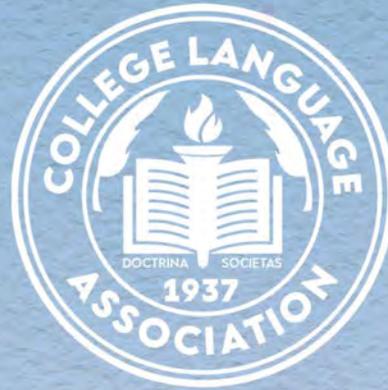


THE 83RD ANNUAL
COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION CONVENTION



**REDEFINING EXPANSION AND EXPLORATION:
BLACK DIASPORIC LITERATURES, CULTURES,
AND PEDAGOGIES**

VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON

Host Institution: Washington State University, Vancouver
Hilton Vancouver Washington

APRIL 23-26, 2025



CLA Convention Program at a Glance

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

- 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Pre-Convention Meetings
Location: Boardroom
- 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM HathiTrust Research Center Digital Humanities
Pre-Convention Workshop
Location: Heritage D
- 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Early Arrival Badge Pick-up
Welcome Table, Hilton Vancouver Washington
- 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM 87th Founder's Day Reception: An Evening with the Stars
Location: Pine Room
- 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Executive Committee & Past Presidents Dinner
Location: Boardroom
- 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM Film Screening: *The Magic of LOC: Lemoyne-Owen College at 160*
Location: Heritage F

87th Founder's Day Reception: An Evening with the Stars

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

4:30PM-5:30PM

Location: Pine

(This is a ticketed event)

Film Screening: *The Magic of LOC: Lemoyne-Owen College at 160*

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

7:30PM-9:30PM

Location: Heritage F

Discussants:

McKinley E. Melton, CLA Membership Engagement

Shauna M. Morgan, *CLAJ* Editor



CLA Convention Program at a Glance

Thursday, April 24, 2025

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Convention Badge Pick-up; Welcome Table, Hilton Vancouver Washington
8:00 AM - 8:30 AM	Welcome Back Coffee Location: Heritage Foyer
8:30 AM - 9:50 AM	Opening Plenary: "Visioning the Arc of One's Career" Membership Engagement in partnership with Washington State University Vancouver Location: Heritage AB
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Publications, Vendors, Exhibits
10:00 AM - 11:15 AM	Concurrent Sessions I
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	World Languages Lecture featuring Dr. Clément A. Akassi Location: Heritage F
12:30 PM - 1:00 PM	Restoring Our Mothers' Gardens: Tea & Tribute Location: Pine/Spruce
2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Concurrent Sessions II
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	CLA Annual Standing Committee Meetings Location: Heritage F
4:45 PM - 5:30 PM	CLA Authors Meet and Greet Location: Heritage Foyer
5:45 PM - 6:30 PM	Presidential Address Location: Heritage F
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	Welcome Reception hosted by Washington State University Vancouver Location: Discovery Ballroom
8:15 PM - 9:50 PM	Film Screening: <i>BAM! Chicago's Black Arts Movement</i> Location: Heritage F
9:30 PM - 11:00 PM	CLA Undergraduate and Graduate Student Social Location: Heritage E



CLA Convention Program at a Glance

Friday, April 25, 2025

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Convention Badge Pick-up; Welcome Table, Hilton Vancouver Washington
8:00 AM - 8:30 AM	Welcome Back Coffee Location: Heritage Foyer
8:30 AM - 9:45 AM	Concurrent Sessions III
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Publications, Vendors, Exhibits
10:00 AM - 11:15 AM	Concurrent Sessions IV
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	CLA Business Meeting Location: Heritage A/B
1:00 PM - 2:15 PM	CLA 101 Location: Heritage F Brownbag/Lunch on your own
2:30 PM - 3:45 PM	Concurrent Sessions V
4:00 PM - 5:15 PM	Concurrent Sessions VI
5:30 PM - 6:15 PM	Career Headshot Photo Session Location: Heritage E
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	Pre-Banquet Cash Bar and Book Signing w/ Camille T. Dungy Location: Heritage Pre-Function
7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	CLA Banquet and Awards Ceremony Location: Heritage A/B
9:30 PM - 12:00 AM	President's Reception Location: Pine/Spruce



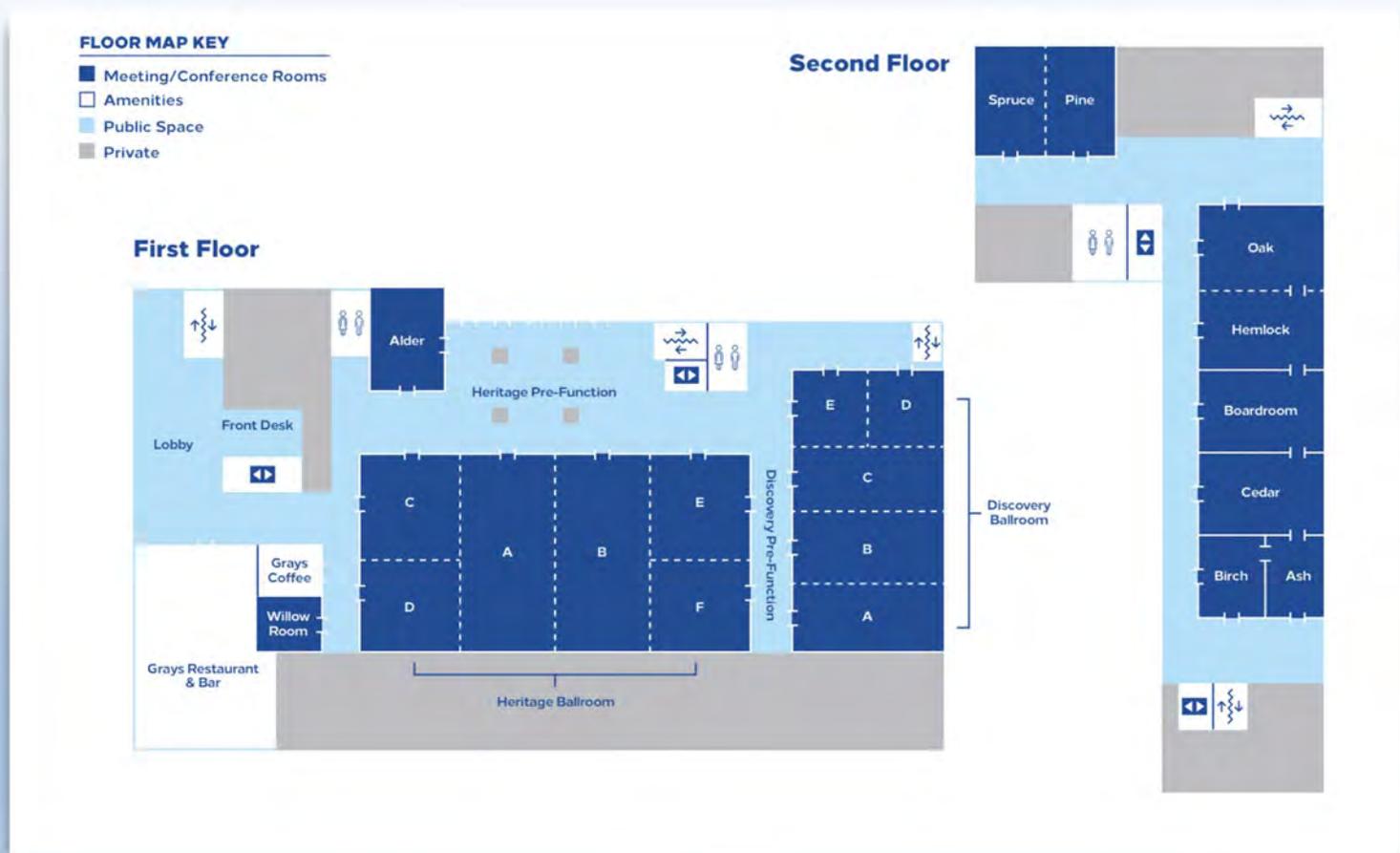
CLA Convention Program at a Glance

Saturday, April 26, 2025

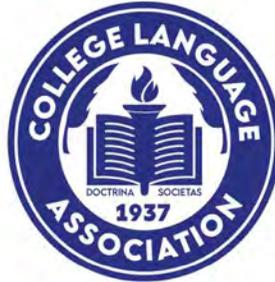
8:00 AM - 8:45 AM	Wellness Moment Location: Pine
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Convention Badge Pick-up
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Publications, Vendors, and Exhibits
9:00 AM - 1:15 PM	Concurrent Sessions VII, VIII, and IX
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Film Screening and End of Convention Social: <i>The Five Demands</i> Location: Heritage F
4:30 PM - 7:30 PM	Post-Convention Transition Dinner Location: Boardroom

End of Convention

Hilton Vancouver Washington Hotel Map



CLA President's Convention Letter



April 21, 2025

Dear CLA Scholars,

Welcome to the Pacific Northwest and to the 83rd Annual College Language Association (CLA) Convention!

