

Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	1
Wednesday, April 23.....	2
Wednesday, April 23, 2025, 12pm - 4:00pm.....	2
Wednesday, April 23, 2025, 2pm - 4:00pm.....	2
Wednesday, April 23, 2025, 3pm - 4pm.....	2
Wednesday, April 23, 2025, 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm.....	3
Wednesday, April 23, 2025, 5:30pm-7pm.....	3
Wednesday, April 23, 2025, 7:30pm-9:30pm.....	3
Thursday, April 24.....	3
Thursday, April 24, 8am - 5pm: Convention Badge Pick-Up.....	3
Thursday, April 24, 8am-8:30am.....	3
Thursday, April 24, 8:30am-9:50am.....	4
Thursday, April 24, 10am-5pm: Publications, Vendors, Exhibits.....	4
Thursday, April 24, 10am-11:15am - Concurrent Sessions I.....	4
Thursday, April 24, 11:30am-12:30pm.....	7
Thursday, April 24, 12:30-1:00 pm: Tea & Tribute.....	7
Thursday, April 24, 12:30-1:45 pm.....	7
Thursday, April 24, 2pm-3:15pm - Concurrent Sessions II.....	7
Thursday, April 24, 3:30-4:30pm.....	10
Thursday, April 24, 4:45pm-5:30pm: CLA Authors Meet & Greet.....	10
Thursday, April 24, 5:45pm-6:30pm - Presidential Address.....	10
Thursday, April 24, 6:30pm-8:00pm - Welcome Reception.....	10
Thursday, April 24, 8:15pm-9:50pm.....	10
Thursday, April 24, 9:30pm-11pm.....	10
Friday, April 25.....	10
Friday, April 25, 8am-5pm: Convention Badge Pick-Up.....	11
Friday, April 25, 8:30am-9:45am - Concurrent Sessions III.....	11
Friday, April 25, 10am-5pm: Publications, Vendors, Exhibits.....	13
Friday, April 25, 10am- 11:15am - Concurrent Sessions IV.....	13
Friday, April 25, 11:30am-1pm: CLA Business Meeting.....	15
Friday, April 25, 1pm-2:15pm.....	15

Friday, April 25, 2:30pm-3:45pm - Concurrent Sessions V.....	15
Friday, April 25, 4pm-5:15pm - Concurrent Sessions VI.....	17
Friday, April 25, 5:30pm-6:15pm - Career Headshot Photo Session.....	19
Friday, April 25, 6:30pm-7:30pm.....	19
Friday, April 25, 7:30pm-9:30pm - Convention Banquet & Awards.....	19
Friday, April 25, 9:30pm-12am.....	20
Saturday, April 26.....	21
Saturday, April 26, 8am-12pm - Convention Badge Pick-Up.....	21
Saturday, April 26, 10am-12pm - Publications, Vendors, Exhibits.....	21
Saturday, April 26, 9am-10:15am - Concurrent Sessions VII.....	21
Saturday, April 26, 10:30am-11:45am - Concurrent Sessions VIII.....	22
Saturday, April 26, 12pm-1:15pm - Concurrent Sessions IX.....	23
Saturday, April 26, 2025, 2-4 PM.....	24
Saturday, April 26, 2025, 4:30-7:30 PM.....	25
Participant Index.....	26

Wednesday, April 23

Wednesday, April 23, 2025, 12pm - 4:00pm

HathiTrust Research Center Digital Humanities Pre-Convention Workshop

Wednesday, April 23, 2025, 2pm - 4:00pm

Pre-Convention Meeting of the Executive Committee, Boardroom

- 2:00 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting [Program Committee/Host Committee]--Boardroom
- 2:30 p.m. Walkthrough of Convention Site (Executive Committee, Host Committee, Program Committee, Volunteers) [Program Committee/Host Committee]
- 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Pre-Convention Meeting of the Executive and Host Committees [Program Committee]--Boardroom

Wednesday, April 23, 2025, 3pm - 4pm

Early Arrival Badge Pick-up; Welcome Table, Hilton Vancouver Washington

Wednesday, April 23, 2025, 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

87th Founder's Day Reception: An Evening with the Stars

Set against the backdrop of this year's conference theme—"Redefining Expansion and Exploration: Black Diasporic Literatures, Cultures, and Pedagogies"—this reception honors our pioneering founders who shaped the College Language Association and YOU—the visionaries who continue to redefine the boundaries of literature, culture, and pedagogy. Join your CLA family for hors d'oeuvres and beverages.

