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

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
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*
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

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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
Follow Us on Social Media & Share Convention Highlights

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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

- “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
- “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 Pitman 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  
- “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 Rhinelander v. Rhinelander,” 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
2.3 Literary Activism and Critical Interventions in Black Feminist Studies
Promenade 1
Chair: Antwan Walker, Georgia Gwinnett College

- Alice Walker's Job: Using Celie as Black Feminist Religious Activism, Antwan 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: Donavan 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
2.7 “Women Seeking Justice in the Works of James Baldwin, Sistah Souljah, and Tara Stringfellow”
Lakeview I

- “‘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 I
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

- “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
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

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

- "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 Despentes’ 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 – Carlyn 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

- "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," Inma 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 Ronne 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 I
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
- “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,” Sally Ann 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 I
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-Singletary, 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: DoVeeanna Fulton, Norfolk State University

- “Loves Struggle: Black Women’s Theology and Social Justice,” DoVeeanna Fulton, Norfolk State University
- “A Black Girl’s Barrettes: Activist Poetics in Jasmine Mans’s *Black Girl, Call Home,*” Marquita R. Smith, Rowan 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’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

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**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

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

7:30 pm-9:30 pm  
**Tennessee Grand Ballroom**

**Dr. Zandria F. Robinson**,  
Keynote Speaker

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9:30 pm-12 am  
**Southeast Ballroom**  
President’s Homecoming Reception
8:00 am-12:00 pm
*Lobby*
Convention Badge Pick-Up

10:00 am-12:00 pm
*Tennessee Grand Foyer*
Publications, Vendors, Exhibits

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**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

- “Forced to Some Experiment”: Harriet E. Wilson’s Claims to Frailty in *Our Nig*,” *Rudrani Sarma*, Rutgers University

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**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

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**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," Della 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

- "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

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 (CLAHBCU 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
- "BlkWomementoring: 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
- "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 I
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 Dubniecek (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

2018 Chicago, IL
   Aaron N. Oforle, 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

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

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 Southampton 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

