

THE COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION  
80TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

# AFROFUTURISM: DIASPORIC VISIONS



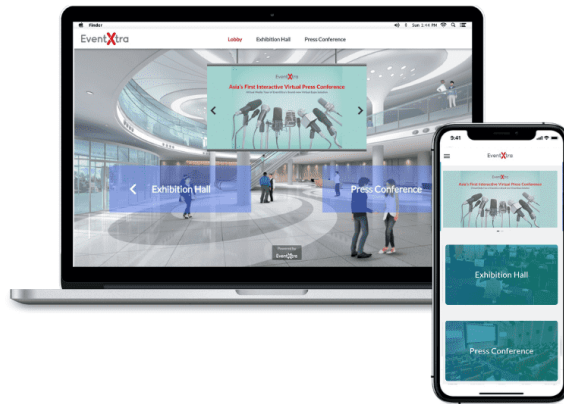
VIRTUALLY REIMAGINED  
APRIL 7-10, 2021

[WWW.CLASCHOLARS.ORG](http://WWW.CLASCHOLARS.ORG)



# CLA Virtual Convention Platform

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## Convention Platform Link

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## PROGRAM CONTENTS

	<b>Page Numbers</b>
<b>Virtual Platform — EventXtra Information</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Program Contents</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>College Language Association President’s Letter</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>The University of Memphis President’s Letter</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>The University of Memphis Host Committee Letter</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>CLA Vice President &amp; Convention Chair Letter</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>College Language Association Social Media</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>80th Annual Convention at a Glance</b>	<b>8-9</b>
<b>Wednesday, April 7, 2021 Events</b>	<b>10-11</b>
<b>Langston Hughes Society 40th Anniversary Event</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Thursday, April 8, 2021 Sessions</b>	<b>13-20</b>
<b>Friday, April 9, 2021 Sessions</b>	<b>21-29</b>
<b>Keynote Speaker Profile: Ytasha Womack</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Saturday, April 10, 2021 Sessions</b>	<b>31-37</b>
<b>Virtual Tours of Memphis Sites Links</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Past Award Recipients</b>	<b>40-44</b>
<b>Past College Language Association Conventions</b>	<b>45-48</b>
<b>College Language Association Presidents</b>	<b>49-50</b>
<b>Recent College Language Association Donors</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>2020-2022 CLA Officers and Executive Committee</b>	<b>52-54</b>
<b>Index of Program Participants</b>	<b>55-60</b>
<b>2021 CLA Convention Vendors and Exhibitors</b>	<b>61-68</b>
<b>College Language Association Allied Organizations</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>2020-2022 CLA Convention Program Committee</b>	<b>69</b>

# THE COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION



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

## CLA President's Greetings

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

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the College Language Association, I welcome you to our 80<sup>th</sup> Convention and 84<sup>th</sup> 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 80<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:president@clascholars.org)



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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 80<sup>th</sup> Convention of the College Language Association (CLA). A special thanks is due to the Planning Committee and members of the UofM 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 unwavering. 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 UofM 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 (13<sup>th</sup>) and criminal justice (graduate, 24<sup>th</sup>).

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 80<sup>th</sup> 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



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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 national 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 80<sup>th</sup> 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 60<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 Ytasha 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](mailto:ttucker@memphis.edu)

# THE COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION



April 7, 2021

Dear CLA Colleagues,

Welcome to our Virtually Reimagined Afrofuturism Convention! I am honored to serve as the Program Chair for the 80<sup>th</sup> 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 80<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:vicepresident@clascholars.org)  
[www.clascholars.org](http://www.clascholars.org)

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Highlights!

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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!







**80TH ANNUAL COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION  
CONVENTION AT A GLANCE  
All Times Central Standard Time (CST)**

**WEDNESDAY, April 7, 2021**

2:00 P.M. - 3:45 P.M.	CLA Executive Committee Pre-Convention Meeting
4:00 P.M. - 4:45 P.M.	<b>Virtual Platform Training, Introduction, and Q &amp; A</b>
5:00 P.M. - 5:45 P.M.	<b>Welcome Session for New Members and First-Time Attendees</b>
6:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.	<b>Opening Plenary: Presidential Address and Special Recognitions</b>

