



## 82ND ANNUAL COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION CONVENTION



### In Search of Justice: Language, Literature, & The Activist Spirit

Keynote Speaker  
Zandria F. Robinson, PhD



#### FEATURED CONVENTION EVENTS

Wed  
April 10

Lunch Tour of Our  
Founding Institution:  
LeMoyne-Owen  
College

Thur  
April 11

Screening of the  
Documentary, *Black  
Scholars in America:  
The Story of The  
College Language  
Association*

APRIL 10-13, 2024

MEMPHIS

TENNESSEE

#### CONVENTION HOTEL

HILTON MEMPHIS  
939 RIDGE LAKE BOULEVARD  
MEMPHIS, TN 38120

CONVENTION RATE: \$156/NIGHT BY MARCH 15TH

#CLA2024  
#CLA2024MEMPHIS

VISIT [WWW.CLASCHOLARS.ORG](http://WWW.CLASCHOLARS.ORG) TO  
BOOK YOUR HOTEL & REGISTER FOR  
THE CONVENTION BY MARCH 15TH

# THE COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION



February 18, 2024

Dear College Language Association Members,

I am beyond thrilled to welcome you to not only the **founding city** of The College Language Association, but also **my** hometown, **Memphis, Tennessee!**

Our 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention is a special homecoming because Memphis was scheduled to be the site of our 2020 Convention that was canceled due to COVID. We are now returning to the exact hotel where we had planned to gather approximately four years ago, so we hope that you will join us in the newly updated Hilton Memphis, 939 Ridge Lake Boulevard, Memphis, Tennessee, 38120. **The CLA Convention Rate at the Hilton Memphis is \$156/night + tax, if booked by March 15<sup>th</sup>.** You can make your [hotel reservations online](#) or by phone, 901.684.6664, and provide our Group Code JFR922. In addition, this year our Membership Engagement Director is pleased to offer a [flight discount via Delta Airlines](#), visit the Convention section of our website for more details, and you also may call Delta Meeting Network® at 1.800.328.1111\* and refer to Meeting Event Code NM39B.

This year's Convention has many exciting new features that are joining some of our longtime favorites. We were excited to offer a discounted EARLY BIRD Registration this year, and were pleased to see so many of you take advantage of this feature! **The final deadline to register for the 2024 Convention is March 15<sup>th</sup>, so please register NOW!** Our Pre-Convention event will begin on Wednesday, April 10, with a Tour of our Founding Institution, [LeMoyne-Owen College](#), followed by a lunch on campus (\$25 additional fee and pre-registration required). This year's Convention will feature Memphis native [Dr. Zandria F. Robinson](#) as our Banquet Keynote Speaker; the President's Reception will be a HOMECOMING Party on Friday night; undergraduate and graduate student members will have the opportunity to gather in their own social; we will host the first-ever screening of the CLA Documentary, *College Language Association: Black Scholars in America Part 1 – The Movement*; all of this and so much more awaits you at the 2024 CLA Convention! **Visit our [website](#) to register for the Convention and to book your hotel room – please do both by the March 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.**

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

- **This Convention is a CLA Election Year**, so you should have received an email with the [nomination form](#) to nominate yourself or others for open positions on the CLA Executive Committee – please consider how you can serve or who you can nominate to help positively shape and impact the future of our beloved organization.
- The full CLA Convention Program will be released on our website and on our [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 to set up your profile.

Finally, follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and the [CLA website](#) for updates, and we are excited to see you at the 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual CLA Convention in Memphis! Thank you for your continued support of CLA and its mission.

In Service,

Jervette R. Ward, Ph.D.

**President**

**The College Language Association**

[www.clascholars.org](http://www.clascholars.org)

*Founded in 1937*

# THE COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION



**February 20, 2024**

Dear Esteemed CLA Colleague,

The countdown is on to our 82<sup>nd</sup> CLA Convention, “In Search of Justice: Language, Literature, & The Activist Spirit,” April 10-13, 2024 in Memphis, Tennessee! We are excited to bring our members home to our Founding City at our host venue, the Hilton Memphis. Highlighting our Founding location, member presentations, and other special events, we will welcome our Banquet’s Keynote Speaker, native Memphian, writer and cultural critic Dr. Zandria F. Robinson.

We are especially excited to release the draft of the [2024 Convention Program](#) below! The CLA Program Committee and Membership Engagement team have been working diligently to curate an experience that all will enjoy. You responded to this year’s theme with thoughtful scholarship, dialogues in pedagogy and digital humanities, diasporic engagement and creative work, along with plans for fellowship the CLA way and many exciting events.

Arrive on Wednesday, April 10 to participate in our Pre-Convention Founding Tour of LeMoyne-Owen College with luncheon. \*Even if you have already registered, you may add the tour a la carte at <https://www.clascholars.org/tourform>. Also note the World Languages Presents lecture by Dr. Dorothy Mosby and the screening of our CLA member-produced documentary, followed by a panel featuring our current President Dr. Jervette Ward and past president Dr. Dana Williams, along with distinguished members. As always, our Keynote Banquet and Homecoming-themed Presidential Afterparty will keep you engaged and entertained until the end!

Remember that all [members](#) of CLA must be registered for the convention via the [2024 Convention Registration form](#) no later than **March 15, 2024 in order to participate in Convention events. There will be NO onsite convention registration.** The CLA Convention Rate at Hilton Memphis, 939 Ridge Lake Boulevard, Memphis, TN, is \$156/night + tax. Book via the CLA website or call 901-684-6664 (code JFR922). Also, see our Convention Page for a flight discount code on Delta Airlines.