Thank you to [Washington State University Vancouver](#), Host Committee Chair Dr. Thabiti Lewis, and his team for making one of my longtime dreams come true – bringing CLA West for the FIRST TIME!

I was a professor at The University of Alaska Anchorage for approximately five years, and during a CLA Convention, I approached 2012-2014 CLA President Mario A. Chandler about hosting a Convention in Alaska. To his credit, he didn't laugh in my face, and he seriously engaged with the idea. He admitted that it might be a challenge to get our CLA folks out of the South and off the East coast, but he didn't think it would be impossible. I still appreciate and respect his optimism. And, here we are a little more than a decade later – not in Alaska – but, as I've heard from some of you, pretty close! His optimism was warranted because our CLA Scholars answered the challenge and have shown up in the beautiful Pacific Northwest for scholarship and fellowship as members of this preeminent Doctrina Societas.

The **2025 CLA Convention** has a plethora of special programming, including our **Founder's Day Reception: An Evening with the Stars, CLA Film Series, Restoring Our Mothers' Gardens: Tea & Tribute, and the Convention Banquet with our Keynote Address from Camille Dungy**. All of this amazing programming has been led by our **Vice President and Convention Program Chair Dr. Janaka Bowman Lewis and English Area Representative Dr. Kendra R. Parker**. Yet, it takes an entire team of people to keep CLA going. Please visit the [CLA website](#) and review the new CLA Org Chart that reveals both the Governance and Operations sides of CLA. Join me in thanking ALL of these folks, maybe in person, via a message in the Convention Whova App, in an email, or a handwritten note. Serving CLA is labor, but it is a labor of love – and, for the love of CLA, we are here.

We remain committed to our mission of excellence in the teaching of languages and literatures while eliminating inequities in higher education and providing access to the marginalized. As I shared in my Pre-Convention Letter, CLA is preparing to celebrate our **90th Anniversary in 2027**, and the Executive Committee is already preparing for that memorable moment, which will include our 85th Annual Convention. We hope that you will join us in planning and [fundraising](#) for this upcoming historic moment and special Convention. We have already heard the enthusiasm for our 84th Annual Convention in 2026 hosted by Jackson State University. The next two years provide exciting opportunities for CLA and its members. If you aren't a [Life Member](#), now is the time to become one!

Finally, thank you for joining us for CLA out West, and see you at the Presidential Afterparty!

In Service,

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

Founded in 1937

CLA Vice President's Convention Letter



April 23, 2025

Dear Esteemed CLA Colleagues,

We are finally here in **Vancouver, Washington**, at our 83rd CLA Convention, “Redefining Expansion and Exploration: Black Diasporic Literatures, Cultures, and Pedagogies,” April 23-26, 2025! This historic convention has brought you, our beloved members, “out west” to our first Convention in the Pacific Northwest region. Kicking off on this first day, our 87th Founder’s Day, with “An Evening Among the Stars” ticketed reception, we will carry on our tradition of member panels and presentations, professional development and wellness activities, and our first CLA Convention Film Series.

Along with our Host Committee and institutions– based at Washington State University (Vancouver and Pullman Campuses), as well as Seattle University and other local institutions who invite us to the Thursday Welcome Reception, the CLA Program Committee and Membership Engagement team have worked diligently since we met in Memphis in 2024 to curate an experience that all will enjoy. You responded to this year’s theme with thoughtful scholarship, diasporic engagement and creative work, along with ideas around films and to gather in wellness and reflection spaces. We also welcome our Banquet’s Keynote Speaker, distinguished poet and author of 4 books, Camille T. Dungy.

As we celebrate our 87th Founder’s Day, engage in dialogue of global relevance in our World Languages Presents lecture by Dr. Clement Akassi, and screen and respond to films throughout the Convention in our first CLA Film Series, we reflect on beloved members and authors at our “Remembering Our Mothers’ Gardens” Tea on Friday. As always, our Friday night Keynote Banquet and “Bad and Boujee”-themed Presidential Afterparty will remind us of the joy of a CLA reunion! We close on Saturday with our Wellness Moment, engaging panels and a concluding film presentation.

On behalf of this year’s Program Committee, we welcome you to Vancouver to share in the love of CLA!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janaka Lewis".

Janaka B. Lewis, Ph.D.
Vice President, College Language Association
2025 Convention Program Chair
vicepresident@clascholars.org

Founded in 1937

WSU Convention Host's Letter



Office of Academic Affairs
14204 NE Salmon Creek Avenue
Vancouver, WA 98686-9600

March 20, 2025

Dear CLA Colleagues:

On behalf of Washington State University, Washington State University Vancouver and the Hosting Committee, I am delighted to welcome you to Vancouver, WA in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. Your arrival to the region coincides with spring when renewal blooms and bursts to life in the cities of Vancouver and Portland. We are thrilled to be part of the redefinition, expansion and explorations of new knowledge, professional opportunities, and collegial networks that will take place during the 83rd Annual CLA Convention.

As chair of the Hosting Committee for the 83rd Annual CLA convention April 23-26, 2025, I can tell you that we are ecstatic to welcome the CLA and make members feel at home in the Pacific Northwest. We respect CLA's commitment to humanistic inquiry, research and teaching, especially as it relates to promoting Black literature and cultures across our higher education institutions. CLA's purpose and challenges today, are not unlike when it first convened. This year's convention, which takes place on the west coast for the first time, continues that rich tradition of intellectual community that cogently integrates, fellowship, family, and new scholarship.

Lastly, it is truly an honor to be able to bring CLA to this region. I am thrilled that our keynote speaker for the 83rd convention will be Camille Dungy whose most recent book functions at the nexus of nature writing, environmental justice, and prose, which, aligns with the theme **Redefining Expansion and Exploration**. As you explore our community over the coming days, I truly hope that your time with us and the activities we have planned for you will be rewarding beyond imagination. I am so thankful for our volunteers who have worked tirelessly to make this CLA Convention one of your most memorable.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thabiti Lewis".

Thabiti Lewis, PhD
Professor of English
Washington State University Vancouver

WSU Chancellor's Letter



April 23, 2025

Dear College Language Association Conference Attendees,

Welcome to beautiful Vancouver USA and the 83rd annual College Language Association Convention. I am pleased to extend my greeting to each of you on behalf of Washington State University Vancouver.

WSU Vancouver is proud to support the important work of the College Language Association and its commitment to the study and advancement of language, literature, and culture. Your dedication to fostering intellectual discourse and scholarship enriches not only the academic community but also the broader world beyond our campuses. This year's convention promises to be an inspiring gathering of scholars, educators, and students, and I am confident that the discussions, presentations, and collaborations taking place here will contribute to the continued growth of your disciplines.

Vancouver offers a unique blend of natural beauty, cultural vibrancy, and Pacific Northwest hospitality. I hope you are able to take time to explore our local attractions, parks, and restaurants. I recommend taking a walk along the Columbia River waterfront and a visit to the nearby Fort Vancouver National Historic site. I trust you will find Vancouver to be a welcoming and enriching place.

Thank you for your contributions to scholarship and education, and I wish you a productive and rewarding convention.

Best regards,

Mel Netzhammer
Chancellor

WSU English Chair's Letter



Department of
English
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Dear CLA Members,

On behalf of Washington State University, I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Vancouver, WA. We are truly honored to host this important gathering of scholars and educators, and to support an historic, groundbreaking academic organization like the College Language Association, which, since its founding at LeMoyne College in Memphis, TN in 1937, has continued to create a space for diverse voices and perspectives, and which remains so firmly dedicated to social justice in the academy and to promoting excellence in teaching and the study of languages, literature, and culture. It is our distinct pleasure to be able to welcome you to the Pacific Northwest. I am pleased we were able to help provide you with this space to convene and continue this important work at such a critical point in time.

I'd also like to thank my colleagues in the Department of English, Professors Thabiti Lewis and Aaron Oforlea, for their considerable effort in collaborating with the CLA leadership team in organizing this year's conference. I understand precisely how much time and energy is required to carefully plan such a big event. Your work is truly appreciated.

