



THE CLA BULLETIN

The Official College Language Association
Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2025



HAPPY BLACK HISTORY MONTH!



2025 COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

Open for Registration!
A GREAT PLACE TO GROW AND LEARN!

REGISTER NOW!



For more Information:
www.clascholars.org

Highlights

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FROM OUR DESK

ON BLACK FUTURES AND THE OODA LOOP

By Rondrea Danielle Mathis, Ph.D.

A few months ago, I participated in Active Shooter Training at my institution. While I will admit I was underwhelmed by said training (I mean, what exactly am I supposed to do with my dry erase marker if an active shooter actually comes?), there was one aspect of the training that sticks in my memory: the “OODA loop.”

The OODA loop is a military practice developed by Air Force Colonel John Boyd for disorienting an opponent. The OODA loop is chaotic, anarchic. The OODA loop in action means the opposing side has no idea what is coming next, so anticipation is impossible. Preparation is almost pointless.

Every time I read the news, I feel like I’m in the OODA loop. There is always some other announcement, action, or escalation that leaves me disconcerted and a bit despondent, but then I consider the history of Black Americans. The Door of No Return was an OODA loop. The White Lion was an OODA loop. Chattel slavery was an OODA loop. Lynching was an OODA loop. Jim Crow was an OODA loop. The assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was an OODA loop. Elections can be OODA loops.

Nevertheless, though, we persist to exist.

And this is why we CLA.

Happy **Black Futures Eternally** because a month is too short.

Dr. Rondrea Danielle Mathis is the Secretary/Communications Director for the College Language Association



#CLAGOWEST



THE 83RD ANNUAL
COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

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

**VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON
APRIL 23-26, 2025**

HOST COMMITTEE CHAIR:
DR. THABITI LEWIS

HOSTED BY:
**WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY,
VANCOUVER**

HOST HOTEL:
HILTON VANCOUVER WASHINGTON



#CLAGOESWEST

WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO



CLA Convention 2025

Packing

- The weather should be around 75 during the day and 70 at night
- Bring a light coat, plus a scarf and socks
- Pack an umbrella or a poncho
- Bring sneakers for walking (and the sneaker reception)
- Pack CLA blue and white for the Convention photo

Need a Bite?

- Mighty Bowl (vegan options)
- Little Conejo (tacos)
- Nonovo: (pasta)
- Gray's (hotel restaurant)
- Gray's coffee shop (snacks, breakfast/lunch, coffee)
- Ranch Pizza Vancouver

Getting Around

The Convention hotel is less than 20 minutes from PDX (Portland, Oregon) airport.

Ubers and Lyfts are readily available for pickup in designated areas outside downstairs baggage claim.

*Some walking is required depending on arrival terminal, and parts of the airport may still be under construction.

Catch a Ride

- Uber
- Lyft
- C-Tran (light rail system)

Need a Break?

- Wellness space
- Walking trail
- Open air park
- Waterfront
- Fitness center

Need a Sip?

- Foxhole Cocktail Den
- Gray's (hotel bar)
- Starbucks
- Brewed Cafe and Pub

Things to See

- Esther Short Park
- Columbia River & Grant Street Pier
- Black Panther Legacy Tour
- Farmers Market

BOOK YOUR STAY!

HOTEL INFORMATION



**Hilton Vancouver
Washington
301 W. 6th Street
Vancouver, Washington
98660
360.993.4500**

The Hilton Vancouver Washington is conveniently downtown, easily accessible via I-5, located across the street from Esther Short Park and Public Square.

Also, the Vancouver Waterfront and its pier, shops, and restaurants are a nine-minute walk from the hotel's front door.

The Amtrak Station is a five-minute drive, and Portland International Airport is 15 minutes away. Enjoy the hotel's indoor pool, fitness center, and Grays, the restaurant and bar that supports sustainability.

**The 2025 CLA Convention Hotel Rate is \$184/Night+Tax
(must book by April 1, 2025)**

Click "Hotel Information" above to secure your room.

Adjust the dates to April 23-27 to access the room rate!

UPCOMING EVENTS— ONLY AT THE CLA CONVENTION

INAUGURAL FILM SERIES

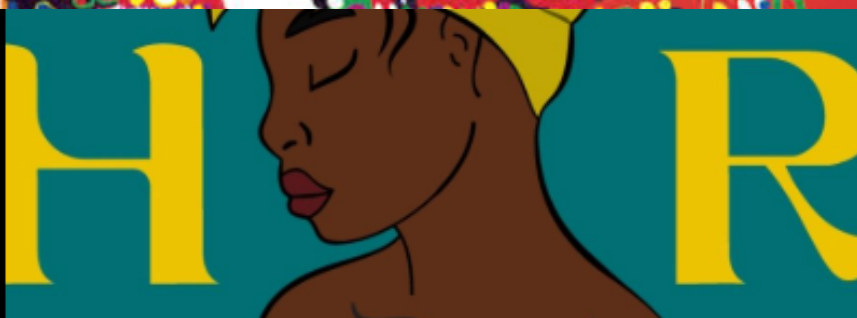


The Magic of LOC
LeMoyne-Owen College at 160

Wed. April 23, 7:30PM
*The Magic of LOC:
Lemoyne-Owen College
at 160*



Thurs. April 24, 8:15 PM
*BAM! Chicago's Black
Arts Movement*



Friday, April 25, 2:30 PM
Healing Roots



Saturday, April 26, 2 PM
The Five Demands

UPCOMING EVENTS— ONLY AT THE CLA CONVENTION



An Evening with the Stars

CLA
Founder's Day Reception

Wednesday, April 23
2025
4:30 PM

\$50

HILTON VANCOUVER WASHINGTON

Register @ clascholars.org

FOUNDER'S DAY RECEPTION

TICKETS: \$50

AUTHOR MEET & GREET



PUBLISHED
RECENTLY?