**THURSDAY, April 8, 2021**

9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.	Publications, Vendors, and Exhibits
9:00 A.M. - 10:15 A.M.	<b><i>The College Language Association Journal (CLAJ)</i> Event</b>
10:30 A.M.-11:45 A.M.	<b>Langston Hughes Society 40th Anniversary Event</b>
12:00 P.M. - 1:15 P.M.	Concurrent Session I
1:30 P.M. - 2:45 P.M.	Concurrent Session II
3:00 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.	Concurrent Session III
4:30 P.M. - 5:45 P.M.	<b>Standing Committee Meetings</b>
6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.	CLA Authors Meet and Greet
7:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.	<b><i>See You Yesterday</i> Film Screening &amp; Twitter Chat</b>



**80TH ANNUAL COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION CONVENTION  
AT A GLANCE (CONTINUED)  
All Times Central Standard Time (CST)**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2021**

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

**SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2021**

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

# 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**

## **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.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021 CONCURRENT SESSION I — 12:00 P.M. - 1:15 P.M.**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 12:00 P.M. - 1:15 P.M.**

**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: Afrofuturism, 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**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 12:00 P.M. - 1:15 P.M.**

**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**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 12:00 P.M. - 1:15 P.M.**

**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 *shamanécrivain*: 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.**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 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

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

## 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

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

## 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



**THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 3:00 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.**

**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**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 3:00 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.**

**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**

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 3:00 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.

**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

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 3:00 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.

**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**, Thabiti 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.**



**twitter**   
**CHAT**

**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, [@tyechialynn](#) 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.**

**18. PLENARY II. BUSINESS MEETING**

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 9:00 A.M. - 10:45 A.M.

<b>Presiding</b>	Reginald A. Bess, CLA President
<b>Call to Order/Welcome</b>	Reginald A. Bess, CLA President
<b>Introduction of 2020-2022 Executive Committee</b>	Reginald A. Bess, CLA President
<b>Memorial Moments</b>	Reginald A. Bess, CLA President
<b>Approval of 2019 Business Meeting Minutes</b>	Jason Hendrickson, CLA Secretary
<b>Executive Committee Reports</b>	
<i>College Language Association Journal</i>	Sandra G. Shannon, <i>CLAJ</i> Editor
Treasurer's Report	Elizabeth West, Treasurer
Program Committee	Jervette R. Ward, VP & Program Chair
<b>Standing Committee Reports</b>	
Nominations	James J. Davis, Chair
Constitution	Dana A. Williams, Chair
Archives	Shanna Benjamin, Chair
Awards	Warren J. Carson, Chair
Black Studies	Thabiti Lewis, Chair
CLA & Historically Black Colleges	helen j. crump, Chair
CLA & Historically White Colleges	Xavia Harrington-Chate, 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 Wilburn, Chair
Research	Sarah S. Ohmer, Chair
Undergraduate and Graduate Students	Anthony Boynton, Chair
<b>Old Business</b>	
<b>Announcements</b>	

**PUBLICATIONS, VENDORS, AND EXHIBITS**  
FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2021 CONCURRENT SESSION IV — 11:00 A.M. - 12:15 P.M.**

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

**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

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

**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 Kahiu'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 SPONSORED BY THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

**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



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

**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

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

**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

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

**26. LOS ESTUDIOS AFROLATINOAMERICANOS EN EL BICENTENARIO (DE LA INDEPENDENCIA): BALANCES Y PERSPECTIVAS TRANSDISCIPLINARIAS**

**Chair: Martha Ojeda**, Transylvania University

- ❖ "Desgranando la colonialidad del poder: sindicatos y políticas neoliberales en *Piel de Mujer* (1995) de Delia Zamudio"  
**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

**FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2021 CONCURRENT SESSION VI — 2:00 P.M. - 3:15 P.M.**

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

**27. WOMEN SHALL LEAD THEM: FUTURISTIC VISIONS IN AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE**

**Chair: Laura Vrana**, University of South Alabama

- ❖ "Nikki Giovanni's Afrofuturist Visions"  
**Laura Vrana**, University of South Alabama
- ❖ "'Bringing Magic Back': Using Narratives of Afrofuturism to Re-examine African Pasts and Futures"  
**Catherine L. Adams**, Claflin University
- ❖ "The Universe is not a White Noise"  
**Ima Hicks**, Virginia Union University

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

**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

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

**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**, Kentucky State University
- ❖ "The Afrofuturist 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.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 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

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

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

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 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**, Independent Scholar

- ❖ "Diasporic Visions in Works by Franz Kafka and Sharon Dodua Otoo"  
**Reginald A. Bess**, Independent Scholar

- ❖ "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

**39. CONVENTION KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**YTASHA WOMACK**

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 7:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.



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.

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**40. PRESIDENT'S AFTERPARTY**

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 8:30 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.

