Delight to Wisdom: Thematic Progression in the Poetry of Robert Frost*

COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS

- 2016 **Geneva Hampton Baxter**, Distinguished Service
- 2012 **Cason Hill**, Distinguished Service, (Past) *CLAJ* Editor
- 2009 **Marvin Lewis**, Columbia, Missouri, Scholar, Educator
- 2005 **Marie Buncombe-Dodd**, Brooklyn, NY, Distinguished Service, Educator
Eleanor Q. Tignor, Long Island City, NY, Distinguished Service, Educator
- 2003 **James J. Davis**, Washington, DC, Distinguished Service, Educator
- 2000 **Dolan Hubbard**, Baltimore, MD, Scholar, Educator
- 1998 **Virginia Nyabongo**, Nashville, TN, Educator
- 1997 **Hugh Morris Gloster**, Atlanta, GA, Scholar, Educator, Humanist
- 1996 **Maya Angelou**, Winston-Salem, NC, Writer, Poet, Actress
- 1995 **Douglass Turner Ward**, Baton Rouge, LA, Playwright, Actor, Director, Writer

THE DARYL CUMBER DANCE AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

- 2018 **Jerry W. Ward Jr.**
- 2016 **Maryemma Graham**
- 2014 **R. Baxter Miller**
- 2012 **Daryl Cumber Dance** (First Recipient)



PAST COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION CONVENTIONS

- April 5-8, 2023 81st | Atlanta, GA - "Rage, Resilience & Response"
- April 7-10, 2021 80th | Memphis, TN (Virtual) - "Afrofuturism: Diasporic Visions"
- April 11-13, 2019 79th | Raleigh, NC - "1619 < Expanding Narratives > 2019"
- April 4-7, 2018 78th | Chicago, IL - "Native Sons/Daughters and Immigrants in the Black Metropolis"
- April 5-8, 2017 77th | Columbia, MO - "Interdisciplinary Studies and Diversity in Languages and Literatures"
- April 6-9, 2016 76th | Houston, TX - "Dialogues Between Africa and the African Diaspora in Languages, Literatures and Films"
- April 8-11, 2015 75th | Dallas, TX - "Expanding Frontiers: Freedom, Resistance, and Transnational Identities In Languages and Literatures"
- March 26-29, 2014 74th | New Orleans, LA - "Pathways and Porticos: The Caribbean & the South as Catalyst in Languages & Literatures"
- April 10-13, 2013 73rd | Lexington, KY - "Mason-Dixon & Maginot Lines: Borders, Boundaries, Barriers in Languages & Literatures"
- March 28 - 31, 2012 72nd | Atlanta, GA - "In the Spirit of Sankofa—Moving Forward, Looking Back in Languages and Literatures"
- April 6-9, 2011 71st | Spartanburg, SC - "Narrativity and Musicality: The Confluence of Language, Literature, and Culture"
- April 7-10, 2010 70th | Brooklyn, NY - "Freedom's Visions and Urban Landscapes: Spaces and Places in Languages and Literatures"
- March 25-28, 2009 69th | Cambridge, MD - "Liberation as Theme and Strategy in Languages and Literatures"
- April 9-12, 2008 68th | Charleston, SC - "(Re)Roots and (Re)Routes: Transatlantic Connections in Language and Literatures"
- April 18-21, 2007 67th | Miami, FL - "Religion and Spirituality in Literature"
- April 5-8, 2006 66th | Birmingham, AL - "Literature and Film: From Page to Screen"
- April 10-12, 2005 65th | Athens, GA - "From Bebop to Hip Hop: Breaking the Cultural Divide"
- April 14-17, 2004 64th | Nashville, TN - "Independence and National Literatures: The Construction of Identity"
- April 23-26, 2003 63rd | Washington, DC - "Signifyin' Theories: New Gazes on Literatures and Languages"
- April 24-27, 2002 62nd | Memphis, TN - "Heritage and Homage: Navigating Our Cultural Heritage"
- April 18-21, 2001 61st | New Orleans, LA - "Literature and the Americas: Roots and Routes"
- April 5-8, 2000 60th | Baltimore, MD - "The Millennium: Historicizing the Past, Present, and Future"