Please visit the [CLA website](#) and follow our social media for the latest Convention updates. In the spirit of CLA Family, contributions toward our [Underfunded Students and Faculty Fund](#) are still welcomed to support travel and participation.

We look forward to seeing you in Memphis!

Sincerely,

Janaka B. Lewis, Ph.D.

*Janaka Lewis*

**Vice President & Convention Chair**  
College Language Association  
[vicepresident@clascholars.org](mailto:vicepresident@clascholars.org)  
[clascholars.org](http://clascholars.org)



# Convention Program At-a-Glance

## Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Program Committee Arrival

## Wednesday, April 10, 2024

11:00 a.m. - Executive Committee Arrival

12:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. LeMoyne-Owen College Pre-Convention Tour & Luncheon (\$25 additional fee)

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Early Arrival Badge Pick-up

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Pre-Convention Meeting of the Executive Committee

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Executive Committee & Past Presidents Dinner

7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. The Writers and Their Critics: Get to Know the *College Language Association Journal (CLAJ)*

## Thursday, April 11, 2024

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Badge Pick-up

8:00 a.m. - 8:50 a.m. Welcome Back Coffee for All Members Honoring New Members & First Time Attendees

9:00 a.m. - 9:50 a.m. Opening Plenary Featuring Membership Engagement and Archives Presentation

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Publications, Vendors, Exhibits

10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Concurrent Sessions I

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. World Languages Presents Lecture by Dr. Dorothy Mosby

12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. Lunch on Your Own

2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions II

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. CLA Annual Standing Committee Meetings

4:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. CLA Authors Meet & Greet

5:45 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Presidential Address

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. CLA Founding City Reception

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Film & Discussion, *Black Scholars in America: The Story of the College Language Association*

9:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. CLA Undergraduate and Graduate Student Social

## Friday, April 12, 2024

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Badge Pick-up

8:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions III

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Publications, Vendors, Exhibits

10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Concurrent Sessions IV

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

1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. Lunch on Your Own

2:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. Concurrent Sessions V

4:00 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions VI

5:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. Career Headshot Photo Session

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Pre-Banquet Cash Bar and Book Signing with Banquet Keynote Speaker Dr. Zandria F. Robinson

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. CLA Banquet Featuring Dr. Zandria F. Robinson, Keynote Speaker

9:30 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. President's Homecoming Reception

## Saturday, April 13, 2024

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Badge Pick-up

9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Concurrent Sessions VII

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Publications, Vendors, Exhibits

10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions VIII

12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions IX

1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. History of Black Writing and Hathi Trust Research Center Digital Humanities Workshop (Lunch Provided; Pre-registration Required)

4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Post-Convention Meeting with Current & Incoming Executive Committee and Host Committee

7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Post-Convention Executive Committee Dinner

## Convention Conclusion





# **Wednesday, April 10th**

## **Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 12pm - 3:30pm**

CLA Founding Institution: LeMoyne-Owen College Pre-Convention Tour & Luncheon  
(Pre-registration required, with \$25 additional fee)

## **Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 3pm - 5pm**

Early Arrival Badge Pick-up; Hilton Memphis

## **Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 4pm - 5pm**

Pre-Convention Meeting of the Executive Committee

## **Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 5:30pm-7pm**

Executive Committee & Past Presidents Dinner

## **Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 7:30pm-8:30pm**

The Writers and Their Critics: Get to Know the *College Language Association Journal* (CLAJ)  
**Chair: Shauna Morgan**, Editor of *College Language Association Journal*

# ***Thursday, April 11th***

## **Thursday, April 11, 8am - 5pm: Convention Badge Pick-Up**

## **Thursday, April 11, 8am-8:50am**

Welcome Back Coffee for All Members Honoring New Members & First Time Attendees

## **Thursday, April 11, 9am-9:50am**

Opening Plenary Featuring Membership Engagement and Archives Presentation

## **Thursday, April 11, 10am-5pm: Publications, Vendors, Exhibits**

## **Thursday, April 11, 10am-11:15am - Concurrent Sessions I**

### **1.1 *Activism and Geopolitical Contexts, Movements across Place***

**Chair: Edudzi David Sallah**, Texas A&M University

- “Blues People for the Black Lives Matter Era: Amiri Baraka, Beyoncé, and Black Power,” **Corrie Claiborne**, Morehouse College
- “Black Transnational Ethos: The “Freedom Church” and Indigeneity in West Africa,” **Edudzi David Sallah**, Texas A&M University
- “Online Diaries and Insta Poetry: The Role of Digital Storytelling in Nigeria’s 21st-century Literary Activism,” **Oluwafunmilayo Akinpelu**, University of Alabama

### **1.2 *Literature, Aesthetics, and Activism***

**Chair: Chelsea Osademe**, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

- “Literary History is Not Exempt from History: Examining Shifts in Scholarly Discourse and Approaches to the Black Arts,” **Barbra Chin**, Howard University
- “The Right to Self-determination: Migration and Gothic Aesthetics in *Lovecraft Country* and *Song of Solomon*,” **Chelsea Osademe**, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities
- “Enacting Mental Health Activism Through Jacqueline Woodson’s *Another Brooklyn* and Tayari Jones’ *Leaving Atlanta*,” **Tosha Sampson-Choma**, Kansas State University



