

# THE COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION



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

July 12, 2016

Dear College Language Association Members:

I am pleased to announce that April 5-8, 2017, the College Language Association will be celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and 77<sup>th</sup> Convention at the University of Missouri, Columbia. Moreover, the CLA Executive Committee is delighted to share with you the exciting summer mailing information, including, but not limited to, the Call for Papers, the Study Abroad Award announcement (with two due dates since last year), the Creative Writing Contest announcement, and the First-Time Attendee Fee Waivers announcement. The aforementioned serves as a reminder how relentless our commitment is to promoting continued excellence and opportunities for our students and colleagues.

While we are ready to celebrate our 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, the CLA Executive Committee feels deeply humbled to have climbed on the shoulders of our founding giants and further successive past presidents to continue strengthening and adapting our Association to the new era. Hitherto, we have grown in our commitment to internationalization and cross cultural connections in order to widen our global community membership and participants, through the translation of the Call for Papers into French and Spanish, which started a few years ago. This year, we are adding translation into German and Portuguese. And the following years will include more translations, as well. Furthermore, we are maximizing our outlets for communications through social media, which includes our current Facebook and Twitter pages. Both pages have been highly active, and we would like to thank each and every one of you who are actively engaged by sharing and receiving information regarding upcoming announcements provided by CLA and our growing members. We are also preparing for a future release of our new website, which will also host online payment fees (membership, registration, application, etc.). The new website is scheduled to launch this summer; stay tuned!

Please, note that, the new website ([www.clascholars.org](http://www.clascholars.org)) will continue to grant you the opportunity to apply to host a convention at your home institution, along with the responsibilities that such an application entails. Proposals are due no longer than September 15, 2016, and we expect to release the venue(s) of our next annual convention(s), beyond 2017, in the Winter through digitalized mail. To make sure that you will receive your Winter online-mail, please, send your (updated and/or preferred) email to Dr. Clément A. Akassi, CLA President, at [president@clascholars.org](mailto:president@clascholars.org), and to Dr. Elizabeth West, CLA Treasurer, at [ewest@gsu.edu](mailto:ewest@gsu.edu).

The two main keywords for our 2017 Annual Convention in Columbia, Missouri, are *Diversity* and *Interdisciplinary Studies*. Indeed, our upcoming themes will certainly invite us to question/critique, not to celebrate necessarily, such an epistemological/ideological, and academic unit constructs in the midst of racial/cultural/religious tensions and crisis of disciplines that are, more often now, in jeopardy because of their tendency to elevate a wall of "unbreakable" boundaries. To be part of this unique double CLA event, along with exciting presentations, discussions, intellectual exchanges and camaraderie, please remember to make your hotel reservations now, and pay for your membership and registration, in advance, for we are expecting a large turnout.

Please, feel free to share the Call for Abstracts with colleagues, students, and friends, and enjoy the rest of your summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. A. Akassi", with a horizontal line underneath.

Clément Animan Akassi, Ph.D.  
CLA President 2016-18  
Associate Professor  
Howard University

*Founded in 1937*