- April 14-17, 1999 59th | Fayetteville, NC - "Satire, Wit, and Humor in Language and Literature"
- April 15-18, 1998 58th | Tallahassee, FL - "Cultural Connections in the Diaspora: Africa and the Americas"
- April 16-19, 1997 57th | Atlanta, GA - "Literature in Migration: City, Country, World"
- April 10-13, 1996 56th | Winston-Salem, NC - "Diversity, Retrospection, and Prophecy in Language, Literature, and Culture"
- April 19-22, 1995 55th | Baton Rouge, LA - "Language, Literature, and Technology: The Imagination and Virtual Reality"
- April 13-16, 1994 54th | Durham, NC - "Language and Literacy for the Twenty-first Century: Redefining Theory, Practice, Pedagogy"
- April 1-3, 1993 53rd | Daytona Beach, FL - "Multiculturalism: Whose Language? Whose Literature?"
- April 9-11, 1992 52nd | Knoxville, TN - "Gender and Genre: From Illusion to Reality"
- April 17-20, 1991 51st | Columbia, SC - "Myth, Magic, and Lore: Language and Literature"
- April 18-21, 1990 50th | Columbus, OH - "Discovery and Rediscovery: Dramatic Forces in Languages and Literatures"
- April 26-29, 1989 49th | Frankfort, KY - "Culture and Literacy: The Role of Language, Literature, and Linguistics"
- March 30-April 2, 1988 48th | Greensboro, NC - "CLA's Second Half Century: Language and Literature in the Black Diaspora"
- April 22-25, 1987 47th | Washington, DC - "Prophecies and Revelations: Our Heritage and Our Future"
- April 16-19, 1986 46th | Norfolk, VA - "Women as Subjects, Objects, and Authors of Literature"
- April 17-20, 1985 45th | New York, NY - "Dramatic Contrasts in Literature, Theatre, and Communication Arts"
- April 18-21, 1984 44th | Nashville, TN - "Biography, Autobiography, Literature and Myth: Literature and the Self"
- April 21-23, 1983 43rd | Philadelphia, PA - "Black Writers, Black Writing: Post-War to the Present"
- April 22-24, 1982 42nd | Charlotte, NC - "Language, Literature, and Literary Criticism: The 1970s and 1980s"
- April 23-25, 1981 41st | New Orleans, LA - "The Plantation-America Culture Sphere: Caribbean and Southern Literatures"
- April 17-19, 1980 40th | Atlanta, GA - "Language, Literature, and the Human Condition"
- April 26-28, 1979 39th | Washington, DC - "The Black Woman: National and International Perspectives"
- April 13-15, 1978 38th | Memphis, TN - "Attaining Excellence: A Return to the Basics"
- April 21-23, 1977 37th | Jackson, MS - "New Directions: Resources for Humanistic Studies"
- April 29-May 1, 1976 36th | Savannah, GA - "The Unfinished Revolution: From Afro-Genesis to Now"
- April 9-12, 1975 35th | New Orleans, LA - "Le Circuit Triangulaire: Africa, the Americas, and the West Indies"