### 1.3 *Rhetoric, Intersectionality, and Activism*

**Chair: Christopher Peace**, Georgia Institute of Technology

- “Womanist Rhetoric in Black Mysticism,” **Christopher Peace**, Georgia Institute of Technology
- “The Friendship of Feminism: Examining the Relationship Between Dorothy Pitman Hughes and Gloria Steinem,” **Akila Wilson**, St. Augustine’s University
- “Imagining Black Spaces: The Role of Anarchy in Producing Black Spaces in Wild Seed by Octavia & Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston,” **Cameron Carter**, Georgia State University

### 1.4 *Reclaiming the “Familiar”*

**Chair: Crystal Harris**, University of Central Arkansas\*

- “Activism & Womanish Fear in Bambara’s ‘A Girl’s Story,’” **Crystal Harris**, University of Central Arkansas
- “Disturbing the Listening Air: Black Noise and the Activist Poetics of Frances E.W. Harper’s ‘The Slave Mother,’” **JP Sloan**, Rutgers University
- “The Activist Spirit of Phillis Wheatley Peters in Turn-of-the-Century African American Literature,” **Barbara McCaskill**, University of Georgia

### 1.5 *Artistic, Literary, and Spiritual Movements*

**Chair:**

- “Disrobed Flesh and the Fact of Gendered Blackness in Andrea Lee’s Sarah Phillips and Rhinelander v. Rhinelander,” **Simone Drake**, Ohio State University
- “Voices of Resilience: Black Female Memoirs and the Activist Spirit,” **Sonia Mae Brown**, Philander Smith University
- “State of Abjection Pentecostalism and the Erotics of Political Belonging,” **Marlon Millner**, Northern Illinois University

**Thursday, April 11, 11:30am-12:30pm**

World Languages Presents Lecture by Dr. Dorothy Mosby

**Thursday, April 11, 12:30-1:45pm**

Lunch on Your Own

## **Thursday, April 11, 2pm-3:15pm - Concurrent Sessions II**

### **2.1 *Gender, Resilience, and Liberation***

**Chair: Rondrea Mathis**, Bethune-Cookman University

- A Glance at Conflict and Cooperation in Black Women's Fiction, **Jade Harrison**, University of Kansas
- "America's Got a Problem: On the Making of *Mamas, Martyrs, and Jezebels: Myths, Legends, and Other Lies You've Been Told About Black Women*," **Rondrea Mathis**, Bethune-Cookman University and **Clarissa West-White**, Bethune-Cookman University

### **2.2 *Audience, Publics, and Hierarchical Power***

**Chair: Kenny Wesley**, Universidad de Alcalá

- "Blacks at the Borders: The Struggle for Migratory and Linguistic Justice," **Kenny Wesley**, Universidad de Alcalá
- "Phillis Wheatley and Amanda Gorman: Wheatley as the Poetic Origins of the Decree 'Black Lives Matter,' Gorman Reiterates that Race Still Matters in These United States," **Philip Lythcott**, Georgia State University
- "A Retrospective: Lifelong Activist Spirit in the Academy battling Racism and Betrayal, unbent and unbroken," **Dorothy Randall Tsuruta**, San Francisco State University

### **2.3 *Literary Activism and Critical Interventions in Black Feminist Studies***

**Chair: Antiwan Walker**, Georgia Gwinnett College

- Alice Walker's Job: Using Celie as Black Feminist Religious Activism, **Antiwan Walker**, Georgia Gwinnett College
- SAY HER NAME, **Christel Woods**, Washington State University
- "Sexual Subjectivity and Healing in Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl and Corregidora," **Qetarah Richardson**, Georgia State University
- "Navigating the Complexities of Intersectionality: African American Women in Memphis: A Novel," **Daniyel Johnson**, University of Memphis

### **2.4 *Masculinity, Care, and Healing***

**Chair: Donavan L. Ramon**, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville

- "He Mad Mad: An exploration of the Intersections of oppressive economics, toxic masculinity, and mental illness in Cyrus Colter's The Hippodrome," **Nicole Lavalais**, Chicago State University
- "Reading Wellness, A Panel on Students and Care," **Jeremiah Morris**, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- "Is Bigger Still here?" Analysis of Manhood and Emasculation in Richard Wright's Native Son and Alice Walker's The Third Life of Grange Copeland," **Reginald Watson**, East Carolina University

### **2.5 *Journal Publishing Tips for the Early Career Scholar***

**Chair: Julius Fleming**, University of Maryland

- **Katy Chiles**, University of Tennessee-Knoxville
- **Cassander Smith**, University of Alabama

## **2.6    *From Axé to Action: Afro-Brazilian Writings and the Transformative Power of Words***

**Chair: Dawn Duke**, University of Tennessee-Knoxville

- “Literature, Feminism, and Militancy: Concepts of Analysis Within Afro-Brazilian Women’s Writings,” **Dawn Duke**, University of Tennessee-Knoxville
- “Cadernos Negros (Black Notebooks): 45 years of uninterrupted publication in Brazilian Literature,” **Maria Aparecida Salgueiro**, UERJ - State University of Rio de Janeiro)
- “Ebony seedes: the meanings of writing children’s literature with black protagonists,” **Alexandra Lima da Silva**, UERJ- State University of Rio de Janeiro)