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 [@crenee Bailey](#) 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.**



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

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

**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 Wombospace 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)*

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

**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

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

**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

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2021 CONCURRENT SESSION XI — 1:30 P.M. - 2:45 P.M.

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

**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, 1:30 P.M. - 2:45 P.M.

**52. MEMORY, LOVE, AND DREAMS IN BUTLER AND TANANARIVE DUE'S  
AFROFUTURISTIC TEXTS**

**Chair: Charlotte C. Teague**, Alabama A&M University

- ❖ "Memory as Horror and Healing in Tananarive Due's *The Good House*"  
**Cassandra L. Jones**, University of Cincinnati
- ❖ "Good Love: Reparative Images of Heterosexuality in the Works of Octavia Butler and Tananarive Due"  
**Stephanie Hankerson**, Albany State University
- ❖ "Intersections of Time: African-American Women Dreaming in the Past, Present, and Future"  
**Charlotte C. Teague**, Alabama A&M University

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2021 CONCURRENT SESSION XII — 3:00 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 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

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 3:00 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.

**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

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 3:00 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.

**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

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 3:00 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.

**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

- ❖ Derik Smith, *Robert Hayden in Verse: New Histories of African American Poetry in the Black Arts Movement*

### 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

- ❖ Simone A. James Alexander, *African Diasporic Women's Narratives: Politics of Resistance, Survival, and Citizenship*

### 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*
- ❖ Loyalerie King, *Property Matters in African American Literature: Race, Theft, and Ethics*

- 2008 Charleston, SC**  
 ❖ Margaret Wade-Lewis, *Lorenzo Dow Turner, Father of Gullah Studies*
- 2007 Miami, FL**  
 ❖ Naomi Long Madgett, *Pilgrim Journey*
- 2006 Birmingham, AL**  
 ❖ Bernard W. Bell, *The Contemporary African American Novel: Its Folk Roots and Modern Literary Branches*
- 2003 Washington, DC**  
 ❖ Karla F. C. Holloway, *Passed On: African American Mourning Stories: A Memorial*
- 2002 Memphis, TN**  
 ❖ Herman F. Bostick, For Distinguished Service to CLA
- 2001 New Orleans, LA**  
 ❖ Helena Woodard, *African-British Writings in the Eighteenth Century: The Politics of Race and Reason*  
 ❖ Renée Larrier, *Francophone Women Writers of Africa and the Caribbean*
- 2000 Baltimore, MD**  
 ❖ Louis Rivers, For Distinguished Service to CLA
- 1999 Fayetteville, NC**  
 ❖ Mary Kemp Davis, *Nat Turner Before the Bar of Judgment: Fictional Treatments of the Southampton Slave Insurrection*  
 ❖ Richard L. Jackson, *Black Writers and Latin America: Cross-Cultural Affinities*  
 ❖ Robert J. Hudson, For Distinguished Service to CLA
- 1998 Tallahassee, FL**  
 ❖ Sandra G. Shannon, *The Dramatic Vision of August Wilson*  
 ❖ Earle D. Clowney, For Distinguished Service to CLA
- 1997 Atlanta, GA**  
 ❖ J. Lee Greene, *Blacks in Eden: The African American Novel's First Century*  
 ❖ Robert P. Smith, Jr., For Distinguished Service to CLA
- 1996 Winston-Salem, NC**  
 ❖ Joyce Pettis, *Toward Wholeness in Paule Marshall's Fiction*  
 ❖ Cason L. Hill, For Distinguished Service to CLA  
 ❖ Ruthe T. Sheffey, For Distinguished Service to CLA

**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)

## PAST COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION CONVENTIONS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Theme</b>
April 7-10, 2021	80 <sup>th</sup> Memphis, TN	"Afrofuturism: Diasporic Visions"
April 11-13, 2019	79 <sup>th</sup> Raleigh, NC	"1619 < Expanding Narratives > 2019"
April 4-7, 2018	78 <sup>th</sup> Chicago, IL	"Native Sons/Daughters and Immigrants in the Black Metropolis"
April 5-8, 2017	77 <sup>th</sup> Columbia, MO	"Interdisciplinary Studies and Diversity in Languages and Literatures"
April 6-9, 2016	76 <sup>th</sup> Houston, TX	"Dialogues between Africa and the African Diaspora in Languages, Literatures and Films"
April 8-11, 2015	75 <sup>th</sup> Dallas, TX	"Expanding Frontiers: Freedom, Resistance, and Transnational Identities In Languages and Literatures"
March 26-29, 2014	74 <sup>th</sup> New Orleans, LA	"Pathways and Porticos: The Caribbean & the South as Catalyst in Languages & Literatures"
April 10-13, 2013	73 <sup>rd</sup> Lexington, KY	"Mason-Dixon & Maginot Lines: Borders, Boundaries, Barriers in Languages & Literatures"
March 28 – 31, 2012	72 <sup>nd</sup> Atlanta, GA	"In the Spirit of <i>Sankofa</i> — Moving Forward, Looking Back in Languages and Literatures"
April 6-9, 2011	71 <sup>st</sup> Spartanburg, SC	"Narrativity and Musicality: The Confluence of Language, Literature, and Culture"
April 7-10, 2010	70 <sup>th</sup> Brooklyn, NY	"Freedom's Visions and Urban Landscapes: Spaces and Places in Languages and Literatures"
March 25-28, 2009	69 <sup>th</sup> Cambridge, MD	"Liberation as Theme and Strategy in Languages and Literatures"