The Department of English is one of the largest, and most vibrant humanities departments in WSU's College of Arts and Sciences, with a presence in Pullman, Tri-Cities, and, of course, Vancouver, WA, and we are the administrative home to the university's program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Across our work, and together with our students, we make a point of reading and thinking deeply, we create and critique, and, perhaps most importantly, we strive to make a difference in the world we share. That is, working together with our students, I believe we are engaged in building brighter – more diverse, equitable, inclusive, and sustainable – futures, whether through challenging deeply ingrained biases and structures of oppression or helping us to recognize how inextricably linked we are to each other – indeed, to every living organism on this earth. In other words, I firmly believe that our work is central to the development of a just and sustainable world. And this is precisely why we're so honored to host the CLA. I acknowledge too the tremendous service that our graduate student volunteers are providing in helping to make this year's CLA conference a great success. Thank you all!

Last but not least, I am thrilled that CLA members will have an opportunity to hear from award winning poet and writer Camille Dungy during the keynote talk on Friday evening. As poet Ross Gay suggests, in *Soil: The Story of a Black Mother's Garden* (Simon and Schuster, 2023), Professor Dungy "teaches us we are connected. And fundamentally so." And so, with this spirit of connection in mind, I hope you all have a wonderful conference experience.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Kirk McAuley'.

L Kirk McAuley
Professor and Chair

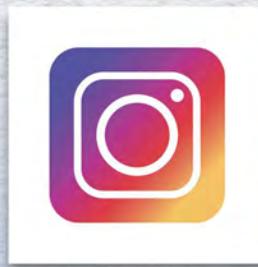
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@CollegeLanguageAssociation



LinkedIn
College Language Association

Convention Hashtags: #CLAGoesWest #CLA2025



NOTES



Wednesday, April 23, 2025: Convention at a Glance

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Pre-Convention Meetings

Location: Boardroom

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

HathiTrust Research Center Digital Humanities Pre-Convention Workshop

Location: Heritage D

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Early Arrival Badge Pick-up

Welcome Table, Hilton Vancouver Washington

87th Founder's Day Reception: An Evening with the Stars

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

4:30PM-5:30PM

Location: Pine

(This is a ticketed event)

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Executive Committee & Past Presidents Dinner

Location: Boardroom

Film Screening: *The Magic of LOC: Lemoyne-Owen College at 160*

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

7:30PM-9:30PM

Location: Heritage F

Discussants:

McKinley E. Melton, CLA Membership Engagement

Shauna M. Morgan, *CLAJ* Editor



Thursday, April 24, 2025: Convention at a Glance

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Convention Badge Pick-up
Welcome Table, Hilton Vancouver Washington

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM

Welcome Back Coffee
Location: Heritage Foyer

8:30 AM - 9:50 AM

Opening Plenary: "Visioning the Arc of One's Career"
Membership Engagement in partnership with Washington State University Vancouver
Location: Heritage AB

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Publications, Vendors, Exhibits

10:00 AM - 11:15 AM

Concurrent Sessions I

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

World Languages Lecture featuring Dr. Clément A. Akassi
Location: Heritage F

12:30 PM - 1:00 PM

Restoring Our Mothers' Gardens: Tea & Tribute
Location: Pine/Spruce

2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

Concurrent Sessions II

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

CLA Annual Standing Committee Meetings
Location: Heritage F

4:45 PM - 5:30 PM

CLA Authors Meet and Greet
Location: Heritage Foyer

5:45 PM - 6:30 PM

Presidential Address
Location: Heritage F

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Welcome Reception hosted by Washington State University Vancouver
Location: Discovery Ballroom

Thursday, April 24, 2025: Convention at a Glance

8:15 PM - 9:50 PM

Film Screening: *BAM! Chicago's Black Arts Movement*
Location: Heritage F

9:30 PM - 11 PM

CLA Undergraduate and Graduate Student Social
Location: Heritage E



Thursday, April 24, 2025 10AM-11:15 AM Concurrent Sessions I

1.1 The Invisibilization of Black Children: Workshop

Professional Development Workshop

Location: Heritage E

Chair: Neal A. Lester, Arizona State University

The adultification and erasure of Black children in literature and popular culture center Black children at the nexus of US adult race politics. Using children's picture books, games, toys, new stories, curriculum violence, and other material and popular culture, participants in this interactive workshop will explore how the invisibilization of Black children mirrors the invisibility of Black adults and Black communities, fundamentally connecting the current national anti-DEI efforts with inhumanity and injustice.

1.2 Mapping and Categorizing the Lynching of Black Women: Step One in a Digital Humanities Project (Roundtable)

Special Session: BBIP: The Black Book Interactive Project

Location: Heritage F

Chair: Griselda Thomas, Kennesaw State University

Griselda Thomas, Kennesaw State University

Sheila Smith McKoy, Smith McKoy & Associates, CEO

Victoria Bell, Kennesaw State University

Cherish Collins, Kennesaw State University

Bhavya Nanga, Kennesaw State University

1.3 Teaching Affrilachia: Cultivating Community and Culture (Roundtable)

Location: Pine

Chair: Zanice Bond, Tuskegee University

- "Teaching Affrilachian Literature as Antiracist Pedagogy," Kristine Yohe, Northern Kentucky University
- "Ashley M. Jones, An Affrilachian in Alabama," Zanice Bond, Tuskegee University
- "Pivot to the Stage! A Director's Pedagogy for Stage Adaptations of Crystal Wilkinson's *Blackberries, Blackberries*," Yunina Barbour-Payne, University of Virginia
- "Teaching the Now: How to Teach the Affrilachian Poets in Our Contemporary Political Environment," Monic Ductan, Tennessee Technological University
- "Affrilachian Grandfathers: Leadership Lessons," Michelle S. Hite, Spelman College

Thursday, April 24, 2025 10AM-11:15 AM Concurrent Sessions I

1.4 "This Ain't Your Typical Pedagogy": African American Literature, from the Early Modern Period to Digital Spaces

Location: Oak

Chair: Reginald Wilburne, Texas Christian University

- "Re-Thinking the Origins of Early African American Literature: A Pedagogical Approach," **Cassander Smith**, University of Alabama
- "Studying Abroad with Paul Laurence Dunbar's in John Milton's England: An Exploratory High-Impact Practice," **Reginald A. Wilburn**, Texas Christian University
- "Hashtag Books: Community-Building and Trend Shaping Through Digital Reading Spaces," **Angel C. Dye**, Rutgers University
- "Borrowing One's Way to New Spaces: Kindle Unlimited and Its Critical Introductions," **Shayla Atkins**, Montgomery College

1.5 "The South Got Something to Say": Examining Healing Through Storytelling in the Works of Jesmyn Ward (Roundtable) Special Session of the Jesmyn Ward Society

Location: Hemlock

Chair: Sheronda Gipson-Marion, Rust College

- "And a Child Shall Lead Them: How the Youth Brought Hope and Healing in Sing Unburied Sing," **Sheronda Gipson-Marion**, Rust College
- "Haunting Echoes: Unveiling the Horror in Jesmyn Ward's Sing, Unburied, Sing," **Daniyel Johnson**, University of Memphis
- "Skeetah's Girl, Skeetah's B'tch: Assessing the Complexities of Intimacy and Violence in Jesmyn Ward's Salvage the Bones," **Madison "Mocha" Hunter**, University of Memphis
- "We Are Not Like Them": DisUntangling Black Males Performance of Patriarchy in an Anti-Black World, **Obri Richardson**, University of Memphis

1.6 Through Worldly Lens: Depictions of Afro-Descendant Identities in Portugal, Russia, and Latin America.

Location: Cedar

Chair: Cecily Bernard

- "Black Diaspora in Portugal: A Raciolinguistic Exploration of Black Identities, Experiences, and Positionalities in Lisbon," **Eva Michelle Wheeler**, Providence College
- "The Golden Legacies of Alexander Pushkin in Black Americana" **Glen Layne-Worthey**, HathiTrust Research Center, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- "The Latin American and Caribbean World," **Cecily Bernard**, University of Tennessee

Thursday, April 24, 2025

World Languages Lecture

11:30am-12:30pm

Location: Heritage F

“Decolonizing Politics and Epistemologies through Muntú and Afro-Decolonial Theory/ies: Africa, Latin America, Europe, U.S.”

Speaker: Dr. Clément A. Akassi

Professor and Director of Graduate Studies
Department of World Languages and Cultures
Howard University



**Restoring Our Mothers' Gardens:
Tea & Tribute**

12:30-1:00 pm

Location: Pine/Spruce

Join us after the World Languages Lecture for a Tea & Tribute to dr. doris davenport, Nikki Giovanni, Dr. Jerry W. Ward, Jr and others we'd like to hold in memoriam.

Tea and light afternoon fare will be provided. Lunch is on your own.



