CLA Virtual Convention Platform

Facilitated By EventXtra

Convention Platform Link

https://cla2021.eventxtra.com/

For the iOS or Android Mobile App
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CLA President’s Greetings

Grüße CLA Familie, ¡Saludos a la familia de CLA!, Salutations CLA famille, Saudações CLA família:

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the College Language Association, I welcome you to our 80th Convention and 84th anniversary celebration. Please prepare yourselves for four exciting days of critical debate and social interactions with CLA family and friends at our virtual convention.

We are saddened by the death of our dearly departed Vice President, Dr. Yvonne E. McIntosh, and we have been grieving so many others who have been affected by the current crises. We are thankful that we are able to gather virtually to honor their lives.

The Program Committee, under the leadership of Vice President and Program Chair Jervette R. Ward, English Area Representative McKinley E. Melton, and World Languages Area Representative José Manuel Batista, has worked closely with our local Host Committee, Dr. Terrence Tucker and Dr. Shelby Crosby, to prepare for our 80th Convention. And, we thank the administrators, faculty, staff, and students at the University of Memphis for their support.

This year, because of the global pandemic, we cannot return physically to our birthplace of LeMoyne-Owen College in Memphis, Tennessee. In 1937, President Emeritus Dr. Hugh M. Gloster and nine faculty members from historically Black institutions founded this great organization to improve the educational level of their students and to provide a forum for African American scholars of languages, literatures, and cultural studies. We are excited to offer virtual tours of LeMoyne-Owen College, the University of Memphis, and the National Civil Rights Museum.

This year’s Convention theme, “Afrofuturism: Diasporic Visions,” generated many creative and engaging proposals and sessions. As Host Committee Chair, Dr. Tucker noted in his letter to CLA members, “the theme of the convention comes at an ideal time for Memphis as we connect the crucial Black cultural traditions and experiences with the possibility of the future being imagined through the realms of science fiction, fantasy, and speculative fiction.”

And so with apologies to Langston Hughes’s short story Home and a song —“I’m coming home”— by one of my favorite groups the Spinners, we are coming home to Memphis virtually.

I look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,

Reginald A. Bess, Ph.D.
President
The College Language Association
president@clascholars.org
April 7, 2021

Greetings Members and Guests of the College Language Association’s 2021 Convention:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, and students of the University of Memphis, welcome to the 80th Convention of the College Language Association (CLA). A special thanks is due to the Planning Committee and members of the UoM community in the Department of English and the African and African American Studies Program for their work in preparing for this convention. CLA is a critical part of the history of this city’s long and rich cultural, musical, and academic legacy.

Originally founded in 1909 as the West Tennessee State Normal School, our student population in the fall totaled 22,203 students, once again making the university the second largest public university in Tennessee. Even as we have expanded our commitment to research and doctoral study – adding two more doctoral programs – our dedication to the education of teachers and leaders across Memphis and the Mid-South region remains unswerving. Whether identified in our name change to West Tennessee State Teachers college in 1925 or in the creation of our laboratory school Campus Elementary, which received the designation as a National Blue Ribbon School for academic achievement, the UoM sees a direct connection between applying the newest most effective pedagogical techniques throughout the region and exposing young people to the exciting and groundbreaking research being performed on campus. Our interest in excellence in teaching extends to our growing online program. We were recently ranked by U.S. News & World Report as No. 1 in Tennessee in online programs which includes nationally ranked online programs in nursing for veterans (13th) and criminal justice (graduate, 24th).

Perhaps most importantly, with an African American population of over 30%, diversity has become one of the key values in this university’s mission. Beginning in 1959 with the admittance of its first African American students, known as the Memphis State Eight, our interest in having an institution that not only reflects Memphis, but that acknowledges the history and addresses the lived experiences of residents in a city with historic African American neighborhoods like Orange Mound, but also dense poverty in the midst of the revitalization of the downtown and midtown areas. As we continue to mourn last year’s death of John Simpson, one of the Memphis State Eight, and the recent death of the university’s first Black professor, Dr. Miriam DeCosta-Willis, we are proud of doubling the four year graduation rates for African American men over the last five years. We achieved this success by recruiting and retaining diverse faculty and by prioritizing outreach efforts to the Memphis community. Recently, we established the African American Male Academy that invests in the mentorship of African American boys at the crucial middle school period that often determines interest in college or the disinterest.

Congratulations on your 80th Convention. We are thrilled to be a part of your legacy and send best wishes for a successful conference.

Warm regards,

M. David Rudd
President
Dear CLA Members,

Despite the delays caused by COVID-19 and the unique challenges that have emerged throughout 2020, the University of Memphis remains humbled and thrilled to host the historic virtual convention of the College Language Association (CLA) April 7-10, 2021. Begun as West Tennessee State Normal School and most recently remembered as Memphis State University through the 1990s, the university has consistently expanded its commitment to the population of the mid-South, whether providing role models as teachers and staff in Shelby County Schools, collaborating with FedEx and International Paper, or enlivening the already vibrant cultural and intellectual life of the “Home of the Blues.” As the school begins to garner rational attention in athletics and academics, we welcome the opportunity to help shape the conversations initiated by an internationally known organization committed to language, pedagogy, and literary study.

As the city where CLA started we are thoroughly pleased to be hosting its 80th convention and debuting a radically different experience for participants. Thankfully, we have been sitting at the intersection of historical celebrations that also serve as a launching pad for shifting towards the future of literature, language, and culture. By the time the convention arrives in 2021 the city will have celebrated its bicentennial and the university will have commemorated the 60th anniversary of the Memphis State Eight, the first African Americans admitted to the school. The theme of the convention, Afrofuturism: Diasporic Notions, comes at an ideal time for Memphis as we connect the crucial black cultural traditions and experiences with the possibility of the future being imagined through the realms of science fiction, fantasy, and speculative fiction.

Memphis boasts a very diverse student body and has included diversity as one of the core values in its construction of a 21st century urban university. With a substantial first-generation population, Memphis faculty emphasize a true balance between teaching and research. As a university in the middle of the Southern Delta many Memphis students are committed to remaining in the region post-graduation to serve underrepresented communities that have been traditionally misrepresented and marginalized. Other students take the values they learned from the award winning, deeply beloved faculty outside the region to affect state, regional, national, and global change.

Our keynote speaker is Yushau Womack who has already been a screenwriter, actress, producer, and director in her young career. We are thrilled she remained committed to speaking at the convention remotely after we were forced to postpone. Her most recent work has put her at the forefront of the Black Speculative Arts Movement. In particular, Afrofuturism: The World of Black Sci-Fi and Fantasy Culture (2013) situates her in the middle of the critical discourse surrounding speculative fiction while works like her Rayla Universe series and her forthcoming novella A Spaceship in Bronzeville add to the increasing body of work in what that has become an emergent field in contemporary African American literature.

While we will not see you in Memphis we hope that we will be able to provide you with a taste of the city with a number of virtual tours and experiences that evoke the unique racial and cultural history of Memphis. We promise an exploration of important landmarks and sites will augment an intellectually stimulating and culturally exciting time.

Sincerely,

Terrence Tucker, Ph.D.
Chair of the CLA Host Committee
Associate Professor of African American Literature
Department of English
University of Memphis
ttucker@memphis.edu
April 7, 2021

Dear CLA Colleagues,

Welcome to our Virtually Reimagined Afrofuturism Convention! I am honored to serve as the Program Chair for the 80th annual College Language Association Convention hosted by my home city of Memphis and my alma mater, The University of Memphis, April 7-10, 2021.

We all shared deep sadness at the passing of Dr. Yvonne McIntosh, who served as Vice President and Program Chair of the 2020 convention, which was canceled due to COVID-19. We had been working together to plan a special 80th celebration that highlighted CLA’s return to its founding city and included events at our founding institution, Lemoyne-Owen College. I wish that we could gather in person, but the Program Committee and the CLA Executive Committee have worked tirelessly to plan the first ever virtual convention, and it seems especially fitting to have it with the theme of Afrofuturism as we have all been tasked with reimagining Black lives in an ever-changing future.

The 2021 convention program is an updated version of what we planned for 2020, yet it includes a few timely additions on the legacies of Cheryl Wall and Miriam DeCosta-Willis, the Black Lives Matter Movement, teaching in the COVID-19 era, and the CLAJ vision panel. Our goal has been to honor what we already constructed while also recognizing the substantial changes that have happened due to the Coronavirus.