### **Thursday, April 11, 3:30-4:30pm**

CLA Annual Standing Committee Meetings

### **Thursday, April 11, 4:45pm-5:30pm**

CLA Authors Meet & Greet

### **Thursday, April 11, 5:45pm-6:30pm - Presidential Address**

**Dr. Jervette R. Ward**, College Language Association President

### **Thursday, April 11, 6:30pm-7:30pm - CLA Founding City Reception**

### **Thursday, April 11, 7:30pm-9:30pm**

*Black Scholars in America: The Story of the College Language Association*  
Film Screening & Discussion with invited panelists

### **Thursday, April 11, 9:30pm-11pm**

CLA Undergraduate and Graduate Student Social



# *Friday, April 12th*

## Friday, April 12, 8am-5pm: Convention Badge Pick-Up

## Friday, April 12, 8:30am-9:45am - Concurrent Sessions III

### **3.1 *Narratives of Race and Gender***

**Chair: Obri Richardson**, University of Memphis

- “Toward the Destruction of the Hog: Ernest Gaines’ A Lesson Before Dying as a Source for Reimagining Black Malehood,” **Obri Richardson**, University of Memphis
- “Masculinity in Morrison’s Tar Baby,” **Matt Farmer**, University of Memphis
- “Towards a Coming-of-South: Revising the Bildungsroman in Kiese Laymon’s *Heavy: An American Memoir*,” **Matthew Mills**, Georgia State University
- “‘Superwomen’: Resistance, Resiliency, and Survival Against Patriarchy and the Christian Master Narrative Bias in James Baldwin’s Go Tell It on the Mountain,” **Derwin Campbell**, North Carolina State University

### **3.2 *Black Intellectualism Across Time & Space***

**Chair: Camille Banks**, Richard J. Daley College/City Colleges of Chicago

- “Maroons of the Pen: The Independent Scholar as the Crusader of the African Diaspora” **Camille Banks**, Richard J. Daley College/City Colleges of Chicago
- “Carnival as Trope: Ritual Possession as Narrative Structure,” **Kela Francis**, The University of Trinidad and Tobago
- “Feminist Crossings: Discursive and Poetic Practices and Interventions in Diasporic Women Writing,” **Simone A. James Alexander**, Seton Hall University

### **3.3 *Le monde Afrique: Changing the Language of Racial Justice***

**Chair: Edwin Philip Julien**, Morgan State University

- “Jan Mapou and Felix Morisseau-Leroy: The Defenders of the Haitian-Creole Faith,” **Edwin Philip Julien**, Morgan State University
- “Specter-Presences and ‘counterhumanism’ in Makenzy Orcel’s *L’Ombre animale* and in ROAs Street Art,” **Iona Wynter Parks**, Oglethorpe University

### **3.4 *Confronting the Digital Divide: Narratives from the Black Book Interactive Project***

**Chair: Maryemma Graham**, University of Kansas

- "Black Ludology: Theorizing Play in Black Literature," **Austin Anderson**, Howard University
- "Literary Recovery, Recognition, and Mapping of the Lynching of Black Women in America," **Griselda Thomas**, Kennesaw State University
- "Developing Web-Content as Part of my DH Initiative on Black Women/Girls in Speculative Fiction," **Karima Jeffrey-Legette**, Hampton University
- "Lossless Digital Recordings: Intricate Patterns in Black Women's Playwrighting," **Jalylah Burrell**, Loyola Marymount University

### **3.5 *Cultivating Change: Faculty Perspectives on Social Justice, Activism, and Pedagogy***

**Chair: Sonia Mae Brown**, Philander Smith University

- "Words That Change the World: Teaching Rhetorical Fluency for Activism," **Subrinia Bogan**, Philander Smith University
- "Transforming the Digital Classroom: Online Instruction and Social Justice," **Elise Song**, Philander Smith University
- "Faith, Activism, and Academic Exploration: A Spiritual Perspective," **Jaiem'z Williams**, Philander Smith University
- "The Oral Revolution: Language and Literature as Catalysts for Social Change," **Jesse Hargrove**, Philander Smith University

## **Friday, April 12, 10am-5pm: Publications, Vendors, Exhibits**

## **Friday, April 12, 10am- 11:15am - Concurrent Sessions IV**

### **4.1 *Literature and Memory***

**Chair: Sharon Jones**, Ball State University

- "Feminist Strategies and Epistemologies: Activist Communities in Angela Davis: An Autobiography, Women, Race and Class, and Abolition. Feminism. Now," **Sharon Jones**, Ball State University
- "The Changing Same: Wright and Achebe's Activist Staging of Disastrous White Civilizing Mission in "Long Black Song" and Things Fall Apart," **Christopher Okonkwo**, Florida State University
- "Monsters of Memory and the Atomic Bomb Blues: Parallel Readings of Traumatic History in Kaiju Cinema and Black Speculative Fiction," **Alexander Brickler**, Florida A&M University
- "Unveiling Justice: Exploring Virginie Despentes' Literary Activism in Language, Literature, and Society," **Liana Babayan**, Augusta University

#### **4.2 Genre and Activist Strategy**

**Chair: Simone A. James Alexander**, Seton Hall University

- “The Poetics of Bob Marley’s Resistance Narratives,” **Denise M. Jarrett**, Morgan State University
- “Black Prophetic Rhetoric as Protest: Examining Proclamation Through the Black Literary Tradition,” **Obri Richardson**, University of Memphis
- “Troubling the Water: Occasional Poetry as a Rhetorical Activist Strategy,” **Marcus Jamison**, Howard University