Thursday, April 24, 2025 2:00 PM-3:15 PM Concurrent Sessions II

2.1 Grants and Funding: Proposal Writing Professional Development Workshop

Location: Heritage F

Presenter: Beauty Bragg, Independent Scholar

This workshop will focus on strategies for articulating your research project's significance and contribution to the field. We will engage examples of narratives from funded applications, identifying successful approaches to specifying the audience(s) for your work, positioning the work in the disciplinary landscape, and describing the scholarly stakes. In order to develop a statement of research significance during the workshop, participants should bring a written abstract of 100-150 words that they are willing to share in small groups and which will serve as the basis for developing a full draft of a statement of research significance.

2.2 Octavia E. Butler in Expanding Conversations: Ecology, Indigeneity, and Black Liberation Special Session of the Octavia E. Butler Literary Society

Location: Oak

Chair: Mario A. Chandler, Oglethorpe University

- "The Ontology of the Ship: Celestial Ecologies in Tade Thompson's *Rosewater* and Octavia E. Butler's *Dawn*," **Stefanie Dunning**, University of Rochester
- "Ideas of Black Indigeneity in Octavia E. Butler's Parable Series," **Alexis Harper**, Howard University
- "Black Literature, Black Liberation Movements, and the Rhetorical Limits of Empathy," **Sarah Rude Walker**, Spelman College
- "New Paradigms for a New Self: How A Different Model of Community Offers a Safe Haven for Self-Actualization," **R. Nicole Smith**, University of Memphis

2.3 Imagining Possibilities in Literature and Film: From Booker T. Washington to *Femme* (2022)

Location: Pine

Chair: **Wallis C. Baxter III**, University of the District Columbia Community College

- "Into a Pretty Tight Place": Booker T. Washington's Transvesting as Queen Esther in the Atlanta Exposition Address," **Charles Nero**, Bates College
- "Femme: Reimagining the Political and Cultural Possibilities of Black Masculinity," **Justin Williamson**, Texas A&M University
- "My Dungeon Keeps Shaking: Reimagining Identity through Black Literature," **Wallis C. Baxter III**, University of the District Columbia Community College
- "Discussing Complex Topics through Literature: Reading *A Lesson Before Dying*," **Durthy A. Washington**, Independent Scholar

Thursday, April 24, 2025 2:00 PM-3:15 PM Concurrent Sessions II

2.4 What is Contemporary African American Literature? This panel is sponsored by Clemson University Press

Location: Heritage C



Chair: Donavan L. Ramon, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

- "Hip Hop and Contemporary African American Literature,"
Donavan L. Ramon, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
- "Rap is Contemporary Black Literature or Literature is Anti-Black,"
Nicole Lowman, University at Buffalo
- "What is Contemporary African American Literature?: Choice and
Colson Whitehead's Harlem Trilogy," Tristan Striker, Linn-Benton
Community College
- "A Truly Different World: Historically Black Colleges in Twenty-First
Century Literature and Culture," Magana Kabugi, Fisk University

2.5 Weathering the Storm: Black Identity, Folklore, and Resilience in the Gulf South

Location: Cedar

Chair: Constance Bailey, Georgia State University

- "I Feel It In My Bones: Weatherlore in African American Folklore and
Fiction," Constance Bailey, Georgia State University
- "Weather Ritual and Regional Identity in Sherri L. Smith's *Orleans*,"
Shelley Ingram, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- "Mothering the Storm: Black Girlhood and Communal Care in Literature
of Katrina," Jennifer C. Morrison, Xavier University of Louisiana

2.6 Urban Struggles and Embodied Futures: Exploring Displacement, Decolonization, and Biopolitics in Contemporary Narratives

Location: Hemlock

Chair: Emily Aguilar, California State University, Los Angeles

- "Paternalistic, Affective, and Asymmetrical Discourse of Childcare in
"Grace in the City," Gul Hos, University of Memphis
- "The Rose-thorned City: A Reading of Portland's Black History as Colonial
Displacement in Rene Watson's *Skin and Bones* and *Piecing Me Together*,"
Emily Duru, Howard University
- "Decolonization as an Afrofuturist Neurodivergent Aesthetic in Rivers
Solomon's *An Unkindness of Ghosts*," Emily Aguilar, California State
University, Los Angeles
- "Dancing with Herself: Narrative Theory and Mental Health in Jacqueline
Woodson's *Another Brooklyn*," Tasha Sampson-Choma, Kansas State
University

Thursday, April 24, 2025

CLA Annual Standing Committee Meetings

3:30 - 4:30pm

Location: Heritage F

CLA Authors Meet & Greet

4:45pm - 5:30pm

Location: Heritage Foyer

Presidential Address

5:45pm - 6:30pm

Jervette R. Ward, College Language Association President

Location: Heritage F

Welcome Reception

6:30pm - 8:00pm

Hosted by Washington State University Vancouver

Location: Discovery Ballroom

Film Screening: *BAM! Chicago's Black Arts Movement*

8:15pm - 9:50pm

Location: Heritage F

Discussants:

Thabiti Lewis, Washington State University Vancouver

Pavithra Narayanan, Washington State University Vancouver

CLA Undergraduate and Graduate Student Social

9:30pm - 11:00pm

Location: Heritage E



Friday, April 25, 2025: Convention at a Glance

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Convention Badge Pick-up
Welcome Table, Hilton Vancouver Washington

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM

Welcome Back Coffee
Location: Heritage Foyer

8:30 AM - 9:45 AM

Concurrent Sessions III

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Publications, Vendors, Exhibits

10:00 AM - 11:15 AM

Concurrent Sessions IV

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

CLA Business Meeting
Location: Heritage A/B

1:00 PM - 2:15 PM

CLA 101
Location: Heritage F
(Brownbag/Lunch on your own)

2:30 PM - 3:45 PM

Concurrent Sessions V

4:00 PM - 5:15 PM

Concurrent Sessions VI

5:30 PM - 6:15 PM

Career Headshot Photo Session
Location: Heritage E

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Pre-Banquet Cash Bar and Book Signing with Camille T. Dungy
Location: Heritage Pre-Function

7:30 PM - 9:30 PM

CLA Banquet and Awards Ceremony
Location: Heritage A/B

9:30 PM - 12:00 AM

President's Reception
Location: Pine/Spruce

Friday, April 25, 2025 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM Concurrent Sessions III

3.1 Narratives of Resistance in Works From The Black Diaspora

Location: Oak

Chair: Dawn Duke, University of Tennessee

- "Escre(vivência): I Write Therefore I Am. I Am What I Write," Dawn Duke, University of Tennessee
- "iManteca!: Listening to the Voices of the Twenty-First Century Afro-Latina Poets," Ingrid Watson-Miller, Norfolk State University
- "Gorée Island in the Work of Nafissatou Dia Diouf," Jay Lutz, Oglethorpe University
- "Playing the Demons of Modernity: The Power of Poetic Openings and Shared Imagination in Haitian Drama," Iona Wynter Parks, Oglethorpe University

3.2 Pedagogies for Writing Classrooms

Location: Spruce

Chair: Asha Salim, Temple University

- "Unveiling the White Gaze: A Case Study on Decolonizing Techno Racism in The Writing Class During the AI Era," Monique L. Akassi, Howard University
- "The Expansion of Writing Pedagogies: Black Literacy Practices Working in the Composition Classroom," Brittney Boykins, Florida A&M University
- "Learning from Black Teachers: Implementing Critical Engagement Strategies in Writing Classrooms," Jessica Edwards, University of Delaware

3.3 Cosmic Poetics, Tradition, and Historical Memory: Exploring Black Diasporic Voices in Nature and History

Location: Pine

Chair: Thom C. Addington, Loyola University New Orleans

- "The Life of the Spirit in Poetry: On Jay Wright's *Aubade*," Roshad Demetrie Meeks, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- "Reading James Baldwin 'In the Tradition' of Black Poetics in the Americas," Thom C. Addington, Loyola University New Orleans
- "Claiming Personhood through Resistance: Frank X Walker's Margaret Garner Poems in *Load in Nine Times* (2024)," Kristine Yohe, Northern Kentucky University
- "A Conversation with Cristina Cabral and Párajós: Afro-Uruguayan Poet, Activist and Critic," Emmanuel Harris II, University of North Carolina Wilmington

Friday, April 25, 2025 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM Concurrent Sessions III

3.4 Black Arts Thoughts Broadly Speaking

This panel is sponsored by Washington State University Vancouver, 2025 CLA Convention Host Institution

Location: Heritage F

Chair: Dr. Thabiti Lewis, Washington State University Vancouver

- "Black Arts Chicago and the legacy of building institutions, theory and a movement in visual Arts, literature, and Drama for the People,"
Thabiti Lewis, Washington State University Vancouver
- "Prince and the Black Arts Movement: When Doves Fly," Scot Brown, UCLA
- "Brothers and Sisters from Another Planet: Afrofuturism in Black Literature & Arts," DuEwa M. Frazier, Coppin State University
- "The Black Arts Movement from There to Now: The Magic of Ju Ju,"
Kalamu Ya Salam, Independent Scholar, Community Activist, Author