Finally, as we are unable to gather in person, I especially wanted to share with each Convention participant a unique opportunity to experience our host city. The Program Committee has partnered with The 901 Box, a Black-owned Memphis business that seeks to transport box recipients to Memphis by providing a way to taste, touch, hear, smell, and see a little bit of the city through the experience of products from local Black entrepreneurs. We hope that you enjoy this specially curated box that includes snacks, art, and other treats from the Bluff City. Your 901 Box also includes the beautifully designed printed program.

None of the work of CLA would be possible without the committed service of the CLA Executive Committee, and I want to specifically thank my fellow Program Committee members, Dr. José Manuel Batista and Dr. McKinley E. Melton. My deepest thanks to President Reginald A. Bess and our entire leadership team. And to our members, thank you for trusting us to lead our beloved institution in these challenging times. We are thankful for you, and we hope that this convention experience will be one to remember.

All the Best,

Jervette R. Ward, Ph.D.
Vice President & Convention Program Chair
College Language Association
vicepresident@clascholars.org
www.clascholars.org
Follow Us On Social Media and Share Convention Highlights!

@CollegeLanguageAssociation
@CLAscholar
@clascholars

Use the Hashtag #CLAscholars

FILM SCREENING AND LIVE TWITTER CHAT

Thursday, April 8
7:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.
Tweet @CLAscholar as you watch!

See You Yesterday
Produced by Spike Lee
### 80th Annual College Language Association

**Convention at a Glance**

All Times Central Standard Time (CST)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WEDNESDAY, April 7, 2021</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 P.M. - 3:45 P.M.</td>
<td>CLA Executive Committee Pre-Convention Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 P.M. - 4:45 P.M.</td>
<td>Virtual Platform Training, Introduction, and Q &amp; A</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 P.M. - 5:45 P.M.</td>
<td>Welcome Session for New Members and First-Time Attendees</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.</td>
<td>Opening Plenary: Presidential Address and Special Recognitions</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>THURSDAY, April 8, 2021</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.</td>
<td>Publications, Vendors, and Exhibits</td>
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<td>9:00 A.M. - 10:15 A.M.</td>
<td><em>The College Language Association Journal (CLAJ)</em> Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 A.M.-11:45 A.M.</td>
<td>Langston Hughes Society 40th Anniversary Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 P.M. - 1:15 P.M.</td>
<td>Concurrent Session I</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 P.M. - 2:45 P.M.</td>
<td>Concurrent Session II</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.</td>
<td>Concurrent Session III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 P.M. - 5:45 P.M.</td>
<td><strong>Standing Committee Meetings</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.</td>
<td>CLA Authors Meet and Greet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.</td>
<td><em>See You Yesterday</em> Film Screening &amp; Twitter Chat</td>
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### FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2021

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<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 A.M. - 10:45 A.M.</td>
<td>Business Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.</td>
<td>Publications, Vendors, and Exhibits</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 A.M. - 12:15 PM</td>
<td>Concurrent Session IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 P.M. - 1:45 P.M.</td>
<td>Concurrent Session V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 P.M. - 3:15 P.M.</td>
<td>Concurrent Session VI</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30 P.M. - 4:45 P.M.</td>
<td>Concurrent Session VII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 P.M. - 6:15 P.M.</td>
<td>Concurrent Session VIII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.</td>
<td>Convention Keynote Speaker Ytasha Womack</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.</td>
<td>President’s Afterparty</td>
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### SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2021

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 A.M. - 10:15 A.M.</td>
<td>CLA Active Mind, Body, &amp; Spirit Zumba Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.</td>
<td>Publications, Vendors, and Exhibits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 A.M. - 11:45 A.M.</td>
<td>Concurrent Session IX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 P.M. - 1:15 P.M.</td>
<td>Concurrent Session X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 P.M. - 2:45 P.M.</td>
<td>Concurrent Session XI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.</td>
<td>Concurrent Session XII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 P.M. - 5:45 P.M.</td>
<td>Virtual Tours of Memphis Sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.</td>
<td>Post-Convention Meeting of the Executive Committee</td>
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COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION 2021 PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021
All Times Central Standard Time (CST)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021 — PRE-CONVENTION EVENTS

CLA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PRE-CONVENTION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, April 7, 2:00 P.M - 3:45 P.M.

This is the pre-convention meeting of the 2020-2022 CLA Executive Committee and the 2021 Convention Host Committee from The University of Memphis.

VIRTUAL PLATFORM TRAINING, INTRODUCTION, AND Q & A
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 4:00 P.M.- 4:45 P.M.

Facilitators: Greg Marcus, Mississippi State University
& Tyechia Thompson, Virginia Tech

This training session is to introduce participants to EventXtra and Zoom, the virtual platforms for the Convention. Come learn how best to navigate these technological tools to make the most of the first-ever virtual CLA Convention.

WELCOME SESSION FOR NEW MEMBERS AND FIRST-TIME ATTENDEES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 5:00 P.M - 5:45 P.M.

Facilitator: Reginald A. Wilburn, University of New Hampshire

Come join the Membership Committee as we welcome new members and first-time attendees. Information will be provided about the CLA mission, history, service opportunities, awards, CLA Journal, and much more.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021 — OPENING PLENARY

1. OPENING PLENARY: WELCOME TO THE CONVENTION AND PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS WITH FOUNDING INSTITUTION HIGHLIGHT AND HOST INSTITUTION WELCOME

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 6:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

Presiding: Jervette R. Ward, CLA Vice President

Host Institution Greetings: Terrence Tucker & Shelby Crosby, U of M Host Committee

Founding Institution Greetings: Vernell Bennett-Fairs, LeMoyne-Owen College President

Introduction of the Speaker: Jervette R. Ward, CLA Vice President

Presidential Address: Reginald A. Bess, CLA President

Awards: Warren J. Carson, CLA Awards Committee Chair

Announcements/Adjournment: Jervette R. Ward, CLA Vice President
THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021
All Times Central Standard Time (CST)

PUBLICATIONS, VENDORS, AND EXHIBITS
THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021 CLAJ SPECIAL SESSION — 9:00 A.M. - 10:15 A.M.

2. **CLAJ'S AFROFUTURE: DIASPORIC VISIONS, COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL**

THURSDAY, APRIL 8 9:00 A.M. - 10:15 A.M.

**Facilitators:** Sandra Shannon, Howard University (retired)
& Vershawn Young, University of Waterloo

Join this roundtable discussion with incoming and outgoing Editors of the *College Language Association Journal*.

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021 LANGSTON HUGHES SOCIETY — 10:30 A.M. -11:45 A.M.

3. **LANGSTON HUGHES SOCIETY 40TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT**

THURSDAY, APRIL 8 10:30 A.M. - 11:45 A.M.

**Featuring Speaker Kwame Dawes**

In honor of the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the Society, this event is free.
4. AFROFUTURISM AND AFRICAN MOTHERHOOD: REIMAGINING A FUTURE THAT INCLUDES BLACK IDENTITY

Chair: Lesley Feracho, University of Georgia

- "Defying Reality, Expanding Futures and the Link to the Ancestral: Afropurism, Black Female Subjectivity and Diasporic Dialogues with Brazil in Alaya Dawn Johnson’s *The Summer Prince* and Tomi Adeyemi’s *Children of Blood and Bone*"
  
  Lesley Feracho, University of Georgia

- "A World Re-envisioned: Speculative Fiction and the Reimagination of Motherhood"
  
  Ogochukwu Ngwudike, University of Kansas

- "And a Child Shall Lead Them: Narratives of Black Identity in *Raising Dion*"
  
  Shayla M. Atkins, Montgomery College

5. EXAMINING TIME, SPACE, AND PLACE IN AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE

Chair: Ramona L. Hyman, Oakwood University

- "‘A Poetics of Wonder’: The Poetry of Keith S. Wilson"
  
  Keith Mitchell, University of Massachusetts Lowell

- "Jesus in Alabama: When Civil Rights in Alabama and the Poetic Imagination Collide"
  
  Ramona L. Hyman, Oakwood University

- "The Afrofuturist City: Detroit IS Afrofuturism"
  
  Shelby Cadwell, Wayne State University

- "Children of Blood and Bone: A Speculative Fiction Journey from the Past Captured to be Free in the Future"
  
  Alicia M. Fontnette, Clark Atlanta University

6. THE EXILED SUBJECT IN POST-COLONIAL LITERATURE: RECLAIMING ONE’S IDENTITY

Chair: Derayeh Derakhshesh, Howard University

- "I Would Rather Be Dead than Become Just an Echo’: A Kristevan Reading of the Postcolonial Subject’s Assertion of Identity in Jamaica Kincaid’s *Lucy*"
  
  Rabia Hakima, East Georgia State College
"Marvelous Realism and Jacques Stéphen Alexis’ Les arbres musiciens"
Guirdex Massé, Augusta University

"Léonora Miano, the shamanécritivain: balancing tints and shades in Rouge impératrice;"
Iona Wynter Parks, Oglethorpe University

"Woman’s Resistance as a Way to Reclaim Her Self"
Derayeh Derakhshesh, Howard University

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021 CONCURRENT SESSION II — 1:30 P.M. - 2:45 P.M.