This is a ticketed event.

Wednesday, April 23, 2025, 5:30pm-7pm

Executive Committee & Past Presidents Dinner

Wednesday, April 23, 2025, 7:30pm-9:30pm

Film Screening: The Magic of LOC: Lemoyne-Owen College at 160

Discussants:

- McKinley E. Melton (CLA Membership Engagement)
- Shauna M. Morgan (CLAJ Editor)

Thursday, April 24

Thursday, April 24, 8am - 5pm: Convention Badge Pick-Up

Thursday, April 24, 8am-8:30am

Welcome Back Coffee for All Members Honoring New Members & First Time Attendees
Heritage Foyer

Thursday, April 24, 8:30am-9:50am

“Visioning the Arc of One’s Career”

Opening Plenary

Feat. Membership Engagement in partnership Washington State University Vancouver
Heritage AB

Thursday, April 24, 10am-5pm: Publications, Vendors, Exhibits

Thursday, April 24, 10am-11:15am - Concurrent Sessions I

1.1. The Invisibilization of Black Children: Workshop

Chair: Neal A. Lester, Arizona State University

The adultification and erasure of Black children in literature and popular culture center Black children at the nexus of US adult race politics. Using children's picture books, games, toys, new stories, curriculum violence, and other material and popular culture, participants in this interactive workshop will explore how the invisibilization of Black children mirrors the invisibility of Black adults and Black communities, fundamentally connecting the current national anti-DEI efforts with inhumanity and injustice.

1.2 Mapping and Categorizing the Lynching of Black Women: Step One in a Digital Humanities Project (Roundtable)

Special Session: BBIP: The Black Book Interactive Project

Chair: Griselda Thomas, Kennesaw State University

- Griselda Thomas, Kennesaw State University
- Sheila Smith McKoy, Smith McKoy & Associates, CEO
- Victoria Bell, Kennesaw State University
- Cherish Collins, Kennesaw State University

1.3 The Expanded Resourceful Self: Love, Community, and Power (Special Session of The Octavia E. Butler Literary Society)

Special Session: The Octavia E. Butler Literary Society (Allied Organization)

Chair: Phyllis Lynne Burns, Otterbein University

- “‘What Kind of Woman Are You?’: Black Womanhood in Nnedi Okorafor’s *Noor*,” **Shelby Crosby**, University of Memphis
- “It Takes an Academic Village: Teaching Students How to Negotiate Power and Find Support,” **Ebony Gibson**, Georgia Gwinnett College
- “New Paradigms for a New Self: How A Different Model of Community Offers a Safe Haven for Self-Actualization,” **R. Nicole Smith**, University of Memphis

1.4 Teaching Affrilachia: Cultivating Community and Culture (Roundtable)

Chair: Zanice Bond, Tuskegee University

- “Teaching Affrilachian Literature as Antiracist Pedagogy,” **Kristine Yohe**, Northern Kentucky University
- “Ashley M. Jones, An Affrilachian in Alabama,” **Zanice Bond**, Tuskegee University
- “Pivot to the Stage! A Director’s Pedagogy for Stage Adaptations of Crystal Wilkinson’s *Blackberries*, *Blackberries*,” **Yunina Barbour-Payne**, University of Virginia
- “Teaching the Now: How to Teach the Affrilachian Poets in Our Contemporary Political Environment,” **Monic Ductan**, Tennessee Technological University
- “Affrilachian Grandfathers: Leadership Lessons,” **Michelle S. Hite**, Spelman College

1.5 “This Ain’t Your Typical Pedagogy”: African American Literature, from the Early Modern Period to Digital Spaces

Chair: Reginald Wilburne, Texas Christian University

- “Re-Thinking the Origins of Early African American Literature: A Pedagogical Approach,” **Cassander Smith**, University of Alabama

- “Studying Abroad with Paul Laurence Dunbar’s in John Milton’s England: An Exploratory High-Impact Practice,” **Reginald A. Wilburn**, Texas Christian University
- “Hashtag Books: Community-Building and Trend Shaping Through Digital Reading Spaces,” **Angel C. Dye**, Rutgers University
- “Borrowing One’s Way to New Spaces: Kindle Unlimited and Its Critical Introductions,” **Shayla Atkins**, Montgomery College

