

Note from the *CLAJ* Editor
Dr. Sandra G. Shannon

I am pleased to update you on *College Language Association Journal* projects and activities and to apprise you of its current publishing schedule. For me as well as for many others, I am sure, the most exciting news flash at this juncture is *CLAJ*'s imminent conversion to the digital realm. Soon you will be able access any issue of the journal for reading or downloading by logging into a freshly designed CLA website. The journal's new login capability will, no doubt, increase its profile and render it far more accessible—both nationally and globally—than it has ever been! Web access to *CLAJ* will also allow you to probe the journal's archives for issues that contain early thoughts on the direction of African American literary studies. Digital access of *CLAJ*'s first 50 years for web posting and for posterity is made possible by a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities along with the hard work of a dynamic DH team consisting of co-principal investigators Drs. Maryemma Graham, Kenton Ramsby, and Dana Williams.

In the queue at this writing is *CLAJ* 59.3 (March 2016) the guest-edited special issue on Digital Humanities, which contains essays by some of the country's leading authorities in teaching and research methods in this field. In his strategic selection of DH topics discussed within these pages, Guest Editor Dr. Howard Ramsby sets an excellent precedent for digital research and prompts DH awareness among the CLA membership.

Next in *CLAJ*'s publication lineup is a double issue, the idea for which emanated from the CLA 2016 convention theme: Dialogues between Africa and the African Diaspora in Languages, Literatures, and Films. The first of the two issues (59.4), which will be Guest Edited by *CLAJ* Assistant Editor Dr Kendra Parker, is comprised of select essays from among multiple fascinating panel presentations. The second installment of this double issue (60.1) picks up the gauntlet placed by CLA's outgoing president Dr. Dana Williams in her final address to this body. Entitled "Decolonizing the University: A Battle for the African Mind," her resounding words challenged CLA members and reminded them of their role as "'heirs and 'custodians' and 'cultural workers,' . . . uniquely equipped and called to 'ensure that a populace drunk on the meaninglessness of words is better equipped to understand the power of rhetoric.'"

In addition to the above projects, *CLAJ*'s Editorial Board has received and approved proposals for two well-timed special issues, the first of which, *Democratizing the Black Public Intellectual: The Writings of Ta-Nehisi Coates* is to be Guest Edited by Dr. Michael Hill. Essays included will examine the work of this writer, activist and public intellectual and give special attention to his methods of blending new media tools like blogging and experimental nonfiction in black expressive traditions that stretch back through stylists like Toni Morrison, James Baldwin, Paule Marshall, Richard Wright, Ida B. Wells, and W.E.B. DuBois. The second approved publishing project, "Creolizing the Academic Space: Reflections," is a collection of essays inspired by the 74th CLA convention. According to Guest Editors Jenise Hudson and Janeen Price, this special issue "will build upon Barnor Hesse's concept of creolization and consider how we might hash out new ways, simultaneously, to integrate, subvert, reinvent – in

effect ‘creolize’ – the contemporary academic culture to create a safe space for black female intellectual expression.” They assert further that this issue “will document the important intellectual work on career and personal sustainability.”

While I am pleased about the multiple projects afoot, what remains at the top of my *CLAJ* wish list is a request for a marked increase in your submissions. *CLAJ* is indeed in the midst of a renaissance that happily ushers it into the 21st century; however, what remains a constant is the need for increased numbers of first-rate submissions from the CLA membership. Let the close of your summer hiatus from classroom and administrative duties inspire you to submit the fruits of your research and writing to editor@clascholars.org. From mid-August to late December 2016, I will begin the daily ritual of checking my Inbox in search of essay submissions that you have forwarded our way. I am confident that you will continue to support and contribute to the important work of your *College Language Association Journal*.