7. BLACK FUTURES: CRISES, PROPHECY, REVOLUTION, AND NEW WORLD TRANSFORMATIONS
Chair: Elizabeth Brown-Guillory, Texas Southern University

"Modalities of Resistance: Afrofuturism in Marita Bonner’s The Purple Flower"
Elizabeth Brown-Guillory, Texas Southern University

"Afrofuturism in the Novels Kindred by Octavia Butler and Louisiana by Erna Brodber"
Violet Bryan, Xavier University of Louisiana

"Children of Water and Fire: Motherhood and Migration in Yaa Gyasi’s Homegoing"
DeLinda Marzette Stuckey, Prairie View A&M University

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 1:30 P.M. - 2:45 P.M.

8. THE LEGACY OF SLAVERY AND THE BLACK SPECULATIVE
Chair: Kimberly Collins, Morgan State University

"The Possibilities of Speculative Novels of Slavery"
Venetria K. Patton, Purdue University

"What is the Future? Slavery and Black Time in Sorry to Bother You"
Stefanie Dunning, Miami University

"Futures from the Past: (Re)representing Frances Harper, the Children's Poet"
Tabitha Lowery, Middle Tennessee State University

"Sunken Places: Get Out, Speculative Pessimism, and Black Embodiment"
Candice Jenkins, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
9. BACKDROPS NO MORE: ALTERNATIVE VISIONS OF BLACK GIRLHOOD IN AFROFUTURISTIC LITERATURE

Chair: Sondra Bickham Washington, University of Alabama

- "Expanded Existences: Envisioning Black Girl Potential in Afrofuturistic Literature"
  Sondra Bickham Washington, University of Alabama
- "Martha’s Doll and The Future of Black Girl Innocence: A Comic Re-Reading"
  Kiana Murphy, University of Pennsylvania
- "Becoming the Robber Queen: Shapeshifting in Nalo Hopkinson's Midnight Robber"
  Stephanie Rambo, Louisiana State University

10. VOICES OF FREEDOM IN AFRICA AND THE AFRICAN DIASPORA: TECHNOLOGY, TESTIMONY AND TRUTH

Chair: Matthew Pettway, University of South Alabama

- "José Martí y Mi Abuelita Negra: La literatura infantil cubana escrita por mujeres negras"
  Rhonda M. Collier, Tuskegee University
- "Swearing Oaths and Prophesying Ruin: Plácido’s Poetics of Freedom and the Advent of the 1844 Anti-Slavery Movement"
  Matthew Pettway, University of South Alabama
- "Imagining an AfroLatinx Futurity with Daniel José Older’s Shadowshaper"
  Sandra Jacobo, University of Kansas
11. CURRICULAR CONCERNS FROM THE CANON TO THE DIASPORA: EDUCATING AND ENGAGING STUDENTS WITH URGENCY — A SPECIAL SESSION PRESENTED BY THE HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND HISTORICALLY WHITE COLLEGES COMMITTEES

Chair: Preselfannie McDaniels, Jackson State University

❖ "Literary Sankofas: Rememory and Intertextual Exchange from Harriet Jacobs to Toni Morrison"
  Shanna Smith, Jackson State University

❖ "Creating Diaspora Course Choices"
  helen j. crump, Jackson State University

❖ "The New Deal: College Curriculum Modifications for Challenged Students Entering Higher Education"
  Levertis Meeks, Southwest Tennessee Community College

❖ "Educating Student-Athletes of Color on the Urgency of Now: Providing Self-Efficacy and -ism Coping Skills at the Intersections of Academia & Athletics"
  Xavia Harrington, University of Southern Indiana

❖ Respondents:
  Monica Flippin Wynn, John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education
  Preselfannie W. McDaniels, Jackson State University

12. "ALL THAT YOU TOUCH, YOU CHANGE": INTERSECTIONS OF ACTIVISM, TRANSFORMATION, AND WOMANISM IN OCTAVIA BUTLER — A SPECIAL SESSION SPONSORED BY THE OCTAVIA E. BUTLER SOCIETY

Chair: Shelby Crosby, University of Memphis

❖ "No More Trauma: The Omission of Genetic Trauma as an Antidote to Rememory in Octavia Butler’s Xenogenesis"
  Roslyn Nicole Smith, Spelman College

❖ "Practicing the Future Together: Earthseed as a Tool for Black Liberation"
  Shelby Crosby, University of Memphis
13. SOUNDS OF THE AFROFUTURISTIC WORLD: MUSIC AND POETRY
Chair: Ren Denton, East Georgia State College

- "AFRAfuturism’s New Worlds: Krystal Smith's Two Moons and Janelle Monae's ‘Dirty Computer’ (Part 2)"
  doris davenport, independent scholar-writer
- "Cyborgs Reimagining an Inclusive Culture: Janelle Monae’s The ArchAndroid as Ishmael Reed’s Jes Grew’s New Text"
  Ren Denton, East Georgia State College

14. LOVE AND RESISTANCE IN THE U.S. AND BRAZIL: EXPRESSIONS OF BLACK IDENTITY
(Panel Cancelled)
15. STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS
THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 4:30 P.M. - 5:45 P.M.

All CLA members are encouraged to attend a Standing Committee meeting to help advance the work/vision of the organization. All committee meetings, except the Executive Committee and _CLAJ_ Editorial Board meetings, are open meetings. Please select your preferred Standing Committee and attend.

**Archives**, Shanna Benjamin, Chair

**Awards**, Warren J. Carson, Chair

**Black Studies**, Thabit Lewis, Chair

**CLA and Historically Black Colleges**, helen j. crump, Chair

**CLA and Historically White Colleges**, Xavia Harrington-Chate, Chair

**CLAJ Editorial Board**, Sandra Shannon, Editor

**Constitution**, Dana A. Williams, Chair

**Creative Writing**, Rae Paris, Chair

**Curriculum: English**, Aaron Oforlea, Chair

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

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

**Membership**, Reginald A. Wilburn, Chair

**Nominations**, James J. Davis, Chair

**Research**, Sarah S. Ohmer, Chair

**Undergraduate and Graduate Students**, Anthony Boynton, Chair

**Executive Committee**, Reginald A. Bess, President
16. CLA AUTHORS MEET AND GREET
THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Throughout the convention, current CLA members will be displaying and/or selling their books. In addition, we are offering a special Meet and Greet time to interact with authors with recent books. Those who will be participating in the Authors Meet and Greet and/or display include:

Tony Bolden
Kimberly Collins
Rita B. Dandridge
doris davenport
Joanne V. Gabbin
Shirley Hanshaw
Karla F. C. Holloway
Thabiti Lewis
Kameelah L. Martin
Matthew Pettway
THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021 FILM SCREENING
& TWITTER CHAT — 7:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

17. CLA CONVENTION FILM SCREENING & TWITTER CHAT
THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 7:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

SEE YOU YESTERDAY BY STEFON BRISTOL — A FILM SCREENING
SPONSORED BY VIRGINIA TECH, THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS, AND CLA

Film Screening Facilitator: Tyechia Thompson, Virginia Tech
Twitter Chat Facilitator: Anthony Boynton, University of Kansas

Join us for the third-annual CLA Convention Twitter Chat, an easy and fun way to engage with the larger online scholarly community on topics related to this year’s CLA Convention theme. This year’s chat is in conjunction with our virtual film screening. Anthony Boynton, @ADBoyntonII, and Tyechia Thompson, @tvechialynn will post a series of stimulating questions, so join us at @clascholar on Twitter for a rigorous and illuminating chat. Check out the film screening welcome video on the EventXtra platform, login to your Netflix account to watch the film (your own Netflix membership is needed), and then join us on Twitter for a lively discussion.