1.6 “The South Got Something to Say”: Examining Healing Through Storytelling in the Works of Jesmyn Ward (Roundtable)

Special Session of the Jesmyn Ward Society

Chair: Sheronda Gipson-Marion, Rust College

- “And a Child Shall Lead Them: How the Youth Brought Hope and Healing in *Sing Unburied Sing*,” **Sheronda Gipson-Marion**, Rust College
- “Haunting Echoes: Unveiling the Horror in Jesmyn Ward’s *Sing, Unburied, Sing*,” **Daniyel Johnson**, University of Memphis
- “Skeetah’s Girl, Skeetah’s B*tch: Assessing the Complexities of Intimacy and Violence in Jesmyn Ward’s *Salvage the Bones*,” **Madison “Mocha” Hunter**, University of Memphis

1.7 Through Worldly Lens: Depictions of Afro-Descendant Identities in Portugal, Russia, and Latin America.

Chair: Cecily Bernard

- “Black Diaspora in Portugal: A Raciolinguistic Exploration of Black Identities, Experiences, and Positionalities in Lisbon,” **Eva Michelle Wheeler**, Providence College
- “The Golden Legacies of Alexander Pushkin in Black Americana” **Glen Layne-Worthey**, HathiTrust Research Center, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- “The Latin American and Caribbean World,” **Cecily Bernard**, University of Tennessee

Thursday, April 24, 11:30am-12:30pm

Heritage EF

World Languages Lecture

“Decolonizing Politics and Epistemologies through Muntú and Afro-Decolonial Theory/ies:

Africa, Latin America, Europe, U.S.”

Speaker: Dr. Clément A. Akassi

Professor and Director of Graduate Studies

Department of World Languages and Cultures

Howard University

Thursday, April 24, 12:30-1:00 pm: Tea & Tribute

Restoring Our Mothers’ Gardens: Tea & Tribute

In memoriam of dr. doris davenport and Nikki Giovanni

Join us after the World Languages Lecture for a Tea & Tribute to dr. doris davenport, Nikki Giovanni, and others we'd like to hold in memoriam. Tea will be provided. Lunch is on your own

Thursday, April 24, 12:30-1:45 pm

Lunch on Your Own

Thursday, April 24, 2pm-3:15pm - Concurrent Sessions II

2.1 Grants and Funding: Proposal Writing for National Endowment for the Humanities and Beyond

Presenter: Beauty Bragg, Senior Program Officer

This workshop will focus on strategies for articulating your research project’s significance and contribution to the field. We will engage examples of narratives from funded applications, identifying successful approaches to specifying the audience(s) for your work, positioning the work in the disciplinary landscape, and describing the scholarly stakes. In order to develop a statement of research significance during the workshop, participants

should bring a written abstract of 100-150 words that they are willing to share in small groups and which will serve as the basis for developing a full draft of a statement of research significance.

2.2 Octavia E. Butler in Expanding Conversations: Ecology, Indigeneity, and Black Liberation

Chair: Mario A. Chandler, Oglethorpe University

- “The Ontology of the Ship: Celestial Ecologies in Tade Thompson's *Rosewater* and Octavia E. Butler's *Dawn*,” **Stefanie Dunning**, University of Rochester
- “Ideas of Black Indigeneity in Octavia E. Butler's Parable Series,” **Alexis Harper**, Howard University
- “Black Literature, Black Liberation Movements, and the Rhetorical Limits of Empathy,” **Sarah Rude Walker**, Spelman College

2.3 Imagining Possibilities in Literature and Film: From Booker T. Washington to *Femme* (2022)

Chair: Wallis C. Baxter III, University of the District Columbia Community College

- “Into a Pretty Tight Place”: Booker T. Washington's Transvesting as Queen Esther in the Atlanta Exposition Address,” **Charles Nero**, Bates College
- “*Femme*: Reimagining the Political and Cultural Possibilities of Black Masculinity,” **Justin Williamson**, Texas A&M University
- “My Dungeon Keeps Shaking: Reimagining Identity through Black Literature,” **Wallis C. Baxter III**, University of the District Columbia Community College
- “Discussing Complex Topics through Literature: Reading *A Lesson Before Dying*,” **Durthy A. Washington**, Independent Scholar