3.5 Black Language, Leadership, and Literature: (Re)Shaping Educational Spaces for Future Generations

Location: Heritage C

Chair: Tara T. Green, University of Houston

- "I'm teaching everybody Black: Challenging Pedagogical Status Quos in University Classrooms," Tajanae L. Barnes, University of Central Oklahoma
- "The Language and Literacy of Black Leadership in the Academy,"
Anne Charity-Hudley, Stanford University
- "Liberal Arts, Career Readiness, Humanities," Jason Hendrickson,
CUNY-LaGuardia Community College
- "You're so Confrontational: Language and a Critical Sense of Belonging for African American Students," Ramon Stephens, Stanford University

Friday, April 25, 2025 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM Concurrent Sessions IV

4.1 CLAJ Publishing 101 Workshop Professional Development Workshop

Location: Heritage F

Chair: Shauna Morgan, CLAJ Editor

Join the CLAJ Editorial Staff and hear about the Journal, the submission process, and best practices for publishing your work in the *College Language Association Journal*.

Friday, April 25, 2025 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM Concurrent Sessions IV

4.2 Literary Histories, Interwoven Legacies: Literary, Legal, and Editorial Voices in African American and Diasporic Histories

Location: Cedar

Chair: Donna Akiba Sullivan Harper, Spelman College

- "'Knitted' Literary Legacies: The Interwoven Stories of Nineteenth-Century United States and Canada," **Kim Green**, Georgia Gwinnett College
- "Melodrama in the Black Press: African American Legal Agency in Breach of Promise Discourses, 1895-1984," **Christel N. Temple**, University of Pittsburgh/Editor-in-Chief *Journal of Black Studies*
- "Langston Hughes as Editor of Diasporic Literature," **Donna Akiba Sullivan Harper**, Spelman College, Emerita

4.3 Beyond Borders: Black Motherhood, Creolization, and Sacred Science in Contemporary Speculative Literature

Location: Spruce

Chair: R. Nicole Smith, University of Memphis

- "Graphic Novels and Gothic Realities: Race, Gender and Representation in Victor LaValle's *Destroyer*," **Anna Flood**, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- "Whiteness and its Afterlives in Lawrence Scott's *Witchbroom*," **Joshua Lawson**, Howard University
- "Intersections of Spirit and Science in Nnedi Okorafor's Binti novella and Shuri comic," **Helene Androne**, Miami University Ohio

4.4 Archiving While Black: Teaching, Curating, and Collaborating

This panel is sponsored by the Amos Distinguished Chair in English Letters at Georgia State University

Location: Hemlock

Chair: Danille K. Taylor, Clark Atlanta University

- "Building Networks and Collaborations for the Recovery, Study, and Teaching of Early Black Literature in the Archives," **Mollie Godfrey**, James Madison University
- "Remember, Rebel, Reimagine: Demond Melancon, Visual Storytelling, and the Curation of a New Art Gallery," **Kenneth Johnson II**, College of Charleston
- "Top African American Writers in African American Review: A Data Analysis," **Emily Duru**, Howard University

Friday, April 25, 2025 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM Concurrent Sessions IV

4.5 Labors of Love and Resistance: Exhaustion, Intimacy, and Care

Location: Oak

Chair: Robert Tate Morrison, University of North Texas

- "Enduring 'Battle Fatigue:' Explorations of Black Women's Exhaustion in Civil Rights Movement Literature," **Bria Paige**, Rutgers University
- "Why I Still Love You Like I Do: Black Women's Intimacy Practices As Strategies For Survival," **Darlene Scott**, Virginia State University

4.6 Unsettling Boundaries: Disability, Music, and Queer Black Spaces in Toni Morrison's Works

Location: Cedar

Chair: Madison "Mocha" Hunter, University of Memphis

- "Neither Victims Nor Saints: Unsettling Binary Conceptions of Disability in the Work of Toni Morrison," **Sarita Cannon**, San Francisco State University
- "Music-City Novels: Cyprian Ekwensi's *People of the City* and Toni Morrison's *Jazz*," **Christopher N. Okonkwo**, Florida State University
- "Queer Black Spaces: Homoeroticism and Same-Sex Love in Selected Works by Toni Morrison," **DeLinda Marzette**, Prairie View A&M University

CLA Business Meeting

Friday, April 25, 2025

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

Location: Heritage A/B

CLA 101

Professional Development Session

Friday, April 25, 2025

1pm-2:15pm

Location: Heritage F

(Lunch on your own)

Are you curious about The College Language Association (CLA)? Join us for an informative session designed to answer key questions about the organization.

Whether you're a first-time attendee or a long-time member, this session will provide valuable insights into the inner workings of the CLA.



Friday, April 25, 2025 2:30 PM - 3:45 PM Concurrent Sessions V

5.1 Making Life Work: Negotiating Teaching, Research, Writing, and Service

Professional Development Workshop hosted by the English Education Committee

Location: Heritage C

Chair: Aaron Oforlea, Washington State University

- "Making Life Work: Balancing the Journey to Full," Helene Androne, Miami University Ohio
- "Negotiating Teaching & Research," Constance Bailey, Georgia State University
- Aaron Oforlea, Washington State University

5.2 When and Where She Enters: Black Feminist Approaches to African Diasporic Women's Literature

Location: Spruce

Chair: Antiwan Walker, Georgia Gwinnett College

- "You Are Black, Baby": A Black Feminist Reading of African Diasporic Women in *The Heart of a Woman* and *Americanah*," Latrice Johnson, University of Mississippi
- "Enter As You Are: Intersectional Narratives of Black Women's Activism Against Injustice and Racial Violence," Tanya Clark, Morehouse College
- "The Politics of Words: Haitian-Creole Literature and its Place as Liberator in Haitian Society," Edwin Philip Julien, Morgan State University
- "Umi Says: Africana Mothering and Transnational Black Women Writers," Ebony O. Lumumba, Jackson State University

5.3 Rage, Resistance, and (Re)defining Black Identities Across the Diaspora

Location: Pine

Chair: Stephanie Fullerton-Cooper, University College of the Cayman Islands

- "Rage and Resistance in Zakes Mda's *Ways of Dying*," Portia Owusu, Texas A&M University
- "Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*: A Lens to Understand 21st Century Racial Politics," Jason Hendrickson, CUNY-LaGuardia Community College
- "'It is not our Differences that Divide Us': Redefining Blackness in the Cayman Context," Stephanie Fullerton-Cooper, University College of the Cayman Islands
- "The Queen Bee: Black Girls, Predation, and Symbolic Liberation," Anna L. Hinton, University of North Texas

Friday, April 25, 2025 2:30 PM - 3:45 PM Concurrent Sessions V

5.4 Toni Morrison in Conversation with Jesmyn Ward, Gayl Jones, and Norman Lewis

Location: Oak

Chair: Donovan L. Ramon, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

- "Dissenting from Disruption: The Neo Slave Narrative and Re-Claiming Black Cultural Inheritance," Catherine Saunders, Bates College
- "Generational Ties That Bind: Dramatizing Conflict and Cooperation in Toni Morrison's *Sula* and Gayl Jones's *Corregidora*," Jade Harrison, University of Kansas
- "Toni Morrison and Norman Lewis: *The Bluest Eye's* response to Abstract Impressionism," Keiko Miyamoto, Seinan Gakuin University, Japan

5.5 Innovative Pedagogies and Pathways for Black Diasporic Literatures

Location: Cedar

Chair: DuEwa Frazier, Coppin State University

- "'Go for Broke': Podcasting as a Pedagogical Tool for Exploring African American Literature," Julia Tigner, Jacksonville State University
- "Teaching 'S.E.W. Dope' Black Diaspora Courses Through Social Action & Experiential Learning," Crystal Harris, University of Central Arkansas
- "The Centrality of the Black Diaspora in the 21st Century," Beverly Johnson, Central Connecticut State University

5.6 Black Playwrights: August Wilson and Alice Childress

Location: Hemlock

Chair: Shayla M. Atkins, Montgomery College

- "Teaching August Wilson's Play Cycle: The G.O.A.T. Exercise and Other Pedagogical Approaches," Renee Schatteman, Georgia State University
- Tommy Marie's Response to Middle-Class Idiocy in Alice Childress' *Wine in the Wilderness*, Elizabeth Brown-Guillory, Texas Southern University