See You Yesterday (2019) is a science fiction film that follows the lives of best friends, C.J. and Sebastian, as they work to construct the world’s next big invention—backpacks that will enable them to travel across time. When C.J.’s older brother, Calvin, dies in a tragic shooting, this high school duo put their love of science into action, sending them on a series of dangerous and unexpected trips to the past. The film was nominated for two awards at the 35th Independent Spirit Awards. Make sure you have your 901 Box handy because all movies need snacks.
FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2021
All Times Central Standard Time (CST)

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2021 PLENARY II -- BUSINESS MEETING — 9:00 A.M. - 10:45 A.M.

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<th>18. PLENARY II. BUSINESS MEETING</th>
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<td>FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 9:00 A.M. - 10:45 A.M.</td>
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**Presiding**
Reginald A. Bess, CLA President

**Call to Order/Welcome**
Reginald A. Bess, CLA President

**Introduction of 2020-2022 Executive Committee**
Reginald A. Bess, CLA President

**Memorial Moments**
Reginald A. Bess, CLA President

**Approval of 2019 Business Meeting Minutes**
Jason Hendrickson, CLA Secretary

**Executive Committee Reports**

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<td>Sandra G. Shannon, CLAJ Editor</td>
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<th>Treasurer’s Report</th>
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<td>Elizabeth West, Treasurer</td>
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<td>Jervette R. Ward, VP &amp; Program Chair</td>
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**Standing Committee Reports**

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<td>Shanna Benjamin, Chair</td>
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<td>Warren J. Carson, Chair</td>
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<td>Reginald Wilburn, Chair</td>
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<td>Sarah S. Ohmer, Chair</td>
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<th>Undergraduate and Graduate Students</th>
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<td>Anthony Boynton, Chair</td>
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**Old Business**

**Announcements**
19. EXAMINING THE FUTURE OF RACIAL DISCOURSE AND IDEOLOGIES  
Chair: Robin Brooks, University of Pittsburgh

- "Black Futurity and the Post-Racist Society in Ebony Magazine"  
  DeLisa D. Hawkes, University of Texas at El Paso
- "Disturbing Dialogues: Speaking with Impact and Action in Natasha Diaz’s Color Me In"  
  Candice Nicole Hale, Louisiana State University
- "Riding the Rails of Modernity’s Underground Railroad with Mary Shelley, Karl Marx, and Frederick Douglass"  
  Dolan Hubbard, Morgan State University
- "Black Immigrants’ Futuristic Thoughts of Country, Food, Language, and Dance in Kei Miller’s Poems"  
  Denise Jarrett, Morgan State University

20. IN MEMORIAM: LEGACY OF LITERARY SCHOLAR CHERYL WALL  
Chair: Dana Williams, Howard University

- Donavan L. Ramon, Kentucky State University
- Evie Shockley, Rutgers University
- Deborah McDowell, University of Virginia
- Karla F. C. Holloway, Duke University (retired)
- Warren J. Carson, University of South Carolina (retired)
## FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 11:00 A.M. - 12:15 P.M.

### 21. EXPLORING THE MOTHERLAND: EXAMINING AFRICA AS AN AFROFUTURISTIC REGION IN AFRICAN DIASPORIC LITERATURE AND FILM

**Chair:** Kela Francis, University of Trinidad and Tobago

- "Water Wars in Dystopian East Africa: Wanuri Kahu’s *Pumzi*"
  - Jay Lutz, Oglethorpe University
- "Chronopolitics and Carnival: A Case Study of Two Calypsos and a Mas Band"
  - Kela Francis, University of Trinidad and Tobago

## FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 11:00 A.M. - 12:15 P.M.

### 22. INTERROGATING LANGUAGE, MEMORY AND INDIGENOUS EPISTEMOLOGIES IN FRANCOPHONE LITERATURE AND CULTURE

**Chair:** Isaac Joslin, Arizona State University

- "Ceux qui sortent la nuit de Mutt-Lon: éthique et esthétique du paranormal"
  - Gérard Keubeung, McDaniel College
- "Other-worldly exchanges: African Literature and getting to know the Planet"
  - Isaac Joslin, Arizona State University

### FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2021 CONCURRENT SESSION V — 12:30 P.M. - 1:45 P.M.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 12:30 P.M. - 1:45 P.M.

### 23. THE BOOK PROPOSAL: THE INFLUENCE AND REACH OF CLA COLLABORATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS — A ROUNDTABLE SESSION

**Chair:** Jervette R. Ward, Mississippi State University

- Verner Mitchell, University of Memphis
- Cynthia Davis, San Jacinto College
- Jervette R. Ward, Mississippi State University
- Rita B. Dandridge, Virginia State University
- Sharon Lynette Jones, Wright State University
24. THE REALITY OF SPECULATIVE FICTION: UNPACKING THE EXPERIENCES OF BLACKNESS THROUGH THE LENS OF SCIENCE FICTION IN OCTAVIA BUTLER’S TEXTS
Chair: Constance Bailey, University of Arkansas

❖ "Past Voices, Present Figures: Narrative Voice and History in Octavia Butler's *Kindred*"
   Antoinette Hayden, Mississippi State University
❖ "Theorizing the Literary Diaspora: From Sankofic to Afrofuturistic Possibilities"
   Helen J. Crump, Jackson State University

25. THE FUTURE OF PEDAGOGY: AFROFUTURISM AND RESISTANCE AT HBCUS
Chair: Kedra James, Tougaloo College

❖ "Looking for Language in the Brain"
   Milford Jeremiah, Morgan State University
❖ "Afrofuturism, African American Rhetoric, and Digital Writing: A Pedagogical Approach"
   Angela Morris, University of Memphis
❖ Respondent: Kedra James, Tougaloo College

26. LOS ESTUDIOS AFROLATINOAMERICANOS EN EL BICENTENARIO (DE LA INDEPENDENCIA): BALANCES Y PERSPECTIVAS TRANSDISCIPLINARIAS
Chair: Martha Ojeda, Transylvania University

   Martha Ojeda, Transylvania University
❖ "Cadernos Negros / Black Notebooks: 40 Years of Change in Afro-Brazilian Literary Paradigm"
   Maria Salgueiro, UERJ - State University of Rio de Janeiro / Brazil
27. WOMEN SHALL LEAD THEM: FUTURISTIC VISIONS IN AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE
Chair: Laura Vrana, University of South Alabama

- "Nikki Giovanni’s Afropoputurist Visions"
  Laura Vrana, University of South Alabama
  Catherine L. Adams, Claflin University
- "The Universe is not a White Noise"
  Ima Hicks, Virginia Union University

28. THE FUTURE OF CONSUMERISM: AFROFUTURISM AND THE MEDIA
Chair: Tikenya Foster-Singletary, Spelman College

- "Afro and Indigenous Futurisms: From Shared Histories to Emancipatory Futures"
  Jasmine Wade, University of California, Davis
- "Loving Atlanta: Atlanta's Love Fantastic"
  Tikenya Foster-Singletary, Spelman College
- "Blackening Wakanda: Blackness and Afrofuturism in Global Media"
  Hapsatou Wane, Georgia Southern University
  Chris Cartright, Georgia Southern University

29. A MORRISON FUTURE: AFROFUTURISM IN THE WORKS OF TONI MORRISON
Chair: Janaka Lewis, University of North Carolina, Charlotte

- "Wait’ll I Tell Nel: Black Women Writers Resisting Death"
  Donavan Ramon, Kentuckky State University
- "The Afropoputurist Aesthetic of Song of Solomon"
  Ousseynou Traore, William Paterson University
“‘Word-Work’: Toward A Rhetoric of Toni Morrison's Nonfiction”

Jimisha Relerford, Howard University

"Troubling Black Imaginations: Afrofuturistic Ruminations of Pecola in Toni Morrison's The Bluest Eye"

Kendra Mitchell, Florida A&M University

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2:00 P.M. - 3:15 P.M.

30. ROUNDTABLE: TEACHING IN THE COVID ERA: OVERCOMING THE CHALLENGES OF REMOTE LEARNING.

Chair: José Manuel Batista, University of North Carolina, Charlotte

- Margaret L. Morris, South Carolina State University
- Ingrid Watson-Miller, Norfolk State University

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2021 CONCURRENT SESSION VII — 3:30 P.M. - 4:45 P.M.