#### **4.3 Honoring the Activist Spirit through Pedagogical Practice**

**Chair: Valerie Frazier**, College of Charleston

- “Thick Thinking and Risks In the Composition Classroom,” **Jennifer C. Morrison**, Xavier University of Louisiana
- “Culturally Responsive Reading: Exploring the LIST Paradigm,” **Durthy Washington**, U.S. Air Force Academy (Retired)
- “Pick[ing] up a camera” and capturing truths about social justice,” **Valerie Frazier**, College of Charleston

#### **4.4 Creative Legacies of Activism in Language and Literature**

**Chair: Rachel Ansong**, University of Rhode Island

- “A Sistas’ In’rospection: (Re)reading ‘On being brought from AFRICA to AMERICA’ through Audre Lorde’s “Poetry is not a Luxury,”” **Rachel Ansong**, University of Rhode Island
- “Journey to Albion: Amiri Baraka, 1966,” **Aldon Nielsen**, Penn State University
- “True to This, Not New to This: Activism in African American Literary Works,” **Tamalyn L. Peterson**, Stillman College

#### **4.5 Celebrating Paule Marshall: Friendship, Family, Work, and Activism (Wintergreen Women Writers)**

**Chair: Opal Moore**, Spelman College

- “Literary Friendships, Literary Legends,” **Daryl Cumber Dance**, University of Richmond and Virginia Commonwealth University, Emerita
- “Out of Her Head and into Real World Challenges,” **Trudier Harris**, University of Alabama
- “Finding Our Roots: A Trip to Carriacou,” **Joanne Veal Gabbin**, James Madison University
- “Daughters: A Riddle Tale of Heresy and Hope,” **Opal Moore**, Spelman College
- “Growing up with My Literary Auntie, Paule Marshall,” **Daryl Lynn Dance**, Hampton University

#### **4.6 “Supporting Student Recruitment, Retention, and Career Readiness as Activism: Examples from MLA Pathways” (Undergraduate and Graduate Student Committee)**

**Chair: Ayanni C. H. Cooper**, Modern Language Association

- **Jessica Edwards**, University of Delaware
- **Paula Krebs**, Modern Language Association
- **Dana Williams**, Howard University



## **Friday, April 12, 11:30am-1pm: CLA Business Meeting**

## **Friday, April 12, 1pm-2:15pm**

Lunch on Your Own

## **Friday, April 12, 2:30pm-3:45pm - Concurrent Sessions V**

### **5.1     *"The Furious Flower Syllabus Project: Opening the World of Black Poetry"***

**Chair: McKinley E. Melton**, Gettysburg College

- **Allia Abdullah-Matta**, CUNY-LaGuardia Community College
- **L. Lamar Wilson**, Florida State University
- **David Wooley**, Westhill High School
- **Angel Dye**, Rutgers University

### **5.2     *Art, Memory and Activism***

**Chair: Laura Barrio-Vilar**, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

- "The Language of Clothing is Activism: Look at Me," **Milford Jeremiah**, Morgan State University
- "Vinyl Culture: Listening for the Melody, Memoir, and Meaning in Album Cover Art," **Aneeka Ayanna Henderson**, Amherst College
- "More Than Bearing Witness to Genocide: Searching for Justice in *Murambi*, *The Book of Bones*," **Laura Barrio-Vilar**, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

### **5.3     *Black Lives, Black Narratives: Exploring the Language of change and transformation***

**Chair: Shelby Crosby**, University of Memphis

- "The Language of Liberation: George Washington Lee and the construction of a civil rights narrative in Memphis, Tennessee," **Charles McKinney**, Rhodes College
- "I Can't Separate America's Mass Shootings From its Long History of Racial Terrorism," **Norrell Edwards**, Le Moyne College
- "'I Heard You Went to Nam': Frontier Mythology, Violence, and the Afterlife of the Vietnam War in Percival Everett's *Walk Me to the Distance*," **Keith Mitchell**, The University of Massachusetts Lowell

### **5.4     *Activism and Pedagogical Practice***

**Chair: Michelle Jones**, University of Kansas

- "Black feminist theory—reexamining BFT in teaching courses," **Michelle Jones**, University of Kansas
- "Teaching Algeria through the Lens of Feminism," **Ima Hicks**, Virginia Union University
- "But I'm not an English Major: Literary Studies for non-Humanities Students," **Stephanie Hankerson**, Albany State University

### 5.5 *Agency, Comedy, and Place*

**Chair: Terrence Tucker**, University of Memphis

- “Amen to Agency: Analyzing Thelma Frye’s Inner Sula Peace,” **Madison 'Mocha' Hunter**, University of Memphis
- “A Rage So True, It’s Funny: 21st Century Comic Rage from Obama’s Luther,” **Terrence Tucker**, University of Memphis
- “No One Should Have to Live on a Street Named Gurgling Brook: Spatial Justice and Black Placemaking in Aaron McGruder’s *The Boondocks*,” **Trevon A Pegram**, Howard University

### 5.6 *Bridging Black Intellectualism across Europe, Latin America and the Arab World*

**Chair: Mark Sanders**, University of Notre Dame

- “Juan Latino in the Black Intellectual Tradition,” **Baltasar Fra-Molinero**, Bates College
- “‘A World beyond this One’: Sustaining *afro-brasilidade* through Language, Ritual, and Culture Teaching in Northeastern Brazil,” **Adrienne Ronee Washington**, West Virginia University
- “Existential Freedom and Blackness in the Poetry of Rómulo Bustos,” **Mark Sanders**, University of Notre Dame

