

THE COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION



March 7, 2023

Dear College Language Association Members,

In 2021, it was an honor to serve as the Chair of the Program Committee for the Virtually Reimagined Convention, and I am thrilled to welcome you to our first in-person Convention since 2019! As a native of our founding city, Memphis, which virtually hosted us in 2021, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our 81st Annual Convention in Atlanta, which was the home of our second annual CLA Convention.

If you have not registered for this year's Convention, you want to do so NOW! This year's event will feature Pulitzer Prize winner Jericho Brown as our Banquet Keynote Speaker; the President's Reception will *get turnt* with grooves from DJ Lenny; undergraduate and graduate student members will have the opportunity to gather in their own social; members will be able to get their sweat on with Zumba with Dr. Constance Bailey; a dynamic film screening of *The Bell Affair* (2022) will feature the Director Dr. Kwakiutl L. Dreher; fifty pre-Convention attendees will get to visit the Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library; everyone will be able to participate in the first in-person CLA Business Meeting since 2019, plus so much more! **Use the [2023 CLA Convention Registration Form](#) to register by the March 15th deadline, and don't forget to [book your hotel room at the Convention Hotel](#), the [Westin Atlanta Perimeter North](#), 7 Concourse Parkway NE, Atlanta, GA 30328. The CLA Convention Rate is \$125/night, if booked by March 15th.** You also can make your hotel reservation by phone, 1-888-627-8407.

In addition to registering, here are some other important announcements:

- **The full CLA Convention Program will be released in a few days on our website and on our new Convention App, Whova!** Registered participants will receive an email invitation to the app, so please take a moment to familiarize yourself with this platform and set up your profile.
- In partnership with our Host Institution, **Emory University, CLA is going green for this Convention.** There will be a small number of Souvenir Programs available when participants pick up their Convention bags at Registration.
- **In partnership with the Standing Committee on the Constitution, the Executive Committee has diligently worked on updating the Constitution and Bylaws, which will be put to a vote during our business meeting.** These documents serve as the foundation of our operations as an organization. This project has proceeded for many years and is the work of several different Executive Committees. I am deeply grateful to all of the leaders who have taken time to help make our organization stronger by giving their efforts to this project. **As an organization, we regularly review these documents to make sure that they are in line with our practices and policies. This update reflects our values and commitment to being an inclusive space of teaching Black literature and cultures as necessary aspects of higher education. The draft Constitution and Bylaws can be reviewed by logging into your CLA membership portal, and you can provide comments for the next 30 days via this [Google Form](#).**

Finally, follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and the [CLA website](#) for updates, and we are excited to see you at the 81st Annual CLA Convention in Atlanta! **Thank you for your continued support of CLA and its mission.**

In Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jervette R. Ward".

Jervette R. Ward, Ph.D.

President

The College Language Association

www.clascholars.org

Founded in 1937