31. BLACK WOMEN AND LIBERATORY LITERATURE: FOUNDATIONS AND FUTURES

Chair: Jason Hendrickson, CUNY, Laguardia Community College

- "Community, Politics, and Culture in Ntozake Shange’s Sassafrass, Cypress, and Indio"
  Jacqueline Jones, CUNY, Laguardia Community College
- "Soul-Sister Abstractions, Futuristic Bodies & Texts"
  Allia Abdullah-Matta, CUNY, Laguardia Community College
- "Play and Pleasure in the Early Work of Gloria Naylor"
  Jason Hendrickson, CUNY, Laguardia Community College
- "From Ella Baker to Alicia Garza: Doing what must be done, When it Must be Done"
  Dorothy Randall Tsuruta, San Francisco State University

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 3:30 P.M. - 4:45 P.M.

32. REIMAGINING THE PAST TO DEFINE THE FUTURE: SPECULATIVE FICTION & AFROFUTURISM

Chair: Trevon Pegram, Howard University
"If I Ruled The World: Imagining Irruptions of Utopic Visions and Verbal Insurrections in Frederick Douglass and Nas"  
**Trevon Pegram**, Howard University  
"An Unkindness of Exploitation and Oppression: The Communal Resistance against the Sovereignty in Rivers Solomon’s *An Unkindness of Ghosts*"  
**Gul Hos**, The University of Memphis  
“‘The Future Holds What We Decide It Holds’: Examining Afrofuturism in Comic Books”  
**Christiana Ares-Christian**, Southern New Hampshire University

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**FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 3:30 P.M. - 4:45 P.M.**

**33. ROUNDTABLE: LIFE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE ACADEMY: A DISCUSSION WITH PROFESSOR JERRY W. WARD, JR. — A SPECIAL SESSION SPONSORED BY THE ENGLISH CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**  
Chair: **Aaron Oforlea**, University of Washington  
Panelist: **Jerry W. Ward, Jr.**, Independent Scholar

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**FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 3:30 P.M. - 4:45 P.M.**

**34. INNOVATIVE PRESENTS, ALTERNATIVE FUTURES: HAITI IN THE STUDY OF THE AMERICAS**  
Chair: **Vanessa K. Valdés**, City University of New York  
- "Centering Haiti in Latin American Studies"  
  **Vanessa K. Valdés**, City University of New York  
- "Epistemic Disobedience in Alanna Lockward’s *Marassá y la Nada*"  
  **José Manuel Batista**, University of North Carolina, Charlotte  
- "Haitian Studies before ‘The Turn’: Dantès Bellegarde, Mercer Cook, and the Ladies of Atlanta University"  
  **Nathan Dize**, Vanderbilt University

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**FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2021 CONCURRENT SESSION VIII — 5:00 P.M. - 6:15 P.M.**

**35. RICHARD WRIGHT'S *NATIVE SON* FROM PAGE TO FILM**  
Chair and Moderator: **Dana A. Williams**, Howard University  
- "Afro-Futurist Masculinity (?) : Bigger Thomas as a Black Dandy"  
  **Charles I. Nero**, Bates College
- "Wright’s Bessie: Then, Now, and in the Future (Maybe)"
  **Tara T. Green**, University of North Carolina-Greensboro
- "Wright’s The Man Who Lived Underground: A New Version Necessitates a New Vision”
  **Jerry W. Ward, Jr.**, Independent Scholar

**FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 5:00 P.M. - 6:15 P.M.**

**36. AHEAD OF TIME: EXPLORING AFROFUTURISM IN 20TH CENTURY CIVIL RIGHTS LITERATURE**
Chair: **Christopher Allen Varlack**, Arcadia University

- "Here ‘Comes the Colored Hour’: Probing Threads of Afrofuturism in Langston Hughes’ ‘Cultural Exchange’ and ‘Let America Be America Again’"
  **Christopher Allen Varlack**, Arcadia University
- "A Colonial Shimmy in Claude McKay’s ‘The Harlem Dancer’"
  **Adam Pankewycz**, The University of Memphis

**FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 5:00 P.M. - 6:15 P.M.**

**37. BLACKNESS AND SCIENCE FICTION: UNDERSTANDING AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE AND IDENTITIES THROUGH SPECULATIVE FICTIONAL TEXTS**
Chair: **RaShell Smith-Spears**, Jackson State University

- "Drop the Token"
  **Kenneth Broome, Jr.**, Albany State University
- "Science Fictional Blackness and Reclaiming Black Identity in The Ballad of Black Tom by Victor LaValle"
  **Sinclair Portis**, Mississippi State University
- "Voices of the Dead: Tananarive Due’s Joplin’s Ghost, Bertice Berry’s The Haunting of Hip Hop, and Haunting in the Black Literary Tradition"
  **RaShell Smith-Spears**, Jackson State University

**FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 5:00 P.M. - 6:15 P.M.**

**38. THE PROBLEMATIC OF MIGRATIONS IN AFRICAN/AFRICAN DIASPORA LITERATURES AND OTHER CULTURAL PRODUCTIONS**
Chair: **Reginald A. Bess**, IndependentScholar

- "Diasporic Visions in Works by Franz Kafka and Sharon Dodua Otoo"
  **Reginald A. Bess**, IndependentScholar
"Mortgaging African intelligentsia within The Shadows of Your Black Memory (Ndongo) as A Son of Two Countries (Rubagumya)"

Phyllis E. Cooper, Independent Scholar
Rosetta Codling, Clark Atlanta University

"Migration in African-Hispanic Literature: A View From Within"

Alain Lawo-Sukam, Texas A&M University

"The Homosexual Hairdresser on the Run: The Journey Motif in Tendai Huchu’s The Hairdresser of Harare"

Paul Mukundi, Morgan State University
Ytasha L. Womack is a critically acclaimed author, filmmaker, dancer, independent scholar, and champion of humanity. Her book *Afrofuturism: The World of Black Sci Fi & Fantasy Culture* (2013) is the leading primer on the exciting subject that bridges science fiction, futurisms, and culture. The book is a 2014 Locus Awards Non Fiction Finalist.

Womack tours the world championing Afrofuturism and the role of the imagination. Her works in Afrofuturism have been translated into Portuguese and Spanish for markets in Brazil and Latin America. *Afrofuturism* is taught in high schools and universities across the world.

Her film *A Love Letter to the Ancestors From Chicago* (2017) is an Afrofuturist dance film. It was featured in Afropunk Brooklyn, Black(s) to the Future Fest in Paris, Cultura Iberoamericana in Cuba, Afrotopia in England, Reel Time Film Fest in Nigeria, and the Black Harvest Film Fest in Chicago among others. The film was recognized as Best Experimental Film at the Collected Voices Festival.

Join 2020-2022 CLA President Reginald A. Bess for a night of fun and music featuring a Memphis DJ!
SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2021
All Times Central Standard Time (CST)

SATURDAY APRIL 10, 2021 SPECIAL SESSION — 9:00 A.M. - 10:15 A.M.

41. CLA ACTIVE MIND, BODY, & SPIRIT ZUMBA —
A SPECIAL SESSION SPONSORED BY THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 9:00 A.M. - 10:15 A.M.

Facilitator: Constance Bailey, University of Arkansas

Who said that self-care was just spa days and wine? With classics like Earth, Wind, & Fire’s "September" to Lizzo’s "Tempo," Zumba is just the activity to lift the spirit and energize the soul, so come join the Membership Committee and Licensed Zumba Instructor Constance Bailey as we engage in a little self-care with fitness and fun. This session will be 45 to 50 minutes, including a warm up and cool down, which leaves plenty of time to shower and get ready for more panels! Be sure to follow @CLAScholar and @creneebailey on Twitter for the entire playlist so that you can start getting those moves ready. Fitness gear, water, and a great attitude are all you need to bring! Feel free to modify the routines as needed.