April 9-12, 2008	68 <sup>th</sup>	Charleston, SC	"(Re)Roots and (Re)Routes: Transatlantic Connections in Language and Literatures"
April 18-21, 2007	67 <sup>th</sup>	Miami, FL	"Religion and Spirituality in Literature"
April 5-8, 2006	66 <sup>th</sup>	Birmingham, AL	"Literature and Film: From Page to Screen"
April 10-12, 2005	65 <sup>th</sup>	Athens, GA	"From Bebop to Hip Hop: Breaking the Cultural Divide"
April 14-17, 2004	64 <sup>th</sup>	Nashville, TN	"Independence and National Literatures: The Construction of Identity"
April 23-26, 2003	63 <sup>rd</sup>	Washington, DC	"Signifyin' Theories: New Gazes on Literatures and Languages"
April 24-27, 2002	62 <sup>nd</sup>	Memphis, TN	"Heritage and Homage: Navigating Our Cultural Heritage"
April 18-21, 2001	61 <sup>st</sup>	New Orleans, LA	"Literature and the Americas: Roots and Routes"
April 5-8, 2000	60 <sup>th</sup>	Baltimore, MD	"The Millennium: Historicizing the Past, Present, and Future"
April 14-17, 1999	59 <sup>th</sup>	Fayetteville, NC	"Satire, Wit, and Humor in Language and Literature"
April 15-18, 1998	58 <sup>th</sup>	Tallahassee, FL	"Cultural Connections in the Diaspora: Africa and the Americas"
April 16-19, 1997	57 <sup>th</sup>	Atlanta, GA	"Literature in Migration: City, Country, World"
April 10-13, 1996	56 <sup>th</sup>	Winston-Salem, NC	"Diversity, Retrospection, and Prophecy in Language, Literature, and Culture"
April 19-22, 1995	55 <sup>th</sup>	Baton Rouge, LA	"Language, Literature, and Technology: The Imagination and Virtual Reality"
April 13-16, 1994	54 <sup>th</sup>	Durham, NC	"Language and Literature for the Twenty-first Century: Redefining Theory, Practice, Pedagogy"
April 1-3, 1993	53 <sup>rd</sup>	Daytona Beach, FL	"Multiculturalism: Whose Language? Whose Literature?"

April 9-11, 1992	52 <sup>nd</sup>	Knoxville, TN	"Gender and Genre: From Illusion to Reality"
April 17-20, 1991	51 <sup>st</sup>	Columbia, SC	"Myth, Magic, and Lore: Language and Literature"
April 18-21, 1990	50 <sup>th</sup>	Columbus, OH	"Discovery and Rediscovery: Dramatic Forces in Languages and Literatures"
April 26-29, 1989	49 <sup>th</sup>	Frankfort, KY	"Culture and Literacy: The Role of Language, Literature, and Linguistics"
March 30-April 2, 1988	48 <sup>th</sup>	Greensboro, NC	"CLA's Second Half Century: Language and Literature in the Black Diaspora"
April 22-25, 1987	47 <sup>th</sup>	Washington, DC	"Prophecies and Revelations: Our Heritage and Our Future"
April 16-19, 1986	46 <sup>th</sup>	Norfolk, VA	"Women as Subjects, Objects, and Authors of Literature"
April 17-20, 1985	45 <sup>th</sup>	New York, NY	"Dramatic Contrasts in Literature, Theatre, and Communication Arts"
April 18-21, 1984	44 <sup>th</sup>	Nashville, TN	"Biography, Autobiography, Literature and Myth: Literature and the Self"
April 21-23, 1983	43 <sup>rd</sup>	Philadelphia, PA	"Black Writers, Black Writing: Post-War to the Present"
April 22-24, 1982	42 <sup>nd</sup>	Charlotte, NC	"Language, Literature, and Literary Criticism: The 1970s and 1980s"
April 23-25, 1981	41 <sup>st</sup>	New Orleans, LA	"The Plantation-America Culture Sphere: Caribbean and Southern Literatures"
April 17-19, 1980	40 <sup>th</sup>	Atlanta, GA	"Language, Literature, and the Human Condition"
April 26-28, 1979	39 <sup>th</sup>	Washington, DC	"The Black Woman: National and International Perspectives"
April 13-15, 1978	38 <sup>th</sup>	Memphis, TN	"Attaining Excellence: A Return to the Basics"



