

THE COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION



www.clascholars.org

January 31, 2017

Dear College Language Association Members:

Estimadas/os miembros del¹ College Language Association:

Chères/chers membres du College Language Association,

Prezadas/os ,membros do College Language Association,

Liebe mitglieder von College Language Association,

Happy New Year, following both, the calendar and academic year! I wish you and your family a successful and joyful spring semester.

The Executive Committee of College Language Association and I are pleased to welcome you on April 5-8, 2017, in Columbia, Missouri, for its 2017 College Language Association (CLA) Annual Convention. This year, we will climb on the shoulders of CLA giants, including the founder, Hugh M. Gloster, and thirty-seven past presidents, to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of our illustrious organization. In this regard, please, consider to attend massively the Plenary Session II, Friday, April 7, 10:00 – 11:15 a.m., featuring past presidents, Dr. Mario Chandler (Chair), Dr. Herman Bostick, Dr. Thelma A. Thompson, Dr. James J. Davis, Dr. Dolan Hubbard, Dr. Yakini B. Kemp, Dr. Booker T. Anthony, Dr. Antonio Tillis, and Dr. Warren Carson (participants). Indeed, our aforementioned giants will enlighten us about the rich history of CLA as “A Legacy and A Paradigm Shift to Re-Envision Academia.”

For the 2017 CLA Annual Convention, we have continued the internationalization of the organization by translating our Call for Papers into French, German, Portuguese and Spanish, including German and Portuguese, as the new language features for this year’s convention. As a result, new participants from Africa, Caribbean, Latin America and Europe will join us. As you know, each and every one of you are instrumental in supporting our graduate students who are the future of CLA, both as scholars and leaders. Thus, please, consider to donate to the *First-Time Attendee Fee Waivers*, which includes up to two graduate students and two faculty awards. Great opportunities are indeed offered to our students and colleagues, which include—but not limited to—the possibility to publish in the *CLAJ*, the journal of the College Language Association. The Editor, Dr. Sandra Shannon, is always open to receive unsolicited submissions. For this year, she is announcing major decisions that will be in alignment with the *CLAJ* commitment to excellence (see attachment).

Please, note that since the new website (www.clascholars.org) has been launched this summer, new features have been added to improve the brand of CLA and attract new members. An announcement about how to navigate through the website; how to register for e-join; how to renew membership; and how to register (with a discount) will be sent shortly by the week of February 13, 2017. In addition, branding an organization as CLA in the 21st century must lie in part on a pivotal role of a Public Relations team. Please, take a look at the attachment for the announcement regarding the Public Relations position and consider applying and/or nominating someone.

Congratulations to the Program Committee, including Dr. Donna Akiba Harper, Vice President and Program Committee Chair; Dr. Jervette Ward, English Language Area Representative; and Dr. Matthew Pettway, Foreign Languages Area Representative. They coordinated what promises to be an outstanding program draft. Our profound

¹ English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, and German will be the most spoken languages during the convention.

gratitude goes also to all the University of Missouri host committee, led generously and efficiently by Dr. Mamadou Badiane, with the guidance and assistance of Dr. Flore Zéphir. Thanks to these esteemed colleagues, we will witness the keynote address of Jamaica Kincaid, our banquet speaker and engage in conversation with Donato Ndong, renown writer from Equatorial Guinea, the only sovereign African state in which Spanish is an official language. Donato Ndong and Guibaï Gatama, another prominent journalist and Human Rights defender from Cameroon, will be brought by the University of Missouri and will be part of a roundtable on writing in a context of terror.

We will not fail to mention that in addition to these activities sponsored by the University of Missouri, the Langston Hughes Society invites us to attend its annual luncheon, featuring David Mills, actor, poet and playwright, Thursday, April 7, 2017 at noon.

At the end of the convention you may answer a survey questions via email, because your comments and suggestions are important on building a continued successful CLA.

Finally, please, open and read closely the attached letters and note from the CLA President, the Vice President, Program Committee Chair, the Host Committee Chair, the CLAJ Editor, and other items related to the convention.

Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you in Columbia.

Sincerely,
Atentamente,
Bien cordialement,
Atenciosamente,
Hochachtungsvoll,



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

Founded in 1937