### 5.7 *Charles Waddell Chesnutt and the Problem of Justice (Charles Chesnutt Association)*

**Chair: Elizabeth J. West**, Georgia State University

- “Chesnutt’s Search for Justice: Charles Chesnutt’s Complicated Friendship and Extended Argument with Booker T. Washington,” **Bianca Swift** and **Kenneth M. Price**, University of Nebraska Lincoln
- “Exposing Connections: Past Violence and Present Intimidation in Chesnutt’s ‘The Doll,’” **Stephanie Browner**, The New School
- “‘A Small But Remarkable Collection’: Books As Inheritance and Aids to Justice in The House Behind The Cedars,” **Amina Gautier**, University of Miami
- “Charles W. Chesnutt’s Biological Justice: When Insecure Humans Accept Nature’s Genetics,” **SallyAnn Ferguson**, University of North Carolina, Emerita

## **Friday, April 12, 4pm-5:15pm - Concurrent Sessions VI**

### 6.1 *Genre and Activist Strategy*

**Chair: Seretha Williams**, Augusta University

- “Agenda for Action: Margaret Walker’s Black Futurity,” **Seretha Williams**, Augusta University
- “Pauline Hopkins and the World of Wakanda,” **Bonita Davis**, Georgia State University
- “Tonight’s Featured Guest: How Cameo Appearances Expand Communal Viewing Experiences,” **Tikenya Foster-Singletary**, Spelman College
- “We Got a Right to Fight: The Image of Student Activism on Television,” **Rashell Smith-Spears**, Jackson State University

## **6.2 *Language and Linguistic Justice***

**Chair: Eva Michelle Wheeler, Providence College**

- “Linguistic Justice in the Classroom and the Writing Center,” **Daryl Lynn Dance**, Hampton University
- “Ain’t This An English Class: The Fight for Linguistic Justice in ELA Classrooms,” **Amira Wallace**, Jackson State University
- “Blackness and the Multilingual Speaker: In Search of Justice in the Language Classroom and Beyond,” **Eva Michelle Wheeler**, Providence College

## **6.3 *Collaborations and Debates Among and Between Writers of a Shared Historical Moment***

**Chair: Wallis Tinnie, Independent Scholar**

- “They so meager and we so gross”: Black Abundance and Decentering Whiteness in *Heavy*,” **Lydia Ezell**, Georgia State University
- “Kincaid and Bakhtin: Discourse in A Small Place,” **Wallis Tinnie**, Independent Scholar
- “Poetic Reconstructions of War: Amanda Gorman, Honoree Fanonne Jeffers, and Tracy K. Smith’s Archival Experiments,” **Laura E Vrana**, University of South Alabama
- Vengeance is Mine,” I Will Repay: One Black Veteran’s Promise,” **Patricia Young**, Western Illinois University

## **6.4 *“Women’s Wisdom: Readings and Conversations about Black Women’s Poetry and Poetics”***

**Chair: Tara T. Green, University of Houston**

- “The Bones Beneath,” **Sheila Smith McKoy**, University of San Francisco
- “Lot’s Daughters: It’s All In the Telling,” **Opal Moore**, Spelman College

## **6.5 *Feminist Theology, Womanism, and Girlhood***

**Chair: DoVeanna Fulton, Norfolk State University**

- “Loves Struggle: Black Women’s Theology and Social Justice,” **DoVeanna Fulton**, Norfolk State University
- “A Black Girl’s Barrettes: Activist Poetics in Jasmine Mans’s *Black Girl, Call Home*,” **Marquita R. Smith**, Rowan University
- “In Search of Our Mothers’ Gardens AND Justice: Alice Walker and the Activist Spirit,” **Charlotte C. Teague**, Alabama A&M University
- “Cultivating Care: Black Women’s Communal Gardening as Activism,” **Carlyn Ferrari**, Seattle University

## **6.6 *Literature, Leadership and Professional Development***

**Chair: Robin Brooks, University of Pittsburgh**

- “Pay for a Shift: Professional Development, Coaching, & Self-Care,” **Robin Brooks**, University of Pittsburgh
- “‘Lay all that mess down’: Toni Morrison’s *Beloved* as a Praxis for Black Higher Education Leadership and Liberation,” **Ebony Lumumba**, Jackson State University
- “‘Devising and Developing the Method’: James Weldon Johnson, Creative Writing, and Race Work at Fisk University, 1931-38,” **Magana Kabugi**, Fisk University



**6.7 “Sula at 50, the Nobel Lecture at 30” (Toni Morrison Society)**

**Chair: Dana Williams**, Howard University

- “Toni Morrison: A More than Noble/Nobel Champion of Peace,” **Reginald Wilburn**, University of North Texas
- “The Poetics of Justice: Morrison’s work and the Re-articulation of Freedom,” **Marie Sairsingh**, University of the Bahamas
- “Reading Sula then and now: “remaining whole” by extending the boundaries of the reader’s moral imagination,” **Emmanuelle Andres**, La Rochelle Université

**Friday, April 12, 5:30pm-6:15pm - Career Headshot Photo Session**

**Friday, April 12, 6:30pm-7:30pm**

Pre-Banquet Cash Bar and Book Signing with Banquet Keynote Speaker Dr. Zandria F. Robinson