Theilma D. Curl, For Distinguished Service to CLA

1993 Daytona Beach, FL  
Richard K. Barksdale, *Praisesong of Survival: Lectures and Essays, 1987-89*

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*
   Thereman 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
   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
   Thereman 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Theme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 8-8, 2023</td>
<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
<td>&quot;Rage, Resilience &amp; Response&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 7-10, 2021</td>
<td>Memphis, TN (Virtual)</td>
<td>&quot;Afrofuturism: Diasporic Visions&quot;</td>
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<td>April 11-13, 2019</td>
<td>Raleigh, NC</td>
<td>&quot;1619 &lt; Expanding Narratives &gt; 2019&quot;</td>
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<td>April 4-7, 2018</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>&quot;Native Sons/Daughters and Immigrants in the Black Metropolis&quot;</td>
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<td>April 8-8, 2017</td>
<td>Columbia, MO</td>
<td>&quot;Interdisciplinary Studies and Diversity in Languages and Literatures&quot;</td>
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<td>April 6-9, 2016</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
<td>&quot;Dialogues Between Africa and the African Diaspora in Languages, Literatures and Films&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 8-11, 2015</td>
<td>Dallas, TX</td>
<td>&quot;Expanding Frontiers: Freedom, Resistance, and Transnational Identities In Languages and Literatures&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 26-29, 2014</td>
<td>New Orleans, LA</td>
<td>&quot;Pathways and Porticos: The Caribbean &amp; the South as Catalyst in Languages &amp; Literatures&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 10-13, 2013</td>
<td>Lexington, KY</td>
<td>&quot;Mason-Dixon &amp; Maginot Lines: Borders, Boundaries, Barriers in Languages &amp; Literatures&quot;</td>
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<td>March 28 – 31, 2012</td>
<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
<td>&quot;In the Spirit of Sankofa—Moving Forward, Looking Back in Languages and Literatures&quot;</td>
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<td>April 6-9, 2011</td>
<td>Spartanburg, SC</td>
<td>&quot;Narrativity and Musicality: The Confluence of Language, Literature, and Culture&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 7-10, 2010</td>
<td>Brooklyn, NY</td>
<td>&quot;Freedom’s Visions and Urban Landscapes: Spaces and Places in Languages and Literatures&quot;</td>
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<td>March 25-28, 2009</td>
<td>Cambridge, MD</td>
<td>&quot;Liberation as Theme and Strategy in Languages and Literatures&quot;</td>
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<td>April 9-12, 2008</td>
<td>Charleston, SC</td>
<td>&quot;(Re)Roots and (Re)Routes: Transatlantic Connections in Language and Literatures&quot;</td>
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<td>April 18-21, 2007</td>
<td>Miami, FL</td>
<td>&quot;Religion and Spirituality in Literature&quot;</td>
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<td>April 5-8, 2006</td>
<td>Birmingham, AL</td>
<td>&quot;Literature and Film: From Page to Screen&quot;</td>
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<td>April 10-12, 2005</td>
<td>Athens, GA</td>
<td>&quot;From Bebop to Hip Hop: Breaking the Cultural Divide&quot;</td>
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<td>April 14-17, 2004</td>
<td>Nashville, TN</td>
<td>&quot;Independence and National Literatures: The Construction of Identity&quot;</td>
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<td>April 23-26, 2003</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>&quot;Signifyin' Theories: New Gazes on Literatures and Languages&quot;</td>
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<td>April 24-27, 2002</td>
<td>Memphis, TN</td>
<td>&quot;Heritage and Homage: Navigating Our Cultural Heritage&quot;</td>
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<td>April 18-21, 2001</td>
<td>New Orleans, LA</td>
<td>&quot;Literature and the Americas: Roots and Routes&quot;</td>
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<td>April 5-8, 2000</td>
<td>Baltimore, MD</td>
<td>&quot;The Millennium: Historicizing the Past, Present, and Future&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 14-17, 1999</td>
<td>59th</td>
<td>Fayetteville, NC - &quot;Satire, Wit, and Humor in Language and Literature&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 15-18, 1998</td>
<td>58th</td>
<td>Tallahassee, FL - &quot;Cultural Connections in the Diaspora: Africa and the Americas&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 16-19, 1997</td>
<td>57th</td>
<td>Atlanta, GA - &quot;Literature in Migration: City, Country, World&quot;</td>
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<td>April 10-13, 1996</td>
<td>56th</td>
<td>Winston-Salem, NC - &quot;Diversity, Retrospection, and Prophecy in Language, Literature, and Culture&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 19-22, 1995</td>
<td>55th</td>
<td>Baton Rouge, LA - &quot;Language, Literature, and Technology: The Imagination and Virtual Reality&quot;</td>
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<td>April 13-16, 1994</td>
<td>54th</td>
<td>Durham, NC - &quot;Language and Literacy for the Twenty-first Century: Redefining Theory, Practice, Pedagogy&quot;</td>
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<td>April 1-3, 1993</td>
<td>53rd</td>
<td>Daytona Beach, FL - &quot;Multiculturalism: Whose Language? Whose Literature?&quot;</td>
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<td>April 9-11, 1992</td>
<td>52nd</td>
<td>Knoxville, TN - &quot;Gender and Genre: From Illusion to Reality&quot;</td>
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<td>April 17-20, 1991</td>
<td>51st</td>
<td>Columbia, SC - &quot;Myth, Magic, and Lore: Language and Literature&quot;</td>
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<td>April 18-21, 1990</td>
<td>50th</td>
<td>Columbus, OH - &quot;Discovery and Rediscovery: Dramatic Forces in Languages and Literatures&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 26-29, 1989</td>
<td>49th</td>
<td>Frankfort, KY - &quot;Culture and Literacy: The Role of Language, Literature, and Linguistics&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 30-April 2, 1988</td>
<td>48th</td>
<td>Greensboro, NC - &quot;CLA's Second Half Century: Language and Literature in the Black Diaspora&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 22-25, 1987</td>
<td>47th</td>
<td>Washington, DC - &quot;Prophecies and Revelations: Our Heritage and Our Future&quot;</td>
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<td>April 16-19, 1986</td>
<td>46th</td>
<td>Norfolk, VA - &quot;Women as Subjects, Objects, and Authors of Literature&quot;</td>
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<td>April 17-20, 1985</td>
<td>45th</td>
<td>New York, NY - &quot;Dramatic Contrasts in Literature, Theatre, and Communication Arts&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 18-21, 1984</td>
<td>44th</td>
<td>Nashville, TN - &quot;Biography, Autobiography, Literature and Myth: Literature and the Self&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 21-23, 1983</td>
<td>43rd</td>
<td>Philadelphia, PA - &quot;Black Writers, Black Writing: Post-War to the Present&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 22-24, 1982</td>
<td>42nd</td>
<td>Charlotte, NC - &quot;Language, Literature, and Literary Criticism: The 1970s and 1980s&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 23-25, 1981</td>
<td>41st</td>
<td>New Orleans, LA - &quot;The Plantation-America Culture Sphere: Caribbean and Southern Literatures&quot;</td>
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<td>April 17-19, 1980</td>
<td>40th</td>
<td>Atlanta, GA - &quot;Language, Literature, and the Human Condition&quot;</td>
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<td>April 21-23, 1977</td>
<td>37th</td>
<td>Jackson, MS - &quot;New Directions: Resources for Humanistic Studies&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 29-May 1, 1976</td>
<td>36th</td>
<td>Savannah, GA - &quot;The Unfinished Revolution: From Afro-Genesis to Now&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 9-12, 1975</td>
<td>35th</td>
<td>New Orleans, LA - &quot;Le Circuit Triangulaire: Africa, the Americas, and the West Indies&quot;</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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.
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, 1938  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.
## Current College Language Association President