April 21-23, 1977	37 <sup>th</sup>	Jackson, MS	"New Directions: Resources for Humanistic Studies"
April 29-May 1, 1976	36 <sup>th</sup>	Savannah, GA	"The Unfinished Revolution: From Afro-Genesis to Now"
April 9-12, 1975	35 <sup>th</sup>	New Orleans, LA	<i>"Le Circuit Triangulaire: Africa, the Americas, and the West Indies"</i>
April 18-20, 1974	34 <sup>th</sup>	Baltimore, MD	"Language, Literature, and the Liberation"
April 12-14, 1973	33 <sup>rd</sup>	Columbia, SC	"Ethnic Studies and Humanistic Concerns"
April 13-15, 1972	32 <sup>nd</sup>	Atlanta, GA	"Politics, Protest, and Literature"
April 22-24, 1971	31 <sup>st</sup>	Tallahassee, FL	"The Future of Black Studies"
April 9-11, 1970	30 <sup>th</sup>	Atlanta, GA	"Black Studies: International Dimensions"
April 24-26, 1969	29 <sup>th</sup>	Virginia Beach, VA	"Black Studies: Form and Content"
April 18-20, 1968	28 <sup>th</sup>	Durham/Chapel Hill	"Towards a Bridge between Theory and Practice"
April 20-22, 1967	27 <sup>th</sup>	Petersburg, VA	"Language, Literature, and Life"
April 28-30, 1966	26 <sup>th</sup>	Atlanta, GA	"The Role of Language and Literature in the Creation of World Thought"
April 22-24, 1965	25 <sup>th</sup>	Greensboro, NC	"New Resources in Language and Literature"

**For information on the earlier Conventions, please visit the [history section](#) of the CLA website.**

**COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION FOUNDER**  
**Hugh M. Gloster, President Emeritus of Morehouse College**  
**May 11, 1911 - February 16, 2002**



**Founded CLA in 1937 at LeMoyne College in Memphis, Tennessee**

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2020    Reginald A. Bess                                      Independent Scholar                                      Columbia, SC

**PAST COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS**

**Year indicates the year elected to office**

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

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

1948	Hugh M. Gloster	Hampton Institute	Hampton, VA
1950	Edward A. Jones	Morehouse College	Atlanta, GA
1952	John W. Parker	Fayetteville State	Fayetteville, NC
		Teachers College	
1954	Crawford B. Lindsay	Tennessee State University	Nashville, TN
1956	Billie Geter Thomas	Spelman College	Atlanta, GA
1957	Blyden Jackson	Southern University	Baton Rouge, LA
1959	Charles A. Ray	North Carolina College	Durham, NC
1961	Nick Aaron Ford	Morgan State College	Baltimore, MD
1963	Darwin T. Turner	North Carolina A&T College	Greensboro, NC