**Friday, April 12, 7:30pm-9:30pm - Convention Banquet & Awards**



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

**Friday, April 12, 9:30pm-12am**

***President's Homecoming Reception***

# ***Saturday, April 13th***

## **Saturday, April 13, 8am-12pm - Convention Badge Pick-Up**

## **Saturday, April 13, 10am-12pm - Publications, Vendors, Exhibits**

## **Saturday, April 13, 9am-10:15am - Concurrent Sessions VII**

### **7.1 *Faint, Frail, and Free: Re/constructing the Black Female Body Otherwise***

**Chair: Angel Dye**, Rutgers University

- “Looking and Limp: Re/constructing Color-Struck Black Femininity in *The Blacker the Berry*,” **Angel Dye**, Rutgers University
- “The World As Is and the World Reimagined: Explorations of Fainting and Flashing in Sherley Anne Williams’ *Dessa Rose*,” **Bria Paige**, Rutgers University
- “Forced to Some Experiment”: Harriet E. Wilson’s Claims to Frailty in *Our Nig*,” **Rudrani Sarma**, Rutgers University

### **7.2 *Breaking Away from the Margins: Modern Perspectives on Womanhood and Resistance***

**Chair: Jeremiah Morris**, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

- “Navigating Social Death: Girlhood and Resistance in Harriet Jacobs’ *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*,” **Emily Duru**, Howard University
- “Women In The Spaces They Are Not Supposed To Be: Analyzing Imposed Confinement Through *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* and *Trees of Peace*,” **Priyanshi Madhukar**, Howard University
- “Women and Girls Need Not Apply: No Restorative Justice in MEMPHIS by Tara Stringfellow,” **Joyce Russell**, St. Augustine’s University

### **7.3 *Narratives and (In-)Justice: Reading and Teaching Black Lives***

**Chair: Cassander L. Smith**, University of Alabama

- “The Stories We Resist Knowing: Teaching Counternarratives and Critical Thinking,” **Lauren Cardon**, University of Alabama
- “‘There was no such thing for Black people’: Chronic Illness, Recovery, and the Life of Delores Phillips,” **Delia Steverson**, University of Alabama
- “Narratives of victimhood and Wasteful Bodies: Black Legend Rhetoric at the Borders of West Africa and the Caribbean in the 16th Century,” **Cassander Smith**, University of Alabama

#### **7.4 Critical and Scholarly Responses to Literary Works, Movements, and Figures**

**Chair: Rita B. Dandridge**, Virginia State University

- “Mary Church Terrell: Short Story Satirist for Justice,” **Rita B. Dandridge**, Virginia State University
- “Miss Emma and Tante Lou: Ernest Gaines’s Overlooked Activists,” **Sheronda Gipson-Marion**, Rust College
- “Combatting a Corrupt Ethic: Hughes’s Prophetic Prescription for an Unjust Nation,” **Wallis Baxter**, Maple Springs Bible College & Seminary

#### **7.5 Teaching Resistance Through Black Women’s Speculative Fiction (Octavia E. Butler Literary Society)**

**Chair: Shelby Crosby**, University of Memphis

- “We Know a Place: Black Women’s Speculative Sanctuaries,” **Phyllis Lynne Burns**, Otterbein University
- “Journey of Resistance,” **Ebony Gibson**, Georgia Gwinnett College
- “(R)evolution Begins with the Self: Transformation as Resistance,” **R. Nicole Smith**, Spelman College

#### **7.6 “I Want My Ham.”: Justice and Activism in August Wilson’s American Century Cycle (August Wilson Society)**

**Chair: Ladrica Menson-Furr**, University of Memphis

- “Liberation Historiography as Justice Work: August Wilson’s Influence on (African) American Drama,” **Khalid Y. Long**, Howard University
- “Take Me to the Water: Ritual Passages and Just Engagements in *Gem of the Ocean* and *In the Red and Brown Water*,” **Isaiah Matthew Wooden**, Swarthmore College
- “A Defense of August Wilson’s Warriors,” **Sandra G. Shannon**, Howard University

### **Saturday, April 13, 10:30am-11:45am - Concurrent Sessions VIII**

#### **8.1 Movements, Stories, and Black Sonics**

**Chair: Earl Brooks**, University of Maryland - Baltimore County

- “Black Orientalism’s Enchantment from Islam to BlerDCon,” **Mark Villegas**, Franklin & Marshall College
- “Play it Loud: The Sonic Revolution in Black Television and Film,” **Earl Brooks**, University of Maryland - Baltimore County
- “Waring Cuney, Langston Hughes, and World War II,” **Verner D. Mitchell**, University of Memphis
- “Searching for Justice while Serving the Country: African American Writers of World War II,” **Cynthia Davis**, San Jacinto College

## **8.2 *Justice, Activism & Visionary Language: Black Women Poets***

**Chair: Cheryl Hopson**, Western Kentucky University

- "Language Activism of (Intersectional) 'Queerness' in Very Contemporary Poetry: 'In Your Face' Witnessing," **doris davenport**, poet & independent scholar
- "'I Am She Who Will Be Free': A Contemporary Reading of June Jordan's *Kissing God Goodbye* (1997)" **Cheryl Hopson**, Western Kentucky University