2.4 What is Contemporary African American Literature?

Chair: Donavan L. Ramon, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

- “Hip Hop and Contemporary African American Literature,” **Donavan L. Ramon**, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

- “Rap is Contemporary Black Literature or Literature is Anti-Black,” **Nicole Lowman**, University at Buffalo
- “What is Contemporary African American Literature?: Choice and Colson Whitehead's Harlem Trilogy,” **Tristan Striker**, Linn-Benton Community College
- “A Truly Different World: Historically Black Colleges in Twenty-First Century Literature and Culture,” **Magana Kabugi**, Fisk University

2.5 Weathering the Storm: Black Identity, Folklore, and Resilience in the Gulf South

Chair: Constance Bailey, Georgia State University

- “I Feel It In My Bones: Weatherlore in African American Folklore and Fiction,” **Constance Bailey**, Georgia State University
- “Weather Ritual and Regional Identity in Sherri L. Smith’s Orleans,” **Shelley Ingram**, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- “Mothering the Storm: Black Girlhood and Communal Care in Literature of Katrina,” **Jennifer C. Morrison**, Xavier University of Louisiana

2.6 Urban Struggles and Embodied Futures: Exploring Displacement, Decolonization, and Biopolitics in Contemporary Narratives

Chair: Greg Marcus, Mississippi State University

- “Paternalistic, Affective, and Asymmetrical Discourse of Childcare in “Grace in the City,” **Gul Hos**
- “The Rose-thorned City: A Reading of Portland’s Black History as Colonial Displacement in Rene Watson’s *Skin and Bones* and *Piecing Me Together*,” **Emily Duru**, Howard University
- “Decolonization as an Afrofuturist Neurodivergent Aesthetic in Rivers Solomon’s *An Unkindness of Ghosts*,” **Emily Aguilar**, California State University, Los Angeles
- “Biopolitics is J.M. Coetzee's Disgrace: The Politics of the Body in Modernity,” **Greg Marcus**, Mississippi State University

Thursday, April 24, 3:30-4:30pm

CLA Annual Standing Committee Meetings

Thursday, April 24, 4:45pm-5:30pm: CLA Authors Meet & Greet

CLA Authors Meet & Greet

Thursday, April 24, 5:45pm-6:30pm - Presidential Address

Dr. Jervette R. Ward, College Language Association President

Thursday, April 24, 6:30pm-8:00pm - Welcome Reception

Hosted by Washington State University Vancouver

Thursday, April 24, 8:15pm-9:50pm

Film Screening: BAM! Chicago's Black Arts Movement

Discussants:

- Thabiti Lewis, Washington State University Vancouver
- Pavritha Narayanan, Washington State University Vancouver

Thursday, April 24, 9:30pm-11pm

CLA Undergraduate and Graduate Student Social

Friday, April 25

Friday, April 25, 8am-5pm: Convention Badge Pick-Up

Friday, April 25, 8:30am-9:45am - Concurrent Sessions III

3.1 CLA 101

Are you curious about The College Language Association (CLA)? Join us for an informative session designed to answer key questions about the organization. Whether you're a first-time attendee or a long-time member, this session will provide valuable insights into the inner workings of the CLA.

3.2 Narratives of Resistance in Works From The Black Diaspora

Chair: Dawn Duke, University of Tennessee

- *"Escre(vivência): I Write Therefore I Am. I Am What I Write," Dawn Duke, University of Tennessee*
- *"¡Manteca!: Listening to the Voices of the Twenty-First Century Afro-Latina Poets," Ingrid Watson-Miller, Norfolk State University*
- *"Gorée Island in the Work of Nafissatou Dia Diouf," Jay Lutz, Oglethorpe University*
- *"Playing the Demons of Modernity: The Power of Poetic Openings and Shared Imagination in Haitian Drama," Iona Wynter Parks, Oglethorpe University*

3.3 Pedagogies for Writing Classrooms

Chair: Asha Salim, Temple University

- *"Unveiling the White Gaze: A Case Study on Decolonizing Techno Racism in The Writing Class During the AI Era," Monique L. Akassi, Howard University*
- *"The Expansion of Writing Pedagogies: Black Literacy Practices Working in the Composition Classroom," Brittney Boykins, Florida A&M University*
- *"Learning from Black Teachers: Implementing Critical Engagement Strategies in Writing Classrooms," Jessica Edwards, University of Delaware*