PUBLICATIONS, VENDORS, AND EXHIBITS
SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
42. THE AFROFUTURIST LEGACIES OF OCTAVIA E. BUTLER, TONI MORRISON, PAULE MARSHALL, AND CARMEN GILLESPIE

Chair: Opal Moore, Spelman College

- "Opening the Sea's Back Door to the Future: Through the Eyes of Paule Marshall"
  Daryl C. Dance, University of Richmond
- “Horror and Immortality in Tananarive Due’s Ghost Summer, Nalo Hopkinson’s Falling in Love with Hominids, and Rachel Eliza Griffiths’ ‘Woman After Her Last Wound’”
  Rochelle Spencer, Fisk University
- "Carmen Gillespie's Vision: The Griot Institute and Africana Studies in 2050"
  Joanne V. Gabbin, James Madison University

43. #BLACKGIRLMAGIC: EXAMINING HOW OCTAVIA BUTLER CREATES SPACE FOR BLACKNESS AND AFROFUTURISM IN SPECULATIVE FICTION LITERATURE

Chair: Helane Androne, Miami University

- "Examining Gender and Anthropomorphic Mythology in Octavia Butler’s Wild Seed"
  Antiwan Walker, Georgia Gwinnett College
- "‘the portrait was a black Madonna’: Seeing Self Through Butler in the College Classroom"
  Kendra R. Parker, Georgia Southern University
- "Wandering, Settling And Extending: Community And Belonging In N.K. Jemisin’s Broken Earth, Octavia Butler’s Parable Duology, and Nnedi Okorafor’s Binti Series"
  Helane Androne, Miami University
SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 10:30 A.M. - 11:45 A.M.

44. ROUNDTABLE: TO BE BLACK, GIFTED, AND MENTORED
Chair: Reginald A. Wilburn, University of New Hampshire

❖ Therí Pickens, Bates College
❖ Shanna Benjamin, Grinnell College
❖ Reginald A. Bess, Independent Scholar
❖ Reginald A. Wilburn, University of New Hampshire

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 10:30 A.M. - 11:45 A.M.

45. WHERE HISTORY MEETS THE FUTURE: THE DIASPORA IN CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE AND FILM
Chair: Eunita Ochola, Allen University

❖ "Connection between Non-Verbalized Love in Oral African Cultures on Love in the Internet Age: For the Audacity of Unsung Post-Colonial Authors"
   Eunita Ochola, Allen University
❖ "‘I came to school—my parents would not send me!’: The construction of a Rhizomatic Wombspace and Spatiality of Self in Buchi Emecheta’s Second Class Citizen"
   Ijeoma Odoh, Independent Scholar

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2021 CONCURRENT SESSION X — 12:00 P.M. - 1:15 P.M.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 12:00 P.M. - 1:15 P.M.

46. GLOBALIZING BLACKNESS: EXPANDING IDEAS OF BLACKNESS THROUGH MALCOLM X AND AFROLATINX TEXTS
   (Panel Cancelled)
47. EXAMINING THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE FUTURE THROUGH OCTAVIA BUTLER
Chair: Sharon Lynette Jones, Wright State University

- "The Counter text: Oppression, Trauma, and Survival in Octavia Butler's Patternist Series"
  Briana Whiteside, The University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- "Anyanwu the Formidable Healer: Alternative Futures in Octavia Butler's Wild Seed"
  Blessing Diala-Ogamba, Coppin State University
- "Revisiting History in Literature and Cinema: Interracial Relationships in Octavia Butler’s Kindred and Jordan Peele’s Get Out"
  Sharon Lynette Jones, Wright State University

48. ROUNDTABLE: LEGACY OF CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST, MEMPHIS AUTHOR AND LATIN AMERICAN LITERARY SCHOLAR MIRIAM DECOSTA WILLIS
Chair: Rhonda M. Collier, Tuskegee University

- Antonio D. Tillis, University of Houston, Downtown
- James J. Davis, Howard University
- Vanessa K. Valdés, City University of New York

49. ROUNDTABLE: THE LANGSTON HUGHES REVIEW ON BLACK LOVE AND ZORA NEALE HURSTON
Chair: Tony Bolden, University of Kansas

- "Then as Now: Langston Hughes’s Vision and The Langston Hughes Review"
  Tony Bolden, University of Kansas
- "Honoring Hurston’s Legacy: Reflections on ‘Black Love: A Symposium’"
  Ayesha Hardison, University of Kansas
"What God Hath Put Together: Black Queer Love, the Act of Creation, and the Literary Legacy of Zora Neale Hurston"
McKinley E. Melton, Gettysburg College

"Love As Art and Politics in Hurston's Their Eyes"
Tiffany Ruby Patterson-Myers, Vanderbilt University

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 1:30 P.M. - 2:45 P.M.

50. CHILDREN OF BLOOD AND BONE: PAST BURDENS PULLED INTO AFROFUTURISM
Chair: Terrence Tucker, University of Memphis

- "Decolonizing the Mind: Amari's Quest towards Allyship"
  Sylvia Barnes, University of Memphis
- "'The Maji Were Able to Survive': Magic, Representation, and the Self in Children of Blood and Bone"
  Brett Lewis, The University of Memphis
- "Magic Beyond: Diasporic Implications in Children of Blood and Bone"
  Kamri Jordan, University of Memphis
- "A Black Woman by Exposure: Love, Leadership, and Oppression"
  LaTonzia Evans, University of Memphis

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 1:30 P.M. - 2:45 P.M.

51. "YOU MUST NOT KNOW ‘BOUT ME?’: HOW BLACK WOMEN IN MAINSTREAM MEDIA USE AFROFUTURISM TO OWN THEIR NARRATIVES
Chair: Chelsea Osademe, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

- “Young, Gifted, and Black: Re-Envisioning the Prophetic Grace of Aretha Franklin ‘No matter how far a person can go, the horizon is still way beyond you’”
  Melanie R. Hill, Rutgers University
- "Who Said Hip-Hop Ain’t Gothic?: An Exploration of Janelle Monae’s Dirty Computer and Beyoncé’s Lemonade as Gothic Modes of Expression"
  Chelsea Osademe, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2021 CONCURRENT SESSION XII — 3:00 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.

53. BLACK WOMEN WRITERS THEN AND NOW: PAYING HOMAGE TO THE PAST WHILE COMMEMORATING THE PRESENT IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND THE FUTURE
Chair: Anthony Boynton, University of Kansas

❖ "The South Will Haunt Again: Locating the Ghosts of Jesmyn Ward's Sing, Unburied, Sing"
Anthony Boynton, University of Kansas
❖ "Conjure as Environment and Afrofuturist"
Christopher Peace, University of Kansas
❖ "Race Matters: Zora Neale Hurston Claiming Her History and Resisting Oppression in Seraph on the Suwanee"
Juanita Gilliam, Morgan State University
54. IMAGINING THE FUTURE: AFROFUTURISM AND PAULINE HOPKINS
Chair: Rita B. Dandridge, Virginia State University

- "Racial Uplift and Afrofuturism in Pauline Hopkins's *Of One Blood*"
  Rita B. Dandridge, Virginia State University
- “‘Passing’: Realities-Past, Propagandas Present and Complicated Futures in Pauline Hopkins *Of One Blood*”
  Jesutofunmi Omowumi, University of Missouri

55. "HERE ‘COMES THE COLORED HOUR’: ENVISIONING COUNTER-FUTURES AND DIASPORIC VISIONS IN THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE ERA AND BEYOND"
— A SPECIAL SESSION SPONSORED BY THE LANGSTON HUGHES SOCIETY
Chair: Christopher Allen Varlack, Arcadia University

- "What's Revolutionary about a Garden?: Anne Spencer's Vision of Nature"
  Carlyn E. Ferrari, Seattle University
- "‘With a Sob of Joy’: The Future of Black Motherhood in Du Bois' 'The Comet'"
  Rebecca Catherine Pawel, Columbia University
- "‘Each will grow furiously, dangerously’: Nikky Finney's Reenvisioning of Hughes's 'I, Too'"
  Justin Williams, University of Memphis

56. MESA REDONDA: LA OPORTUNIDAD AL PÚBLICO DE CONVERSAR DIRECTAMENTE CON EL AUTOR ALAIN LAWO-SUKAM Y CON LA ESCRITORA GUINEOECUATORIANA ÁNGELA NZAMBI — A SPECIAL SESSION SPONSORED BY THE INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH AND EXCHANGE COMMITTEE (Panel Cancelled)
57. TOUR THE NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM AT THE LORRAINE MOTEL:
https://joyofmuseums.com/most-popular/national-museums-united-states/civil-rights-museum/

TOUR THE HATTILOO THEATER:
https://hattiloo.org/videos/

TOUR THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS:
https://www.memphis.edu/admissions/visitcampus.php