## **8.3 *Narrative and Resistance***

**Chair: Linda White**, LeMoyne-Owen College

- "Slave Narratives: Voices of Resistance", **Jorge Pérez de Jesús**, Purdue University
- "Dana's Story: The Impact of the Slave Narrative's Design and Theme on Social and Political Change," **Linda White**, LeMoyne-Owen College
- "On Resistance to Plantation Power," **Latrice Johnson**, University of Mississippi

## **8.4 *Walking Miles in Her Shoes: Exploring Octavia E. Butler's Archives (Octavia E. Butler Literary Society)***

**Chair: Kendra R. Parker**, Georgia Southern University

- "Developing Female Protagonists: Exploring Drafts of Butler's Early Works," **Barbara Simerka**, Queens College/CUNY
- "Walking Off a Cliff: Western Values and West African Mysticism in Octavia E. Butler's *Xenogenesis*," **Ebony Gibson**, Georgia Gwinnett College
- "'Walk Thoughts': Experiencing Butler's Living Archive," **Kendra R. Parker**, Georgia Southern University

## **8.5 *Literary Reckonings with White Riots Roundtable***

**Chair: Sheila Smith McKoy**, University of San Francisco

- **Griselda Thomas**, Kennesaw State University
- **Sheila Smith McKoy**, University of San Francisco

## **8.6 *Active Academic Justice: At the Intersection of Mentoring and Activism in the Academy (CLA-HBCU Standing Committee)***

**Chair: helen j. crump**, Jackson State University

- "Mentoring Junior Faculty 'By Any Means Necessary,'" **Preselfannie Whitfield McDaniels**, Jackson State University
- "Activist Voices Then, Activist Voices Now: Preparing Our Student Activists & Civic Participants through Rhetoric & Expression," **Monica Flippin-Wynn**, Gardner Institute
- "BlkWomentoring: Forging Revolutionary Relationships in the Academy," **Shanna L. Smith**, Jackson State University

## **Saturday, April 13, 12pm-1:15pm - Concurrent Sessions IX**

### **9.1 *Establishing Publication Equity for Faculty: Writing Boot Camps, Virtual Writing Groups, Writing Mentors, and More***

**Chair: Preselfannie McDaniels**, Jackson State University

- "'Always Had My Back': Collaborating and Creating a Reflective, Transparent and Supportive Community," **Monica Flippin Wynn**, Gardner Institute
- "Pushing Institutional Boundaries: Mentorship and Interdisciplinary Publishing," **Cordarrell "Rico" Self**, North Carolina State University
- "'Guarding the Yard': Working to Provide Avenues of Publication Success for Women Junior Faculty," **Preselfannie McDaniels**

### **9.2 *Literary Representations of LGBTQ+ Sexualities in the Black Diaspora (African Literature Association)***

**Chair: Charles I. Nero**, Bates College

- "After and With Owen Dodson," **Maurice Wallace**, Rutgers University
- "Representations of Non-Binary Sexualities in the Diaspora," **Sue Houchins**, Bates College
- "Black Women and Queer Sexuality in the Archive: The Case of Alice Dunbar-Nelson," **Tara T. Green**, University of Houston
- "African Manhood and Sexual Vulnerability in Colonial Brazil," **Matthew J. Pettway**, University of South Alabama

### **9.3 *Ruminations on Language, Imagery, and Activism: Reading Metaphor, Memory, and Inspiration in the works of Black and Diasporic Writers (Howard University - Department of English)***

**Chair:**

- "Memorializing the Activist Spirit in Julia Alvarez's *In the Time of the Butterflies*," **Paola Yuli**, Howard University
- "Inspiration & Creation: Genre and Activist Strategy in Pauline Hopkins's *Of One Blood*," **Sabrina Bramwell**, Howard University
- "Indigenous Time in Helon Habila's *Oil on Water* (2010)," **Sarah Jenkins**, Howard University

### **9.4 *Creative Writing Committee: Special Session***

**Chair: Alana King**, Austin Community College

- **Alana King**, Austin Community College
- **Shauna Morgan**, University of Kentucky
- **Angel C. Dye**, Rutgers University
- **Madison "Mocha" Hunter**, University of Memphis



**9.5     *The Speculative Mission of Historical Recovery***

**Chair:** Anthony Boynton, University of Kansas

- “Ghostly Lives and Queer Afrofuturism,” **Anthony Boynton**, University of Kansas
- “Literary Activism Through Embodied Technologies in Liselle Sambury’s Blood Like Magic,” **Sandra (Alessandra) Jacobo**, University of Kansas
- “Authentic Histories: Speculative Reinventions of Nat Turner,” **Anna Sophia Flood**, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

**9.6     *Writing as Resistance: Strategies for Surviving the Tenure Track (Early Career Scholars)***

**Chair:** Norrell Edwards, Le Moyne College

Roundtable Participants:

- **Norrell Edwards**, Le Moyne College
- **Jacinta Saffold**, University of Delaware
- **Donavan L. Ramon**, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville

**Saturday, April 13, 1:30p-5:00pm**

***Project on the History of Black Writing and HathiTrust Research Center Digital Humanities Workshop***

(Lunch Provided; Pre-registration Required)

**Chair:** Ayesha Hardison, University of Kansas

- **Janet Swatscheno** (Digital Scholarship Librarian/Associate Director of Outreach and Education for the HathiTrust Research Center)
- **Ryan Dubnick** (Digital Humanities Specialist, School of Information Sciences, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)

**\*\*\*Convention Close\*\*\***

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