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>Jervette R. Ward</td>
<td>Mississippi State University</td>
<td>Starkville, MS</td>
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## Past College Language Association Presidents

The year indicates the commencement of presidential tenure.

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<th>Institutional City</th>
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<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hugh M. Gloster</td>
<td>LeMoyne College</td>
<td>Memphis, TN</td>
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<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>William Edward Farrow</td>
<td>North Carolina College</td>
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<td>1939</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cecil A. Blue</td>
<td>Lincoln University</td>
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<td>1940</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bertram L. Woodruff</td>
<td>Johnson C. Smith College</td>
<td>Charlotte, NC</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>West Virginia State College</td>
<td>Institute, WV</td>
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During WWII, CLA held a few regional meetings but no national meeting.

Three national meetings were cancelled.

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<th>President</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Institutional City</th>
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<td>Hugh M. Gloster</td>
<td>Hampton Institute</td>
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<td>Edward A. Jones</td>
<td>Morehouse College</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>John W. Parker</td>
<td>Fayetteville State</td>
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<td>1954</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Crawford B. Lindsay</td>
<td>Tennessee State University</td>
<td>Nashville, TN</td>
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<td>1956</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Billie Geter Thomas</td>
<td>Spelman College</td>
<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
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<td>1957</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Blyden Jackson</td>
<td>Southern University</td>
<td>Baton Rouge, LA</td>
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<td>1959</td>
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<td>Charles A. Ray</td>
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<td>Nick Aaron Ford</td>
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<td>1963</td>
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<td>Darwin T. Turner</td>
<td>North Carolina A&amp;T College</td>
<td>Greensboro, NC</td>
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<td>1965</td>
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<td>Milton G. Hardiman</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Charles Hugo Curl</td>
<td>Norfolk State College</td>
<td>Norfolk, VA</td>
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<td>1968</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Richard A. Long</td>
<td>Atlanta University</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Ruth N. Horrpy</td>
<td>North Carolina Central</td>
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<td>1973</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Richard K. Barksdale</td>
<td>University of Illinois</td>
<td>Urbana, IL</td>
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<td>1975</td>
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<td>Herman Bostick</td>
<td>Texas Southern University</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Thelma D. Curl</td>
<td>Norfolk State University</td>
<td>Norfolk, VA</td>
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<td>1979</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Wilbert J. Roget</td>
<td>Temple University</td>
<td>Philadelphia, PA</td>
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<td>1982</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Eleanor Q. Tignor</td>
<td>LaGuardia Community College</td>
<td>Long Island City, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Anne Venture Young</td>
<td>Morgan State University</td>
<td>Baltimore, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Marie H. Buncombe</td>
<td>Brooklyn College</td>
<td>Brooklyn, NY</td>
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</table>
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  Deltita 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  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. Donavan 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.
College Language Association
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2022-2024

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Associate Professor
Interim Chair, Department of Writing,
Rhetoric & Digital Studies
University of North Carolina Charlotte
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CUNY LaGuardia Community College
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Treasurer
Assistant Professor of African American Literature/Folklore
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Chief of Staff
chiefofstaff@clascholars.org
PARTICIPANTS INDEX

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Henderson, Aneeka A. (5.2)
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Hunter, Madison “Mocha” (5.5, 9.4)
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Jamison, Marcus (4.2)
Jarrett, Denise (4.2)
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de Jesús, Jorge Pérez (8.2)
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Johnson, Larry B.
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Notes