1965	Milton G. Hardiman	Lincoln University	Jefferson City, MO
1967	Charles Hugo Curl	Norfolk State College	Norfolk, VA
1968	Richard A. Long	Atlanta University	Atlanta, GA
1971	Ruth N. Horry	North Carolina Central University	Durham, NC
1973	Richard K. Barksdale	University of Illinois	Urbana, IL
1975	Herman Bostick	Texas Southern University	Houston, TX
1977	Thelma D. Curl	Norfolk State University	Norfolk, VA
1979	Wilbert J. Roget	Temple University	Philadelphia, PA
1982	Eleanor Q. Tignor	LaGuardia Community College	Long Island City, NY
1984	Anne Venture Young	Morgan State University	Baltimore, MD
1986	Marie H. Buncombe	Brooklyn College	Brooklyn, NY
1988	Marcellus Brooks	Fisk University	Nashville, TN
1990	Thelma B. Thompson	Norfolk State University	Norfolk, VA
1992	James J. Davis	Howard University	Washington, D.C.
1994	Dolan Hubbard	University of Georgia	Athens, Georgia
1996	Thomas N. Hammond	North Carolina Central College	Durham, NC
1998	Emma Waters Dawson	Florida A&M University	Tallahassee, FL
2000	Dellita Martin-Ogunsola	University of Alabama at Birmingham	Birmingham, AL
2002	Yakini B. Kemp	Florida A&M University	Tallahassee, FL
2004	Régine Latortue	Brooklyn College/CUNY	Brooklyn, NY
2006	Booker T. Anthony	Fayetteville State University	Fayetteville, NC
2008	Antonio D. Tillis	Dartmouth College	Hanover, NH
2010	Warren J. Carson	University of South Carolina, Upstate	Spartanburg, SC
2012	Mario A. Chandler	Oglethorpe University	Atlanta, GA
2014	Dana A. Williams	Howard University	Washington, DC
2016	Clément A. Akassi	Howard University	Washington, DC
2018	Donna Akiba Sullivan Harper	Spelman College	Atlanta, GA



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**2020-2022**



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**PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS**  
**Listed by Session Number**

A

<b>Abdullah-Matta, Allia</b>	31	<b>Ares-Christian, Christiana</b>	32
<b>Adams, Catherine L.</b>	27	<b>Atkins, Shayla M.</b>	4
<b>Androne, Helane</b>	43		

B

<b>Bailey, Constance</b>	24, 41	<b>Bolden, Tony</b>	16, 49
<b>Barnes, Sylvia</b>	50	<b>Boynton, Anthony</b>	15, 17, 18, 53
<b>Batista, Jose M.</b>	31, 34	<b>Brooks, Robin</b>	19
<b>Benjamin, Shanna</b>	15, 18, 44	<b>Broome Jr., Kenneth</b>	37
<b>Bennett-Fairs, Vernell</b>	1	<b>Brown-Guillory, Elizabeth</b>	7
<b>Bess, Reginald A.</b>	1, 15, 18, 38, 40, 44	<b>Bryan, Violet</b>	7

C

<b>Cadwell, Shelby</b>	5	<b>Codling, Rosetta</b>	38
<b>Carson, Warren J.</b>	1, 15, 18, 20	<b>Cooper, Phyllis</b>	38
<b>Cartright, Chris</b>	28	<b>Crosby, Shelby</b>	1, 5, 12
<b>Collier, Rhonda</b>	10, 48	<b>crump, helen</b>	11, 15, 18, 24
<b>Collins, Kimberly</b>	8, 16		



## D

<b>Dance, Daryl C.</b>	42	<b>Denton, Ren</b>	13
<b>Dandridge, Rita</b>	16, 23, 54	<b>Derakhshesh, Derayah</b>	6
<b>davenport, doris</b>	13, 16	<b>Diala-Ogamba, Blessing</b>	47
<b>Davis, James J.</b>	15, 18, 48	<b>Dize, Nathan</b>	34
<b>Davis, Cynthia</b>	23	<b>Dunning, Stefanie</b>	8
<b>Dawes, Kwame</b>	3		

## E

<b>Etter-Lewis, Gwendolyn</b>	97	<b>Evans, LaTonzia</b>	50
-------------------------------	----	------------------------	----

## F

<b>Feracho, Lesley</b>	4	<b>Foster-Singleton, Tikenya</b>	28
<b>Ferrari, Carlyn E.</b>	55	<b>Francis, Kela</b>	21
<b>Fontnette, Alicia</b>	5		

## G

<b>Gabbin, Joanne V.</b>	16, 42	<b>Green, Tara T.</b>	35
<b>Gilliam, Juanita</b>	53		

## H

<b>Hakima, Rabia</b>	6	<b>Hendrickson, Jason</b>	18, 31
<b>Hale, Candice Nicole</b>	19	<b>Hicks, Ima</b>	27
<b>Hankerson, Stephanie</b>	52	<b>Hill, Melanie R.</b>	51
<b>Hanshaw, Shirley</b>	16	<b>Holloway, Karla F.C.</b>	16, 20
<b>Hardison, Ayesha</b>	49	<b>Hos, Gul</b>	32

<b>Harrington, Xavia</b>	11, 15, 18	<b>Hubbard, Dolan</b>	19
<b>Hawkes, DeLisa</b>	19	<b>Hyman, Ramona L.</b>	5
<b>Hayden, Antoinette</b>	24		