- April 18-20, 1974 34th | Baltimore, MD - "Language, Literature, and the Liberation"
- April 12-14, 1973 33rd | Columbia, SC - "Ethnic Studies and Humanistic Concerns"
- April 13-15, 1972 32nd | Atlanta, GA - "Politics, Protest, and Literature"
- April 22-24, 1971 31st | Tallahassee, FL - "The Future of Black Studies"
- April 9-11, 1970 30th | Atlanta, GA - "Black Studies: International Dimensions"
- April 24-26, 1969 29th | Virginia Beach, VA - "Black Studies: Form and Content"
- April 18-20, 1968 28th | Durham/Chapel Hill, NC - "Towards a Bridge between Theory and Practice"
- April 20-22, 1967 27th | Petersburg, VA - "Language, Literature, and Life"
- April 28-30, 1966 26th | Atlanta, GA - "The Role of Language and Literature in the Creation of World Thought"
- April 22-24, 1965 25th | Greensboro, NC - "New Resources in Language and Literature"
- April 2-4, 1964 24th | Hampton, VA *See Note Below
- April 18-20, 1963 23rd | Washington, D.C. - "Cultural Integration Through Language and Literature"
- April 26-28, 1962 22nd | Charlotte, NC - "New Directions for English and Foreign Languages"
- April 13-15, 1961 21st | Baltimore, MD - "Creative Approaches to Language and Literature"
- April 7-9, 1960 20th | Durham, NC *See Note Below
- April 2-4, 1959 19th | Tallahassee, FL - No Theme
- April 24-26, 1958 18th | Houston, TX *See Note Below
- April 4-6, 1957 17th | Pine Bluff, AR - "The Americanization of the Negro College"
- April 27-28, 1956 16th | Normal, AL - "Language is the armory of the human mind; and at once contains the trophies of its past, and the weapons of its future conquests." – Samuel Taylor Coleridge
- April 22 23, 1955 15th | Hampton, VA - "Cultural Orientation in the Teaching of Modern Languages"
- April 30-May 1, 1954 14th | Atlanta, GA *See Note Below
- 1953 13th | Nashville, TN *See Note Below
- April 25-26, 1952 12th | St. Louis, MO - No Theme
- February 23-24, 1951 11th | Baltimore, MD - No Theme
- February 24-25, 1950 10th | Montgomery, AL *See Note Below
- February 25-26, 1949 9th | New Orleans, LA - "Literary Scholarship and Race"

The 1948 convention was cancelled.

May 2-3, 1947 8th | New York, NY *See Note Below
 1946 7th *See Note Below

**During WWII, CLA held a few regional meetings but no national meeting.
 Three national meetings were canceled.**

March 26-28,
 1942 6th | Hampton, VA - "The Language Teacher as Master Builder on the
 Rampart of Culture"
 April 4-5, 1941 5th | Greensboro, NC - "New Outlooks on Professional Problems"
 March 29-30,
 1940 4th | Talladega, AL - "The Study and Teaching of Literature in the
 College"
 March 31-April 1,
 1939 3rd | Knoxville, TN *See Note Below
 March 24-26, 1
 938 2nd | Atlanta, GA - "Teaching of Composition"
 April 23-24, 1937 1st | Memphis, TN - Initial Conference of the Teachers of English in
 Negro Colleges

*For the past several years, the CLA Executive Committee has been committed to Archival engagement and recovery. We have recently located information on years 1937 - 1964, and we are including those years. We would greatly appreciate assistance with finding the remaining missing past CLA Convention information. If you have this information, please contact the CLA Secretary, secretary@clascholars.org.

For information on the earlier Conventions, please visit the history section of the CLA website.



Est. in Memphis

COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS



CURRENT COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Year	No.	President	Institution	Institutional City
2022	42	Jervette R. Ward	Mississippi State University	Starkville, MS

PAST COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS

The year indicates the commencement of presidential tenure.

Year	No.	President	Institution	Institutional City
1937	1	Hugh M. Gloster	LeMoyne College	Memphis, TN
1938	2	William Edward Farrison	North Carolina College	Durham, NC
1939	3	Cecil A. Blue	Lincoln University	Jefferson City, MO
1940	4	Bertram L. Woodruff	Johnson C. Smith College	Charlotte, NC
			West Virginia State College	Institute, WV

**During WWII, CLA held a few regional meetings but no national meeting.
Three national meetings were cancelled.**

1948	5	Hugh M. Gloster	Hampton Institute	Hampton, VA
1950	6	Edward A. Jones	Morehouse College	Atlanta, GA
1952	7	John W. Parker	Fayetteville State Teachers College	Fayetteville, NC
1954	8	Crawford B. Lindsay	Tennessee State University	Nashville, TN
1956	9	Billie Geter Thomas	Spelman College	Atlanta, GA
1957	10	Blyden Jackson	Southern University	Baton Rouge, LA
1959	11	Charles A. Ray	North Carolina College	Durham, NC
1961	12	Nick Aaron Ford	Morgan State College	Baltimore, MD
1963	13	Darwin T. Turner	North Carolina A&T College	Greensboro, NC
1965	14	Milton G. Hardiman	Lincoln University	Jefferson City, MO
1967	15	Charles Hugo Curl	Norfolk State College	Norfolk, VA
1968	16	Richard A. Long	Atlanta University	Atlanta, GA
1971	17	Ruth N. Horry	North Carolina Central	Durham, NC
1973	18	Richard K. Barksdale	University of Illinois	Urbana, IL
1975	19	Herman Bostick	Texas Southern University	Houston, TX
1977	20	Thelma D. Curl	Norfolk State University	Norfolk, VA
1979	21	Wilbert J. Roget	Temple University	Philadelphia, PA
1982	22	Eleanor Q. Tignor	LaGuardia Community College	Long Island City, NY
1984	23	Anne Venture Young	Morgan State University	Baltimore, MD
1986	24	Marie H. Buncombe	Brooklyn College	Brooklyn, NY