TOUR LEMOYNE-OWEN COLLEGE:
https://www.loc.edu/
58. CLA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POST-CONVENTION MEETING
SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

This is the post-convention meeting of the 2020-2022 CLA Executive Committee. In addition, the 2021 Convention Host Committee and the 2022 Convention Host Committee from Emory University will join the EC Meeting.
PAST CLA SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVICE AWARDS

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

2017 Dallas, TX
❖ Kameelah Martin, *Envisioning Black Feminist Voodoo Aesthetics*

2016 Houston, TX
❖ Reginald A. Wilburn, *Preaching the Gospel of Black Revolt: Appropriating Milton in Early African American Literature*
❖ Trimico Melancon, *Unbought and Unbossed: Transgressive Black Women, Sexuality, and Representation*
❖ Yakini B. Kemp, For Distinguished Service to CLA
❖ Emma Waters Dawson, For Distinguished Service to CLA

2015 Dallas, TX

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*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Charleston, SC</td>
<td>Margaret Wade-Lewis, <em>Lorenzo Dow Turner, Father of Gullah Studies</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Miami, FL</td>
<td>Naomi Long Madgett, <em>Pilgrim Journey</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Memphis, TN</td>
<td>Herman F. Bostick, For Distinguished Service to CLA</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Renée Larrier, <em>Francophone Women Writers of Africa and the Caribbean</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Baltimore, MD</td>
<td>Louis Rivers, For Distinguished Service to CLA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Fayetteville, NC</td>
<td>Mary Kemp Davis, <em>Nat Turner Before the Bar of Judgment: Fictional Treatments of the Southampton Slave Insurrection</em></td>
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<td>Richard L. Jackson, <em>Black Writers and Latin America: Cross-Cultural Affinities</em></td>
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<td>Robert J. Hudson, For Distinguished Service to CLA</td>
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<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Tallahassee, FL</td>
<td>Sandra G. Shannon, <em>The Dramatic Vision of August Wilson</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Earle D. Clowney, For Distinguished Service to CLA</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Robert P. Smith, Jr., For Distinguished Service to CLA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Winston-Salem, NC</td>
<td>Joyce Pettis, <em>Toward Wholeness in Paule Marshall’s Fiction</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cason L. Hill, For Distinguished Service to CLA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ruthe T. Sheffey, For Distinguished Service to CLA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1995  Baton Rouge, LA
❖ Thadious M. Davis, *Nella Larsen, Novelist of the Harlem Renaissance: A Woman’s Life Unveiled*

1994  Durham, NC
❖ Frances Smith Foster, *Minnie’s Sacrifice, Sowing and Reaping, Trial and Triumph: Three Rediscovered Novels by Frances E. W. Harper*
❖ Karla F. C. Holloway, *Moorings & Metaphors: Figures of Culture and Gender in Black Women’s Literature*, CLA Scholarly Discovery Award
❖ Thelma D. Curl, For Distinguished Service to CLA

1993  Daytona Beach, FL
❖ Richard K. Barksdale, *Praisesong of Survival: Lectures and Essays, 1957-89*

1992  Knoxville, TN
❖ Margaret Walker Alexander, For Distinguished Contribution to Literary Scholarship and Creative Activity

1991  Columbia, SC
❖ Ian Isidore Smart, *Nicolás Guillén: Popular Poet of the Caribbean*

1990  Columbus, OH
❖ Bernard W. Bell, *The Afro-American Novel and Its Tradition*
❖ Russell Brooks, For Distinguished Service to CLA

1989  Frankfort, KY
❖ Houston A. Baker, Jr., *Modernism and the Harlem Renaissance*
❖ Maggie Daniels, For Distinguished Service to CLA

1988  Greensboro, NC
❖ Pinkie Gordon Lane, *I Never Scream: New and Selected Poems*
❖ Naomi L. Madgett, *Octavia and Other Poems*

1987  Washington, DC
❖ Trudier Harris, *Black Women in the Fiction of James Baldwin*
❖ Arnold Rampersad, *The Life of Langston Hughes Vol. 1: 1902-1942: I, Too, Sing America*

1986  Norfolk, VA
❖ Joanne V. Gabbin, *Sterling A. Brown: Building the Black Aesthetic Tradition*
❖ Therman B. O’Daniel, *A Twenty-Five Year Author-Title Cumulative Index to the CLA Journal* (1957-1982)

1985  New York, NY
❖ Gloria Wade Gayles, *No Crystal Stair: Visions of Race and Sex in Black Women’s Fiction*
1984  Nashville, TN
   • John F. Matheus, In Recognition of Outstanding Contributions to CLA (Posthumously accepted by Ellen Matheus)

1983  Philadelphia, PA
   • Martha K. Cobb, *Harlem, Haiti, and Havana: A Comparative Critical Study of Langston Hughes, Jacques Roumain, and Nicolás Guillén*
   • Marian Russell, *Melvin Tolson: Harlem Gallery*

1982  Charlotte, NC
   • George E. Kent, For Distinguished Service to CLA

1978  Memphis, TN
   • Hugh M. Gloster, in Honor of His Founding the Organization and For Distinguished Service to CLA

1977  Jackson, MS
   • Therman B. O’Daniel, for 20 years as editor of the *CLA Journal* and for initiation and editorship of a series of critical evaluations of principal Afro-American authors

1976  Savannah, GA
   • Michael W. Peplow and Arthur P. Davis, *The New Negro Renaissance: An Anthology*

1975  New Orleans, LA
   • Arthur P. Davis, *From the Dark Tower: Afro-American Writers 1900-1960*

1974  Baltimore, MD
   • Theodore Hudson, *From LeRoi Jones to Amiri Baraka*

1966  Atlanta, GA
   • Ruthe T. Sheffey, *From Delight to Wisdom: Thematic Progression in the Poetry of Robert Frost*
COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION
PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS

2016  Geneva Hampton Baxter, Distinguished Service

2012  Cason Hill, Distinguished Service, (Past) CLAJ Editor

2009  Marvin Lewis, Columbia, Missouri, Scholar, Educator

2005  Marie Buncombe-Dodd, Brooklyn, NY, Distinguished Service, Educator
       Eleanor Q. Tignor, Long Island City, NY, Distinguished Service, Educator

2003  James J. Davis, Washington, DC, Distinguished Service, Educator

2000  Dolan Hubbard, Baltimore, MD, Scholar, Educator

1998  Virginia Nyabongo, Nashville, TN, Educator

1997  Hugh Morris Gloster, Atlanta, GA, Scholar, Educator, Humanist

1996  Maya Angelou, Winston-Salem, NC, Writer, Poet, Actress

1995  Douglass Turner Ward, Baton Rouge, LA, Playwright, Actor, Director, Writer

THE DARYL CUMBER DANCE AWARD
FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