## J

<b>Jacobo, Sandra</b>	46	<b>Jones, Cassandra L.</b>	52
<b>James, Kedra</b>	25	<b>Jones, Jacqueline</b>	31
<b>Jarrett, Denise</b>	19	<b>Jones, Sharon Lynette</b>	23, 47
<b>Jenkins, Candice</b>	8	<b>Jordan, Kamri</b>	50
<b>Jeremiah, Milford</b>	25	<b>Joslin, Isaac</b>	22

## K

<b>Keubeung, Gérard</b>	22
-------------------------	----

## L

<b>Lawo-Sukam, Alain</b>	38, 56	<b>Lowery, Tabitha</b>	8
<b>Lewis, Brett</b>	50	<b>Luis, William</b>	48
<b>Lewis, Janaka</b>	29	<b>Lutz, Jay</b>	21
<b>Lewis, Thabiti</b>	15, 16, 18		

## M

<b>Marcus, Greg</b>	<i>Page 10</i>	<b>Mitchell, Kendra</b>	29
<b>Martin, Kameelah L.</b>	16	<b>Mitchell, Verner</b>	23
<b>Massé, GuirDEX</b>	6	<b>Moore, Opal</b>	42
<b>McDaniels, Preselfannie</b>	11	<b>Morris, Angela</b>	25

<b>McDowell, Deborah</b>	20	<b>Morris, Margret L.</b>	30
<b>Meeks, Levertis</b>	11	<b>Mukundi, Paul</b>	38
<b>Melton, McKinley E.</b>	49	<b>Murphy, Kiana</b>	9
<b>Mitchell, Keith</b>	5		

**N**

<b>Nero, Charles I.</b>	35	<b>Ngwudike, Ogochukwu</b>	4
-------------------------	----	----------------------------	---

**O**

<b>Ochola, Eunita</b>	45	<b>Ojeda, Martha</b>	26
<b>Odoh, Ijeoma</b>	45	<b>Omowumi, Jesutofunmi</b>	54
<b>Oforlea, Aaron N.</b>	15, 18, 33	<b>Osademe, Chelsea</b>	51

**P**

<b>Pankewycz, Adam</b>	36	<b>Pegram, Trevon</b>	32
<b>Parker, Kendra R.</b>	43	<b>Pettway, Matthew</b>	10, 16
<b>Patton, Venetria</b>	8	<b>Pickens, Theri</b>	44
<b>Pawel, Rebecca Catherine</b>	55	<b>Portis, Sinclair</b>	37
<b>Peace, Christopher</b>	53		

**R**

<b>Rambo, Stephanie</b>	9	<b>Relerford, Jimisha</b>	29
<b>Ramon, Donavan</b>	20, 29	<b>Ruby, Tiffany</b>	49

**S**

<b>Salgueiro, Maria</b>	14	<b>Smith, Shanna</b>	11
<b>Shannon, Sandra</b>	2, 15, 18	<b>Smith-Spears, RaShell</b>	37

<b>Shockley, Evie</b>	20	<b>Spencer, Rochelle</b>	42
<b>Smith, Roslyn Nicole</b>	12	<b>Stuckey, DeLinda Marzette</b>	7

T

<b>Teague, Charlotte C.</b>	52	<b>Traore, Ousseynou</b>	29
<b>Thompson, Tyechia</b>	17 & <i>Page 10</i>	<b>Tsuruta, Dorothy Randall</b>	31
<b>Tillis, Antonio</b>	12	<b>Tucker, Terrence</b>	1, 50

V

<b>Valdés, Vanessa K.</b>	34, 48	<b>Vrana, Laura</b>	27
<b>Varlack, Christopher Allen</b>	36, 55		

W

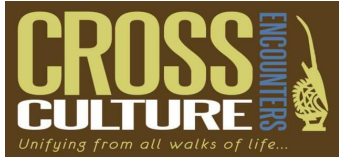
<b>Wade, Jasmine</b>	28	<b>Whiteside, Briana</b>	47
<b>Walker, Antiwan</b>	43	<b>Wilburn, Reginald A.</b>	15, 18, 44, & <i>Page 10</i>
<b>Wane, Hapsatou</b>	28	<b>Williams, Dana A.</b>	15, 18, 20, 35
<b>Ward Jr., Jerry</b>	33, 35	<b>Williams, Justin</b>	55
<b>Ward, Jervette R.</b>	1, 18, 23	<b>Womack, Ytasha L.</b>	39
<b>Washington, Sondra Bickham</b>	9	<b>Wynn, Monica Flippin</b>	11
<b>Watson-Miller, Ingrid</b>	30	<b>Wynter Parks, Iona</b>	6
<b>West, Elizabeth</b>	18		
<b>Wheeler, Eva Michelle</b>	46		