5.7 Film Screening and Discussion: *Healing Roots*

Location: Heritage F

Discussant: Kameelah L. Martin, College of Charleston

Friday, April 25, 2025 4:00 PM - 5:15 PM Concurrent Sessions VI

6.1 In the Life and In the Spirit: Double Consciousness, Conjuring, and Spiritualities

Location: Cedar

Chair: Wallis C. Baxter III, University of the District Columbia Community College

- "Lyrical Double Consciousness: A Survival Strategy for the Twenty-first Century," **Nicole Lowman**, University at Buffalo
- "Transatlantic Black Missions: Two Letters and Two Sermons by Florence Randolph," **Eduzzi David Sallah**, Texas A&M University
- "Conjuring Candomble in *Paradise*: Exploring Toni Morrison's Afro-Brazilian Spirituality," **Ashley Burge**, Augustana College—Illinois

6.2 The Black Writing Tradition and Fugitive Memory

Location: Spruce

Chair: David F. Green, Jr, Howard University

- "Reimagining Fugitive Memory in Black Post-Black Writing for an AI Literate Readership," **David F. Green, Jr**, Howard University
- "The Philosophical and Psychological Implications of Fugitivity in Baldwin's *Nothing Personal*," **Joseph Burton**, Howard University
- "Observing Language Deficits in Political Discourse," **Milford Jeremiah**, Morgan State University

6.3 Pedagogical Journeys of an HBCU Educator

Location: Heritage C

Chair: Preselfannie W. McDaniels, Jackson State University

- Ways of Seeing: Pedagogies, Papers, and Portfolios, **Preselfannie W. McDaniels**, Jackson State University
- Ecowomanist Pedagogies: A Journey into Nature-Oriented Methodologies, **Christopher Peace**, Carnegie Mellon University
- "Utilizing Literature: A More Humanistic Understanding And Critical Examination of History," **Joy Lewis**, Morgan State University

6.4 Eden, Paradise, and Divine Secrets: Alice Walker, Toni Morrison, and Blink Twice (2024)

Location: Oak

Chair: Tamalyn L. Peterson, Stillman College

- "Lilith's Brew, Eve's Elixir of Eden: Reassessing Emblems of Power and Knowledge in *Blink Twice*," **Madison 'Mocha' Hunter**, University of Memphis
- "No Pulpit for Her Heels: Toni Morrison's Novels and Womanist Theology," **Rondrea Danielle Mathis**, Albany State University
- "Regaining Paradise: Alice Walker, Wild Trees, and Legacy," **Cheryl R. Hopson**, Roanoke College

Friday, April 25, 2025 4:00 PM - 5:15 PM Concurrent Sessions VI

6.5 Black Geographies, Black Spaces: Blackness, Community, and Aestheticism

Location: Hemlock

Chair: Antiwan Walker, Georgia Gwinnett College

- "Don't We All?' Racial Geographies and a Critique of Bourgeois Universalism in Colson Whitehead's *Sag Harbor*," **Maria Lauret**, University of Sussex
- "Her Silent Announcement: Black Women Creating New Geographies," **Christel Woods**, Washington State University
- "A Politics of Renewal, the Power of Insulated Black Community, & Black Aestheticism Beneath the Mason-Dixon Line," **Leah Barlow**, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University

6.6 Speculating Memory: Black Life Writing from the Archive to the Classroom

Location: Pine

Chair: Paulette Wright-Hall, University College of the Cayman Islands

- "Speculating Ancestral Memory in Black Women's Memoirs and the Halsey Family Archive," **Jessica Halsey**, Virginia Tech
- "James A. Emanuel Project," **Tyechia Thompson**, Virginia Tech

6.7 Cultural Intersections, Shared Demands: Literature, Music, and Justice in Spain, Equatorial Guinea, and the USA

Location: Heritage E

Chair: Wendy McBurney, Independent Scholar

- "The Silent Beat": The Intersection of Bob Kaufman and Federico García Lorca," **Luis González-Barrios**, Spelman College
- "Fruits of the Sterile Seed: Questioning the Past in *¿Qué mató al joven Abdoulaye Cissé?* By Donato Ndongo," **Nicole Price**, Northern Arizona University
- "Crossing Borders Between Spain and Equatorial Guinea: The Possibility of Reconciliation Between the Ex-Colonizer and the Colonized in the Novel *El Diario de Marc* by Edjanga Jones Ndjoli," **Wendy McBurney**, Independent scholar

Career Headshot Photo Session

Friday, April 25, 2025

5:30pm-6:15pm

Location: Heritage E



A portrait of Camille T. Dungy, a Black woman with long, dark dreadlocks, smiling broadly and looking upwards and to the left. She is wearing a black turtleneck sweater and a necklace with four large, round beads: three orange and one gold. The background is a soft-focus green forest.

Camille T. Dungy

CLA CONVENTION KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Pre-Banquet Cash Bar &
Book Signing**
Friday, April 25, 2025
6:30pm-7:30pm
Location: Heritage Pre-function

**Convention Banquet
& Awards**
Friday, April 25
7:30pm-9:30pm

President's Reception
Friday, April 25
9:30pm-12am
Location: Pine/Spruce

Saturday, April 26, 2025: Convention at a Glance

8:00 AM - 8:45 AM

Wellness Moment

Location: Pine

Join us for a Wellness Moment with Nanu Iyer. Light yoga movements, stretching, and meditation. Bring a towel and positive spirit to the session.

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Convention Badge Pick-up

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Publications, Vendors, and Exhibits

9:00 AM - 1:15 PM

Concurrent Sessions VII, VIII, and IX

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Film Screening and End of Convention Social: *The Five Demands*

Location: Heritage F

4:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Post-Convention Transition Dinner

Location: Boardroom



Saturday, April 26, 2025 9:00 AM-10:15 AM Concurrent Sessions VII

7.1 Resume, CV, and Cover Letter Workshop

Professional Development Workshop

Location: Heritage C

Chair: Elizabeth J. West, Georgia State University

In this session, peers and participants will share best practices on curating a professional voice through the cover letter, CV, and academic resume. Documents were to be sent in advance.

7.2 From Haiti to the Horn of Africa: Black Women Writers across Genres

Location: Cedar

Chair: Casarae Abdul-Ghani, Temple University

- "Moving in Silence: An Examination of Haitian YA narratives of Embodied Knowledges and Vodou," **Alessandra Jacobo**, Penn State University
- "Umi Says: Africana Mothering and Transnational Black Women Writers," **Ebony O. Lumumba**, Jackson State University
- "Dissecting Black Southern Womanhood: The Paradox of Southern Italy in Relation to the American South and the Horn of Africa," **Asha Salim**, Temple University

7.3 Rethinking Genres, Rethinking Canon: The Politics of Canonization

Location: Oak

Chair: Danille K. Taylor, Clark Atlanta University

- "Beyond Boundaries: The Question of Genre in Black Sports Literature," **Mikael Awake**, Lafayette College
- "Counter Histories and the Labeling of Genres: A Vital Exploration," **Summer Tate**, Howard University

7.4 Innovations, Global Influences, and Initiatives in African Diasporic Art and Literature

Location: Hemlock

Chair: Jacquetta T. Ayewoh

- "The Ragpicker in Black Diasporic Literature: A Reading of Chris Abani's *The Virgin of the Flames* from an East African's Perspective," **Alex Nelungo Wanjala**, University of Nairobi.
- "Big Man Syndrome: Analyzing Hegemonic Masculinity in Recent African Literature," **Jacquetta T. Ayewoh**, Howard University
- "What Is Contemporary About Contemporary Black Women's Poetry?," **Irvin Hunt**, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Saturday, April 26, 2025 10:30 AM-11:45 AM Concurrent Sessions VIII

8.1 Diasporic Stories & Texts: Culture, Memory & Meaning-Making

Location: Oak

Chair: Rochell Isaac, CUNY LaGuardia Community College

- "Diasporic Memory and Imaginings: Grappling with the Psyche of a Violent Past Through Narrative," **Rochell Isaac**, CUNY LaGuardia Community College
- "Black Diasporic Woman-speak: Borders, Memory & Resistance," **Allia Abdullah-Matta**, CUNY LaGuardia Community College
- "The Blues Idiom in the Diaspora: Sleepy John Estes as Storyteller & Culture Bearer," **Zanice Bond**, Tuskegee University

8.2 Ha!: Humor as Resistance in Black Women's Writing Across the Diaspora

Location: Cedar

Chair: Jimisha Relerford, Howard University

- "Reading Spoiler's Humour as Acts of Subversion," **Kela Francis**, The University of Trinidad and Tobago
- "Black Women Writing Humor, Irony, and Satire Across the Diaspora," **Jimisha Relerford**, Howard University
- "Black Girl Memoir: Hip Hop and Humor in Radha Blank's *The Forty-Year-Old Version*," **Jalylah Burrell**, Loyola Marymount University