2018  Jerry W. Ward, Jr.

2016  Maryemma Graham

2014  R. Baxter Miller

2012  Daryl Cumber Dance (First Recipient)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Theme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 7-10, 2021</td>
<td>80th Memphis, TN</td>
<td>&quot;Afrofuturism: Diasporic Visions&quot;</td>
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<td>April 11-13, 2019</td>
<td>79th Raleigh, NC</td>
<td>&quot;1619 &lt; Expanding Narratives &gt; 2019&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 4-7, 2018</td>
<td>78th Chicago, IL</td>
<td>&quot;Native Sons/Daughters and Immigrants in the Black Metropolis&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 5-8, 2017</td>
<td>77th Columbia, MO</td>
<td>&quot;Interdisciplinary Studies and Diversity in Languages and Literatures&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 6-9, 2016</td>
<td>76th Houston, TX</td>
<td>&quot;Dialogues between Africa and the African Diaspora in Languages, Literatures and Films&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 8-11, 2015</td>
<td>75th 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>74th 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>73rd Lexington, KY</td>
<td>&quot;Mason-Dixon &amp; Maginot Lines: Borders, Boundaries, Barriers in Languages &amp; Literatures&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 28 – 31, 2012</td>
<td>72nd Atlanta, GA</td>
<td>&quot;In the Spirit of Sankofa—Moving Forward, Looking Back in Languages and Literatures&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 6-9, 2011</td>
<td>71st 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>70th Brooklyn, NY</td>
<td>&quot;Freedom’s Visions and Urban Landscapes: Spaces and Places in Languages and Literatures&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 25-28, 2009</td>
<td>69th Cambridge, MD</td>
<td>&quot;Liberation as Theme and Strategy in Languages and Literatures&quot;</td>
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</table>
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?"
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Conference Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 9-11, 1992</td>
<td>Knoxville, TN</td>
<td>&quot;Gender and Genre: From Illusion to Reality&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 17-20, 1991</td>
<td>Columbia, SC</td>
<td>&quot;Myth, Magic, and Lore: Language and Literature&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 18-21, 1990</td>
<td>Columbus, OH</td>
<td>&quot;Discovery and Rediscovery: Dramatic Forces in Languages and Literatures&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 26-29, 1989</td>
<td>Frankfort, KY</td>
<td>&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>Greensboro, NC</td>
<td>&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>Washington, DC</td>
<td>&quot;Prophecies and Revelations: Our Heritage and Our Future&quot;</td>
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<td>April 16-19, 1986</td>
<td>Norfolk, VA</td>
<td>&quot;Women as Subjects, Objects, and Authors of Literature&quot;</td>
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<td>April 17-20, 1985</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
<td>&quot;Dramatic Contrasts in Literature, Theatre, and Communication Arts&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 21-23, 1983</td>
<td>Philadelphia, PA</td>
<td>&quot;Black Writers, Black Writing: Post-War to the Present&quot;</td>
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<td>April 22-24, 1982</td>
<td>Charlotte, NC</td>
<td>&quot;Language, Literature, and Literary Criticism: The 1970s and 1980s&quot;</td>
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<td>April 23-25, 1981</td>
<td>New Orleans, LA</td>
<td>&quot;The Plantation-America Culture Sphere: Caribbean and Southern Literatures&quot;</td>
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<td>April 17-19, 1980</td>
<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
<td>&quot;Language, Literature, and the Human Condition&quot;</td>
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<td>April 26-28, 1979</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>&quot;The Black Woman: National and International Perspectives&quot;</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<td>April 21-23, 1977</td>
<td>37th</td>
<td>Jackson, MS</td>
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<td>April 29-May 1, 1976</td>
<td>36th</td>
<td>Savannah, GA</td>
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<td>April 9-12, 1975</td>
<td>35th</td>
<td>New Orleans, LA</td>
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<td>April 18-20, 1974</td>
<td>34th</td>
<td>Baltimore, MD</td>
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<td>April 12-14, 1973</td>
<td>33rd</td>
<td>Columbia, SC</td>
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<td>April 13-15, 1972</td>
<td>32nd</td>
<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
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<td>April 22-24, 1971</td>
<td>31st</td>
<td>Tallahassee, FL</td>
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<td>April 9-11, 1970</td>
<td>30th</td>
<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
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<td>April 24-26, 1969</td>
<td>29th</td>
<td>Virginia Beach, VA</td>
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<td>April 18-20, 1968</td>
<td>28th</td>
<td>Durham/Chapel Hill</td>
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<td>April 20-22, 1967</td>
<td>27th</td>
<td>Petersburg, VA</td>
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<td>April 28-30, 1966</td>
<td>26th</td>
<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 22-24, 1965</td>
<td>25th</td>
<td>Greensboro, NC</td>
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For information on the earlier Conventions, please visit the [history section](#) of the CLA website.
Founded CLA in 1937 at LeMoyne College in Memphis, Tennessee

CURRENT COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT
2020  Reginald A. Bess  Independent Scholar  Columbia, SC

PAST COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS
Year indicates the year elected to office

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Institutional City</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>Hugh M. Gloster</td>
<td>LeMoyne College</td>
<td>Memphis, TN</td>
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<td>1938</td>
<td>William Edward Farrison</td>
<td>North Carolina College</td>
<td>Durham, NC</td>
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<td>1939</td>
<td>Cecil A. Blue</td>
<td>Lincoln University</td>
<td>Jefferson City, MO</td>
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<td>1940</td>
<td>Bertram L. Woodruff</td>
<td>Johnson C. Smith College</td>
<td>Charlotte, NC</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.

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
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<td>1948</td>
<td>Hugh M. Gloster</td>
<td>Hampton Institute</td>
<td>Hampton, VA</td>
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<td>1950</td>
<td>Edward A. Jones</td>
<td>Morehouse College</td>
<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
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<td>1952</td>
<td>John W. Parker</td>
<td>Fayetteville State</td>
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<td>Teachers College</td>
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<td>1954</td>
<td>Crawford B. Lindsay</td>
<td>Tennessee State University</td>
<td>Nashville, TN</td>
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<td>1956</td>
<td>Billie Geter Thomas</td>
<td>Spelman College</td>
<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
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<td>1957</td>
<td>Blyden Jackson</td>
<td>Southern University</td>
<td>Baton Rouge, LA</td>
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<td>1959</td>
<td>Charles A. Ray</td>
<td>North Carolina College</td>
<td>Durham, NC</td>
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<td>1961</td>
<td>Nick Aaron Ford</td>
<td>Morgan State College</td>
<td>Baltimore, MD</td>
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<td>1963</td>
<td>Darwin T. Turner</td>
<td>North Carolina A&amp;T College</td>
<td>Greensboro, NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Institution</td>
<td>Location</td>
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<td>1965</td>
<td>Milton G. Hardiman</td>
<td>Lincoln University</td>
<td>Jefferson City, MO</td>
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<td>1967</td>
<td>Charles Hugo Curl</td>
<td>Norfolk State College</td>
<td>Norfolk, VA</td>
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<td>1968</td>
<td>Richard A. Long</td>
<td>Atlanta University</td>
<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
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<td>1971</td>
<td>Ruth N. Horry</td>
<td>North Carolina Central University</td>
<td>Durham, NC</td>
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<td>1973</td>
<td>Richard K. Barksdale</td>
<td>University of Illinois</td>
<td>Urbana, IL</td>
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<td>1975</td>
<td>Herman Bostick</td>
<td>Texas Southern University</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
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<td>1977</td>
<td>Thelma D. Curl</td>
<td>Norfolk State University</td>
<td>Norfolk, VA</td>
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<td>1979</td>
<td>Wilbert J. Roget</td>
<td>Temple University</td>
<td>Philadelphia, PA</td>
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<tr>
<td>1982</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>Anne Venture Young</td>
<td>Morgan State University</td>
<td>Baltimore, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Marie H. Buncombe</td>
<td>Brooklyn College</td>
<td>Brooklyn, NY</td>
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<td>1988</td>
<td>Marcellus Brooks</td>
<td>Fisk University</td>
<td>Nashville, TN</td>
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<td>1990</td>
<td>Thelma B. Thompson</td>
<td>Norfolk State University</td>
<td>Norfolk, VA</td>
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<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>James J. Davis</td>
<td>Howard University</td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
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<td>1994</td>
<td>Dolan Hubbard</td>
<td>University of Georgia</td>
<td>Athens, Georgia</td>
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<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Thomas N. Hammond</td>
<td>North Carolina Central College</td>
<td>Durham, NC</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>Emma Waters Dawson</td>
<td>Florida A&amp;M University</td>
<td>Tallahassee, FL</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>Dellita Martin-Ogunsola</td>
<td>University of Alabama at Birmingham</td>
<td>Birmingham, AL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Yakini B. Kemp</td>
<td>Florida A&amp;M University</td>
<td>Tallahassee, FL</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Régine Latortue</td>
<td>Brooklyn College/CUNY</td>
<td>Brooklyn, NY</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Booker T. Anthony</td>
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With over four decades in academia and the federal government, as professor and technical writer, respectively, SHIRLEY A. JAMES HANSHAW is Professor Emerita in the English Department at Mississippi State University where she was instrumental in establishing the first African American Studies Program. She is the recipient of a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship, a Danforth Associationhip for Outstanding Teaching in the Sciences and Humanities, and a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship. A global scholar, she has presented papers at professional conferences across Africa, Europe, and Asia. She edited Conversations with Yusef Komunyakaa and has been published widely in both literary and technical journals.

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The program offered for the 80th annual CLA convention is a labor of love and represents our firm commitment to the Association’s founding mission.

The 2020-2022 Program Committee would like to offer their gratitude to the 2018-2020 Program Committee: Yvonne E. McIntosh (deceased), Jervette R. Ward, and Rhonda M. Collier who all played an integral part in the development of the program for this year’s convention. In addition, we greatly appreciate the work of Elizabeth J. West, Anna Hinton, Avery Ferguson, Greg Marcus, and Christopher A. Varlack. Thank you for your service to CLA.
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