

THE COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION



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Updates from CLAJ Editor

In one of my first updates since becoming Editor, I likened the changes in store for the *College Language Association Journal (CLAJ)* to the metamorphosis that the butterfly undergoes as it transforms content, form and aesthetics. I am happy to report in this summer 2017 update that the journal's evolution continues to be on a similar trajectory. From issue 56.2—the first under my editorship—to the current issue 60.2, *CLAJ* continues to unfold. Like the butterfly that has just discovered its wings, *CLAJ* is poised to take flight. With this extended metaphor in mind, I offer the following list of updates:

CLAJ Announces Publication of Issue 60

CLAJ is proud to announce the recent publication of "Decolonizing the University: A Battle for the African Mind." Currently available at the CLA website, this special issue—Guest Edited by *CLAJ* Assistant Editor Dr. Kendra Parker—represents a collective embrace of Dr. Dana A. Williams's final address as President of the College Language Association at its Seventy-Sixth Annual Convention in April 2016. This engaging issue is available now at <https://www.clascholars.org/resources/cla-journal/>.

Forthcoming Issues of CLAJ

CLAJ 60.3, which follows on the heels of the special issue "Decolonizing the University," will comprise 5 powerfully argued and crisply written essays on topics certain to catch and keep the attention of readers. A succession of tactful and astute book reviews on recent monographs will round out this issue.

CLAJ subscribers will delight in the forthcoming special issue on Ta-Nehisi Coates (60.4). From all accounts, this collection of incisive essays is shaping up to be another much-in-demand *CLAJ* publication. Guest Editor, University of Iowa Professor, and long-time CLA member Michael Hill has gathered an impressive number of scholars to weigh in on this phenomenal cultural critic, journalist, comic book writer, and educator. As Hill describes in his initial proposal, this timely and important project "considers how Coates, the writer, blends 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" and "explores the extent to which he and his work signal that the task of articulating black cultural priorities has migrated from a predominantly professorial cohort to a more varied constituency." This special issue of *CLAJ* will complete volume 60 and have the distinction of being the last to be available in both digital and hard copy

formats.

***CLAJ* Announces Move to Reduce Print and Enhance Digital Publication**

Beginning with volume 61 (September 2018), *CLA* members will see a significant reduction in the number of printed copies of *CLAJ*. At this time, the frequency of the journal's publication will shift from four to two issues per calendar year: March and September. This change will be offset by the journal's increased availability and easy access at <https://www.clascholars.org/resources/cla-journal/>.

***CLAJ* Welcomes New Managing Editor**



Dr. Tara Green

The *CLAJ* Editorial Board is proud to announce the appointment of Dr. Tara T. Green as the journal's new Managing Editor. Dr. Green is Professor of African American and African Diaspora Studies at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro where she teaches literature, theory, and gender studies courses. She is the author and editor of three books. Inspired by her upbringing in the New Orleans area, she is completing two book manuscripts—one on New Orleans writer and activist Alice Dunbar-Nelson and another on the Middle Passage. She has degrees in English from Louisiana State University (M.A., Ph. D) and Dillard University (BA) and has taught at universities in Louisiana and Arizona. *CLAJ* expresses sincere thanks and praise to outgoing Managing Editor, Dr. Warren J. Carson, for his dedicated service in this role since 2014.

CLAJ Welcomes New Book Review Editor



Dr. Tosha Sampson-Choma

The College Language Association Journal welcomes Dr. Tosha Sampson-Choma as its new Book Review Editor! Dr. Sampson-Choma is Assistant Professor of English at Kansas State University where she teaches African American literature, Black Women Writers, Black American Social Movements and African American Women and Identity Formation. She has published in *CLAJ* and in *Toni Morrison on Mothers and Motherhood* (December 2017). She is currently writing on 21st century immigrant novels. Prior to full-time teaching, she served as the Editorial Assistant for the *Great Plains Research Journal* at the University of Nebraska where she became familiar with the daily nuances of scholarly journal production and the urgency of deadlines. In this capacity, she was also introduced to effective, consistent communication and the relevance of strong collegial relationships with the many scholars and staff members whose contributions make possible a strong and reputable journal. *CLAJ* appreciates the dedicated service and excellent work of outgoing Book Review Editor, Dr. Kameelah Martin.

CLAJ Announces Early Call for Papers Presented at 2018 CLA Conference: “Native Sons/Daughters and Immigrants in the Black Metropolis”

EXTRA! EXTRA! *CLAJ* announces a preemptive Call for Papers from the many excellent panels certain to be presented at the April 2018 CLA convention in Chicago. Essays received by the **June 30, 2018 deadline** will be placed on a fast track for review and—pending acceptance and attention to any requests for revisions—will be published in the next issue of *CLAJ*. Eligibility is extended to any author 1) whose paper title appears in the April 4-7, 2018 conference program, 2) who makes necessary enhancements to convert the conference paper into a scholarly publication, 3) who submits the essay on or before June 30, 2018, and 4) who is a CLA member in good standing. Essays submitted for consideration must adhere to “Formatting Requirements for Essays Submitted for Publication in *CLAJ*,” which are printed in the journal’s front matter and posted online at <https://www.clascholars.org/resources/cla-journal/>.

CLAJ to Launch Annual Best Essay/Volume Award at 2018 CLA Awards Banquet

Following in the tradition of the annual CLA Book Award, *CLAJ*’s Editorial Board voted during its 2017 meeting in Missouri to inaugurate the Annual Best Essay/Volume Award at CLA’s 2018 conference. Works by individual authors or Guest Editors of special issues, beginning with volume 60, will be eligible for consideration. This award will be named in honor of one of

CLAJ's many influential pioneers. A subcommittee is at work hashing out further details of this prestigious award to be revealed in a future mailing. Will the winning essay or special collection be yours?

CLAJ Welcomes Year-round Submissions!

Best wishes for a very productive academic year!

Sandra G. Shannon, *CLAJ* Editor

Founded in 1937