8.3 Cinematic Landscapes and Literary Transformations: Black Voices Across Time

Location: Hemlock

Chair: Tajane L. Barnes, University of Central Oklahoma

- "Landscape, Home, Memory: Remaking South Carolina through the Eyes of Viola Davis, Eartha Kitt, Vertamae Grosvenor and Alice Childress," **Corrie Claiborne**, Morehouse College
- "A Liberated Reader: Texts as Transformation in *Angela Davis: An Autobiography*," **Sharon Jones**, Ball State University
- "Transatlantic Tensions: Black British Actors, Hollywood, and the Perception of Racial Excess," **Felicia Cosey**, Western Washington University
- "Revisionist Futures: Imagining Untraumatized Black Girls in Afrofuturistic Literature and Film," **Sondra Bickham Washington**, Florida Atlantic University

Saturday, April 26, 2025 10:30 AM-11:45 AM Concurrent Sessions VIII

8.4: Reclaiming Identity: Race, Language, and Belonging in the Black Diaspora

Location: Heritage D

Chair: Denise Jarrett, Morgan State University

- "In Defense of Race: Afro-Jamaican Children's Riposte," Denise Jarrett, Morgan State University
- "The Politics of Words: Haitian-Creole Literature and its Place as Liberator in Haitian Society," Edwin Philip Julien, Morgan State University
- "Finding Home: Queer Belonging in Black Diasporic YA Literature," Lauren LaPorta, Morgan State University

Saturday, April 26, 2025 12:00 PM-1:15 PM Concurrent Sessions IX

9.1 Narrations of Black Lives through Intersections of Gendered, Geographical, and Generational Spaces

Special Session: Black Studies Standing Committee

Location: Heritage D

Chair: Elizabeth J. West, Georgia State University

- "A Book for My Great-grandmother – or Weaving History from Strands," Karine L. Narahara, University of North Texas
- "Black Women Activists' Histories of Resistance in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil," Kenneth Williamson, Kennesaw State University
- "Reluctant Raconteurs, Rememory, & The Politics of Family History," Kameelah L. Martin, College of Charleston
- "The Houses Our Grandmothers' Built: Affective Notes on Transnational Black Womanhood & Kinship from Brazil to the US South," Masonya J. Bennett, Kennesaw State University

9.2 A Pedagogical Consideration of How Literature Helps Us to "Become" in a Growing Diasporic Context

Roundtable - HBCU Standing Committee

Location: Hemlock

Chair: Helen Crump, Jackson State University

Saturday, April 26, 2025 12:00 PM-1:15 PM Concurrent Sessions IX

9.3 Double Consciousness, Diasporic Consciousness: Black Literature and Historical Memory

Location: Oak

Chair: Shirley Toland-Dix, Auburn University-Montgomery

- "The Chosen People, the Timeless People: Paule Marshall's Prophetic Epic of the Black Atlantic," **Shirley Toland-Dix**, Auburn University-Montgomery
- "Generational Mercy, Generational Wealth: Lucille Clifton's Hermeneutic of Mercy," **Gena E. Chandler**, Virginia Tech
- "Redefining the Canon: Mulatto Imagery and Hybridity in *Wide Sargasso Sea*, *Abeng*, and *Jane Eyre*," **Reginald Watson**, East Carolina University

9.4 CLA Scholars Reflect on Issues of Pedagogy and the Organization's Leadership

Location: Cedar

Chair: Dawn F. Stinchcomb, Purdue University

- "Billie Geter Thomas: First Female President of the College Language Association," **James J. Davis**, Howard University
- "Teaching Differently: Developing a Pedagogy for the Teaching of Literature in World Languages," **Dawn F. Stinchcomb**, Purdue University
- "Transnational Pedagogy, The Black Atlantic, Black," **Chanta Shenell Palmer**, University of Maryland-Baltimore County

Film Screening: *The Five Demands & End of Convention Social* Saturday, April 26, 2025

2pm-4pm

Location: Heritage F

Discussant: Jervette R. Ward, CLA President

Post-Convention Transition Dinner

Saturday, April 26, 2025

4:30pm-7:30pm

Location: Boardroom



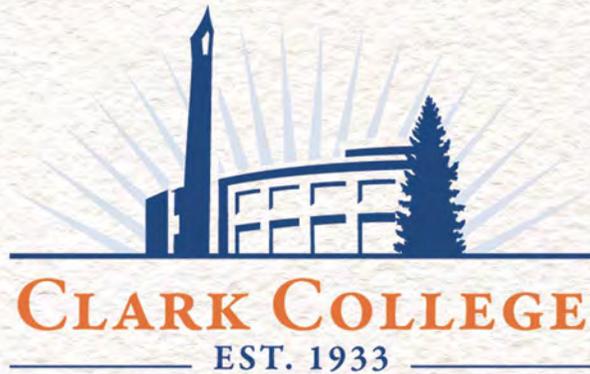
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The Octavia E. Butler Literary Society

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The Society for the Study of American Women Writers

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Contact: Ellen Garvey, ssaww.vpdevelopment@gmail.com

**Please contact the CLA Vice President at vicepresident@clascholars.org
for additional information about becoming an Allied Organization with the
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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

Current College Language Association President

2024 **Jervette R. Ward** The City College of New York New York, NY

Past College Language Association Presidents

The year indicates the commencement of presidential tenure.

1937	Hugh M. Gloster	LeMoyne College	Memphis, TN
1938	William Edward Farrison	North Carolina College	Durham, NC
1939	Cecil A. Blue	Lincoln University	Jefferson City, MO
1940	Bertram L. Woodruff	Johnson C. Smith College West Virginia State College	Charlotte, NC Institute, WV

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

1948	Hugh M. Gloster	Hampton Institute	Hampton, VA
1950	Edward A. Jones	Morehouse College	Atlanta, GA
1952	John W. Parker	Fayetteville State Teachers College	Fayetteville, NC
1954	Crawford B. Lindsay	Tennessee State University	Nashville, TN
1956	Billie Geter Thomas	Spelman College	Atlanta, GA
1957	Blyden Jackson	Southern University	Baton Rouge, LA

1959	Charles A. Ray	North Carolina College	Durham, NC
1961	Nick Aaron Ford	Morgan State College	Baltimore, MD
1963	Darwin T. Turner	North Carolina A&T College	Greensboro, NC
1965	Milton G. Hardiman	Lincoln University	Jefferson City, MO
1967	Charles Hugo Curl	Norfolk State College	Norfolk, VA
1968	Richard A. Long	Atlanta University	Atlanta, GA
1971	Ruth N. Horry	North Carolina Central University	Durham, NC
1973	Richard K. Barksdale	University of Illinois	Urbana, IL
1975	Herman Bostick	Texas Southern University	Houston, TX
1977	Thelma D. Curl	Norfolk State University	Norfolk, VA
1979	Wilbert J. Roger	Temple University	Philadelphia, PA
1982	Eleanor Q. Tignor	LaGuardia Community College	Long Island City, NY
1984	Anne Venture Young	Morgan State University	Baltimore, MD
1986	Marie H. Buncombe	Brooklyn College	Brooklyn, NY
1988	Marcellus Brooks	Fisk University	Nashville, TN
1990	Thelma B. Thompson	Norfolk State University	Norfolk, VA
1992	James J. Davis	Howard University	Washington, DC
1994	Dolan Hubbard	University of Georgia	Athens, GA
1996	Thomas N. Hammond	North Carolina Central College	Durham, NC
1998	Emma Waters Dawson	Florida A&M University	Tallahassee, FL
2000	Dellita Martin-Ogunsola	University of Alabama at Birmingham	Birmingham, AL
2002	Yakini B. Kemp	Florida A&M University	Tallahassee, FL
2004	Régine Latortue	Brooklyn College/CUNY	Brooklyn, NY
2006	Booker T. Anthony	Fayetteville State University	Fayetteville, NC
2008	Antonio D. Tillis	Dartmouth College	Hanover, NH

2010	Warren J. Carson	University of South Carolina, Upstate	Spartanburg, SC
2012	Mario A. Chandler	Oglethorpe University	Atlanta, GA
2014	Dana A. Williams	Howard University	Washington, DC
2016	Clément A. Akassi	Howard University	Washington, DC
2018	Donna Akiba Sullivan Harper	Spelman College	Atlanta, GA
2020	Reginald A. Bess	Claflin University (Retired)	Orangeburg, SC
2022	Jervette R. Ward	Mississippi State University	Starkville, MS

Past College Language Association Conventions

April 10-13, 2024 82nd Memphis, TN "In Search of Justice: Language, Literature, & The Activist Spirit"

April 5-8, 2023 81st Atlanta, GA "Rage, Resilience, & Response"

The 2022 Convention was canceled due to COVID-19.