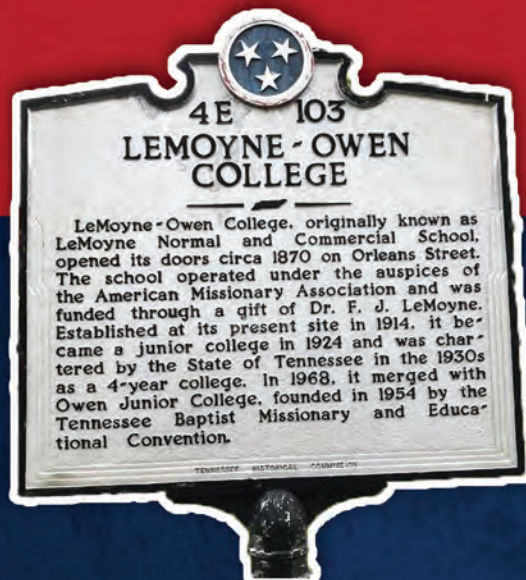
1988	25	Marcellus Brooks	Fisk University	Nashville, TN
1990	26	Thelma B. Thompson	Norfolk State University	Norfolk, VA
1992	27	James J. Davis	Howard University	Washington, D.C.
1994	28	Dolan Hubbard	University of Georgia	Athens, Georgia
1996	29	Thomas N. Hammond	North Carolina Central College	Durham, NC
1998	30	Emma Waters Dawson	Florida A&M University	Tallahassee, FL
2000	31	Dellita Martin-Ogunsola	University of Alabama at Birmingham	Birmingham, AL
2002	32	Yakini B. Kemp	Florida A&M University	Tallahassee, FL
2004	33	Régine Latortue	Brooklyn College/CUNY	Brooklyn, NY
2006	34	Booker T. Anthony	Fayetteville State University	Fayetteville, NC
2008	35	Antonio D. Tillis	Dartmouth College	Hanover, NH
2010	36	Warren J. Carson	University of South Carolina, Upstate	Spartanburg, SC
2012	37	Mario A. Chandler	Oglethorpe University	Atlanta, GA
2014	38	Dana A. Williams	Howard University	Washington, DC
2016	39	Clément A. Akassi	Howard University	Washington, DC
2018	40	Donna Akiba Sullivan Harper	Spelman College	Atlanta, GA
2020	41	Reginald A. Bess	Independent Scholar	Orangeburg, SC

COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION FOUNDER

Hugh M. Gloster

President Emeritus of Morehouse College
May 11, 1911 - February 16, 2002

*Founded CLA in 1937 at LeMoyne College in
Memphis, Tennessee*



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College Language Association 2024-2026 Election Slate

MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT DIRECTOR

The Membership Engagement Director shall chair the Membership Committee, serve as the Executive Committee liaison to the Standing Committee Chairs, and shall perform the duties of the Secretary in the absence of the latter.



McKinley Melton, Gettysburg College

Dr. Melton has served on the CLA Executive Committee since 2020, first as the English Area Representative (2020-2022), and currently as the Membership Engagement Director (2022-present). In this role, he has worked alongside the Executive Committee to provide a range of opportunities for Members, including the virtual activities that were coordinated to provide professional development and to maintain CLA's sense of community throughout the pandemic, as well as a number of member-focused events during the 2023 Annual Convention in Atlanta and during the upcoming 2024 Convention in Memphis. He states, "It would be my honor to continue to serve in this role, pursuing new initiatives and implementing ideas with the feedback and support of CLA members, to ensure that our organization is always forward thinking and actively considering what our members need in order to support professional and scholarly efforts."