Share your work at
the Convention

MEET & GREET

RSVP BY EMAIL TO
CONTACT@CLASCHOLARS.ORG

APRIL 24 @ 4:45

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – ONLY AT THE CLA CONVENTION

Professional Development

Spotlight

THURSDAY 10-11:15 AM

The Invisibilization of Black Children: Workshop

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.

THURSDAY 2-3:15 PM

Grants and Funding:

Proposal Writing for National Endowment for the Humanities and Beyond

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.

FRIDAY 8:30 -9:45 AM

CLA 101

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 2:30 -3:45PM

Making Life Work: Negotiating Teaching, Research, Writing, and Service (English Education Committee)

In this interactive session, participants will focus on the following areas: practical writing strategies, navigating academic publishing, and Balancing self-care and professional demands

FRIDAY 2:30 -3:45PM

Resume, CV, and Cover Letter Workshop

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

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

The Black Studies Department at the City College of New York, helmed by CLA President, Dr. Jervette R. Ward, welcomes Roxane Gay and Edwidge Danticat to the campus for the 2025 Langston Hughes Festival.

Gay will receive The Langston Hughes Festival Medal and also engage a wide-ranging conversation with past CLA Banquet Keynote Speaker Edwidge Danticat.

THE 46TH ANNUAL LANGSTON HUGHES FESTIVAL

HONORING 2025 MEDAL WINNER
DR. ROXANE GAY
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13
STUDENT SYMPOSIUM | 12:30 PM
AARON DAVIS HALL

EVENING CEREMONY | 6:00 PM
AARON DAVIS HALL

FEATURING A READING BY DR. GAY
AND A CONVERSATION WITH
2011 LHF MEDAL WINNER EDWIDGE DANTICAT
(FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14
Celebrating Black Love & Valentine's Day!
LANGSTON HUGHES FESTIVAL
FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST | 11:00 AM
SHEPARD HALL 250

A FUNDRAISER FOR THE NEWLY REESTABLISHED
BLACK STUDIES DEPARTMENT AND
CELEBRATION OF HAITIAN FOOD AND MUSIC!
TICKETS: \$250

SPECIAL ON-SITE RECORDING OF
"PERSON PLACE THING WITH
RANDY COHEN" | 1:30 PM

The City College of New York
BLACK STUDIES DEPARTMENT
SHEPARD HALL 279
160 CONVENT AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10031
WWW.CCNY.CUNY.EDU/LHF
BLACKSTUDIES@CCNY.CUNY.EDU

THE RIFKIND CENTER
CUNY

BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

PRE-ORDER TODAY!

AVAILABLE
SEPTEMBER 2025

UPM

The University Press of Mississippi is releasing CLA Treasurer, Dr. Constance Bailey's, new book on Kiese Laymon this September.

The book offers an intimate, deeply profound exploration of Laymon's life as a Southern writer and how the South has uniquely cultivated him as an American literary icon.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Do you have announcements to share with your CLA family?
 A forthcoming book project?
 A call for papers or chapters?
 A promotion?
 A job announcement?
 Retirement?



**WE WANT TO KNOW! CLICK THE “MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS”
 HYPERLINK ABOVE TO TELL US WHAT YOU’RE DOING.**

RENEW YOUR CLA MEMBERSHIP

Membership is annual. For regular, retiree, student, and institutional members, dues cover 365 days from the purchase date of a new membership. Renewal reminders will be sent automatically as your expiration date approaches; keep in mind you can always access that information on the member landing page when you sign into your CLA account.

- \$100 (Regular)
- \$55 (Student)
- \$75 (Retiree)
- \$1000 (Life) (Can be paid in four equal payments of \$250)

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on Facebook at College Language Association and Instagram @ clascholars for updates and more Convention and organization announcements!



WHO WE ARE

The College Language Association

The College Language Association promotes and cultivates the study of languages and literatures to improve higher education experiences for students and teachers at colleges and universities across the world. In 1937, Dr. Hugh Morris Gloster, along with nine other scholars from Historically Black Colleges and Universities, founded the College Language Association (CLA) at LeMoyne-Owen College in Memphis, Tennessee. *The College Language Association Journal (CLAJ)* was established in 1957.

The College Language Association Bulletin

The News-Bulletin of the Association of Teachers of English in Negro Colleges released Volume I, No. 1 in March 1941 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The newsletter has also been called Bulletin and the CLA Bulletin, and it is the official publication of the College Language Association. Copies of The CLA Bulletin can be found in our Archives at The Atlanta University Center | Robert W. Woodruff Library.