Y

<b>Young, Vershawn</b>	2		
------------------------	---	--	--

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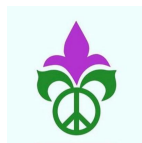
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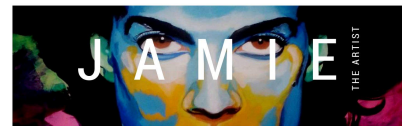


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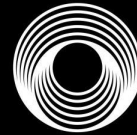
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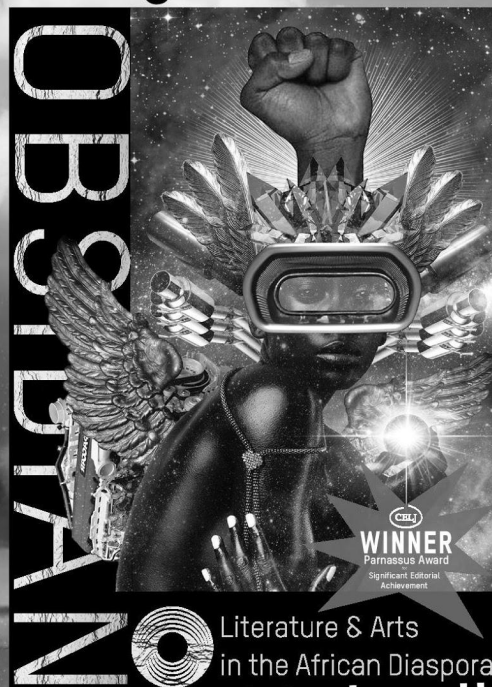
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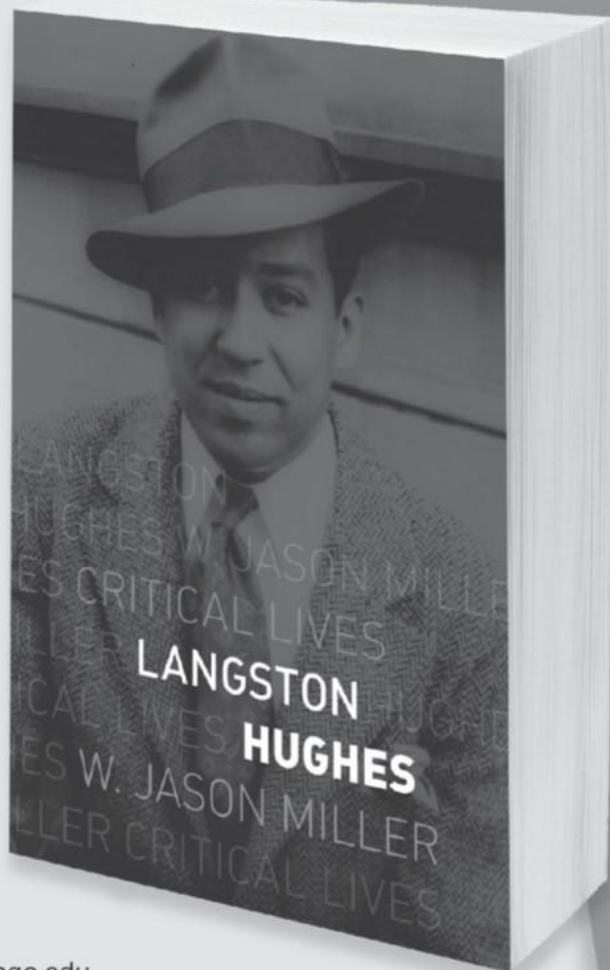
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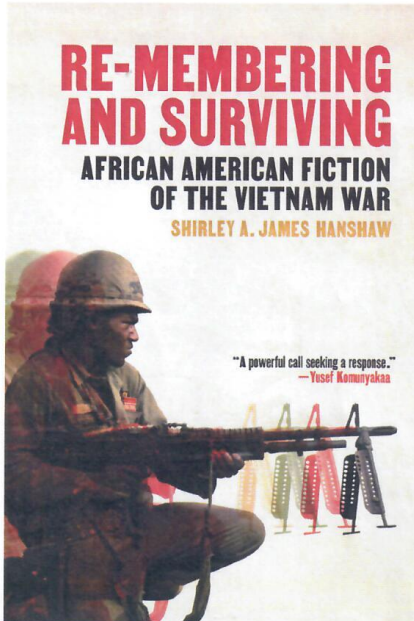
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