ASSISTANT TREASURER

The Assistant Treasurer shall perform all duties of the Treasurer in the absence of the latter. The Assistant Treasurer shall manage the database of members and shall organize the registration systems for the annual convention.



Donovan Ramon, Southern Illinois University

Dr. Ramon has offered the following statement: "I'm Dr. Donovan Ramon, running to be re-elected as the assistant treasurer of the College Language Association. I won the national election to this role in spring 2022 and have been serving since then. During that time, I have worked closely with the treasurer to curate our annual budgets, present monthly expenses to the executive committee, and supervise all financial activity. Also, I have helped to plan some of the panels at the 2023 and 2024 annual conventions and initiated the use of the Whova app to assist with convention communication and promotion. In my next and last term, I will continue managing our finances with our treasurer, seek fundraising opportunities, and explore opportunities to replace our current CLA membership website to make it more streamlined and efficient."

ENGLISH AREA REPRESENTATIVE

The English Area Representative, in consultation with the Program Committee Chair, shall help craft the call for papers for the annual convention, review proposals submitted for English-area presentations to ensure they adhere to the peer-review process and align with the standards and mission of the Association, organize individual papers into sessions around the convention theme, and develop the convention program.



Kendra Parker, Georgia Southern University

Dr. Parker (she/her) is an Associate Professor of African American Literature in the Department of English at Georgia Southern University. She is the author of *She Bites Back* (2018), co-editor of *The Bloomsbury Handbook to Octavia E. Butler* (2020), and president of the Octavia E. Butler Literary Society. Dr. Parker is the recipient of several awards. In 2023, she received a fellowship from the Huntington Library in San Marino, CA and a Scholarly Pursuit Grant from Georgia Southern. For her scholarly work published in 2020, she was the recipient of the College of Arts and Humanities' "Distinction in Scholarship or Creative Activity" Award at Georgia Southern University in 2021, and in February 2020, she was the faculty recipient of the "Shine, Black Girl, Shine" Black Women's Empowerment Award from the Office of Multicultural Affairs at Georgia Southern.

WORLD LANGUAGES REPRESENTATIVE

The World Languages Area Representative, in consultation with the Program Committee Chair, shall help craft the call for papers for the annual convention, review proposals submitted for the World Languages-area to ensure they adhere to the peer-review process and align with the standards and mission of the Association, organize individual papers into sessions around the convention theme, and develop the convention program. *This individual will ascend to the position of Vice President in two years and subsequently to the position of President in four years.*



Dawn Duke, University of Tennessee Knoxville

Dr. Dawn Duke is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh. She is a full professor at University of Tennessee Knoxville. She has published extensively in Latin American women's literature, focusing on Spanish language authors and those that publish in Portuguese. Dr. Duke has published four books and twenty-four articles. Dr. Dukes also has administrative experience, having served as chair of the Africana Studies Program at her institution. She is currently chair of the Portuguese Program at UT Knoxville.



Liana Babayan, Augusta University

Liana Babayan is an Associate Professor of French and Francophone studies and Women's and Gender Studies at Augusta University. Her research centers women's voices and narratives of exile in Francophone literature; Immigration Studies; Language and Identity, etc. As a polyglot herself, she is interested in studying how linguistic and cultural identities shape women's narratives.

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DONATE TO CLA!

The College Language Association is truly appreciative of all donations that it receives in order to advance the mission of the Association and to support the wonderful work that our members are doing in the academic, public, and professional worlds. Through your generosity, we have been able to supplement scholars in need to attend our Convention. We are also able to recognize and award the excellence of our established and emerging scholars.

Special thanks to...

Ifeoma Nwankwo
Ernestine Pickens Glass
Mark Sanders
Keith Mitchell

...and our anonymous donors!

All donations are welcome. Members may donate to CLA General Operations; prizes for Creative Writing; the Daryl Dance Award; the Elizabeth J. West First-Time Attendee Award; the Study Abroad Scholarship; or the newly established Underfunded Student and Faculty Fund.



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