April 7-10, 2021 80th Virtual "Afrofuturism: Diasporic Visions"

The 2020 Convention was canceled due to COVID-19.

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 Literature 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	"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	No Theme
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	No Theme
February 25-26, 1949	9th	New Orleans, LA	"Literary Scholarship and Race"
<i>The 1948 Convention was canceled. Only the Executive Committee met at Morgan State College.</i>			
May 2-3, 1947	8th	New York, NY	*See Note Below
1946	7th	*See Note Below	*See Note Below

During WWII, CLA held a few regional meetings at Hampton Institute, Atlanta University, North Carolina College, and Virginia Union University, 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	"Linguistic Decay"



Participant Index

Please note this Participant Index only includes those who are presenting during concurrent sessions.

- Abdullah-Matta, Allia: 8.1
 Abdul-Ghani, Casarae: 7.2
 Addington, Thom: 3.3
 Aguilar, Emily: 2.6
 Akassi, Monique L: 3.2
 Androne, Helane: 4.3, 5.1
 Awake, Mikael: 7.3
 Ayewoh, Jacquetta T.: 7.4
 Atkins, Shayla: 1.4, 5.6
 Bailey, Constance: 2.5, 5.1
 Barbour-Payne, Yunina: 1.3
 Barnes, Tajanae L.: 3.5, 8.3
 Barlow, Leah: 6.5
 Baxter III, Wallis C.: 2.3, 6.1
 Bell, Victoria: 1.2
 Bennett, Masonya J.: 9.1
 Bernard, Cecily: 1.6
 Bickham Washington, Sondra: 8.3
 Bond, Zanice: 1.3, 8.1
 Boykins, Brittney: 3.2
 Bragg, Beauty: 2.1
 Brown, Scot: 3.4
 Brown-Guillory, Elizabeth: 5.6
 Burge, Ashley: 6.1
 Burrell, Jalylah: 8.2
 Burton, Joseph: 6.2
 Cannon, Sarita: 4.6
 Chandler, Mario A: 2.2
 Charity-Hudley, Anne: 3.5
 Claiborne, Corrie: 8.3
 Clark, Tanya: 5.2
 Collins, Cherish: 1.2
 Cosey, Felicia: 8.3
 Crump, Helen: 9.2
 Davis, James J.: 9.4
 Duke, Dawn: 3.1
 Duru, Emily: 2.6, 4.4
 Dunning, Stefanie: 2.2
 Ductan, Monic: 1.3
 Dye, Angel C.: 1.4
 Edwards, Jessica: 3.2
 Flood, Anna: 4.3
 Francis, Kela: 8.2
 Frazier, DuEwa: 3.4, 5.5
 Fullerton-Cooper, Stephanie: 5.3
 Gipson-Marion, Sheronda: 1.5
 Godfrey, Mollie: 4.4
 González-Barrios, Luis: 6.7
 Green Jr, David F.: 6.2
 Green, Kim: 4.2
 Green, Tara T: 3.5
 Guillory, Elizabeth Brown: 5.6
 Halsey, Jessica: 6.6
 Harris II, Emmanuel: 3.3
 Harrison, Jade: 5.4
 Hendrickson, Jason: 3.5, 5.3
 Hinton, Anna L: 5.3
 Hite, Michelle S: 1.3
 Hopson, Cheryl R.: 6.4
 Hos, Gul: 2.6
 Hunter, Madison 'Mocha': 1.5, 4.6, 6.4
 Hunt, Irvin: 7.4
 Ingram, Shelley: 2.5
 Isaac, Rochell: 8.1
 Jacobo, Alessandra (Sandra): 7.2
 Jarrett, Denise: 8.4
 Jeremiah, Milford: 6.2
 Johnson, Beverly: 5.5
 Johnson, Daniyel: 1.5
 Johnson II, Kenneth: 4.4
 Johnson, Latrice: 5.2
 Jones, Sharon: 8.3
 Julien, Edwin Philip: 5.2
 Kabugi, Magana: 2.4
 LaPorta, Lauren: 8.4
 Lauret, Maria: 6.5
 Lawson, Joshua: 4.3
 Layne-Worthey, Glen: 1.6
 Lewis, Joy: 6.3
 Lewis, Thabiti: 3.4
 Lester, Neal A: 1.1



Participant Index

Please note this Participant Index only includes those who are presenting during concurrent sessions.

- Lutz, Jay: 3.1
 Lowman, Cole: 2.4, 6.1
 Lumumba, Ebony O: 5.2
 Martin, Kameelah L: 5.7, 9.1
 Mathis, Rondrea Danielle: 6.4
 Miyamoto, Keiko: 5.4
 McBurney, Wendy: 6.7
 McDaniels, Preselfannie W: 6.3
 Meeks, Roshad Demetrie: 3.3
 Morgan, Shauna: 4.1
 Morrison, Jennifer C: 2.5
 Morrison, Robert Tate: 4.5
 Moten, Victoria: 5.2
 Nanga, Bhavya: 1.2
 Narahara, Karine: 9.1
 Nero, Charles: 2.3
 Okonkwo, Christopher N: 4.6
 Oforlea, Aaron: 5.1
 Owusu, Portia: 5.3
 Paige, Bria: 4.5
 Palmer, Chanta Shenell: 9.4
 Peace, Christopher: 6.3
 Peterson, Tamalyn L: 6.4
 Price, Nicole: 6.7
 Ramon, Donovan L: 2.4, 5.4
 Relerford, Jimisha: 8.2
 Richardson, Obri: 1.5
 Rude Walker, Sarah: 2.2
 Sallah, Edudzi David: 6.1
 Salim, Asha: 3.2, 7.2
 Sampson-Choma, Tosha: 2.6
 Saunders, Catherine: 5.4
 Scott, Darlene: 4.5
 Schatteman, Renee: 5.6
 Smith, Cassander: 1.4
 Smith McKoy, Sheila: 1.2
 Smith, R. Nicole: 2.2, 4.3
 Stephens, Ramon: 3.5
 Stinchcomb, Dawn F: 9.4
 Striker, Tristan: 2.4
 Sullivan Harper, Donna Akiba: 4.2
 Tate, Summer: 7.3
 Taylor, Danille K: 4.4, 7.3
 Temple, Christel N: 4.2
 Thomas, Griselda: 1.2
 Thompson, Tyechia: 6.6
 Tigner, Julia: 5.5
 Toland-Dix, Shirley: 9.3
 Walker, Antiwan: 5.2, 6.5
 Wanjala, Alex Nelungo: 7.4
 Washington, Durthy A: 2.3
 Watson, Reginald: 9.3
 Watson-Miller, Ingrid: 3.1
 Wilburn, Reginald: 1.4
 West, Elizabeth J: 7.1, 9.1
 Wheeler, Eva Michelle: 1.6
 Williamson, Justin: 2.3
 Williamson, Kenneth: 9.1
 Woods, Christel: 6.5
 Wright-Hall, Paulette: 6.6
 Wynter Parks, Iona: 3.1
 Ya Salam, Kalamu: 3.4
 Yohe, Kristine: 1.3, 3.3



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Soul Food, Soul Work, Soul Legacies: Food, Family, & Faith as Foundation

INGREDIENTS

- 84th Annual CLA Convention
- April 8-11, 2026
- Jackson, MS
- Host Institution: Jackson State University
- Keynote Speaker: Kiese Laymon



DIRECTIONS

- Mark your calendars for April 8-11, 2026
- Submit your abstract by October 1, 2025
- Presenters register by January 15, 2026
- Book your hotel by March 15, 2026
- Join us at Jackson State University!



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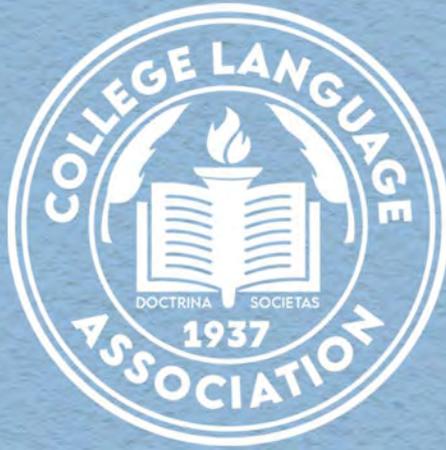
Member Convention Registration
(includes banquet)

Early (Aug 2-Nov. 1)
General: \$349
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Regular (Nov. 2-Mar. 17)
General: \$399
Students & Retirees: \$349

NOTES





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