3.4 Cosmic Poetics, Tradition, and Historical Memory: Exploring Black Diasporic Voices in Nature and History

Chair: Thom C. Addington, Loyola University New Orleans

- “The Life of the Spirit in Poetry: On Jay Wright's Aubade,” **Roshad Demetrie Meeks**, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- “Reading James Baldwin "In the Tradition" of Black Poetics in the Americas,” **Thom C. Addington**, Loyola University New Orleans
- “Claiming Personhood through Resistance: Frank X Walker’s Margaret Garner Poems in Load in Nine Times (2024),” **Kristine Yohe**, Northern Kentucky University
- “A Conversation with Cristina Cabral and Párajos: Afro-Uruguayan Poet, Activist and Critic,” **Emmanuel Harris II**, University of North Carolina Wilmington

3.5 Black Arts Thoughts Broadly Speaking (Host Sponsored Panel)

Chair: Dr. Thabiti Lewis, Washington State University Vancouver

- “Black Arts Chicago and the legacy of building institutions, theory and a movement in visual Arts, literature, and Drama for the People,” **Thabiti Lewis**, Washington State University Vancouver
- “Prince and the Black Arts Movement: When Doves Fly,” **Scot Brown**, UCLA
- “Brothers and Sisters from Another Planet: Afrofuturism in Black Literature & Arts,” **DuEwa M. Frazier**, Coppin State University
- “The Black Arts Movement from There to Now: The Magic of Ju Ju,” **Kalamu Ya Salam**, Independent Scholar, Community Activist, Author

3.6 Black Language, Leadership, and Literature: (Re)Shaping Educational Spaces for Future Generations

Chair: Tara T. Green, University of Houston

- “I'm teaching everybody Black: Challenging Pedagogical Status Quos in University Classrooms,” **Tajanae L. Barnes**, University of Central Oklahoma

- “The Language and Literacy of Black Leadership in the Academy,” **Anne Charity-Hudley**, Stanford University
- “Liberal Arts, Career Readiness, Humanities,” **Jason Hendrickson**, CUNY-LaGuardia Community College

Friday, April 25, 10am-5pm: Publications, Vendors, Exhibits

Friday, April 25, 10am- 11:15am - Concurrent Sessions IV

4.1 CLAJ Publishing 101 Workshop

4.2 Literary Histories, Interwoven Legacies: Literary, Legal, and Editorial Voices in African American and Diasporic Histories

Chair: Donna Akiba Sullivan Harper, Spelman College

- “‘Knitted’ Literary Legacies: The Interwoven Stories of Nineteenth-Century United States and Canada,” **Kim Green**, Georgia Gwinnett College
- “Melodrama in the Black Press: African American Legal Agency in Breach of Promise Discourses, 1895-1984,” **Christel N. Temple**, University of Pittsburgh/Editor-in-Chief Journal of Black Studies
- “Langston Hughes as Editor of Diasporic Literature,” **Donna Akiba Sullivan Harper**, Spelman College, Emerita

4.3 Beyond Borders: Black Motherhood, Creolization, and Sacred Science in Contemporary Speculative Literature

Chair: R. Nicole Smith, University of Memphis

- “Graphic Novels and Gothic Realities: Race, Gender and Representation in Victor LaValle’s *Destroyer*,” **Anna Flood**, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- “Whiteness and its Afterlives in Lawrence Scott’s *Witchbroom*,” **Joshua Lawson**, Howard University

- “Intersections of Spirit and Science in Nnedi Okorafor's *Binti* novella and *Shuri* comic,” **Helene Androne**, Miami University Ohio

4.4 Archiving While Black: Teaching, Curating, and Collaborating

Chair: Danille K. Taylor, Clark Atlanta University

- “Building Networks and Collaborations for the Recovery, Study, and Teaching of Early Black Literature in the Archives,” **Mollie Godfrey**, James Madison University
- “Remember, Rebel, Reimagine: Demond Melancon, Visual Storytelling, and the Curation of a New Art Gallery,” **Kenneth Johnson**, College of Charleston
- “Top African American Writers in *African American Review*: A Data Analysis,” **Emily Duru**, Howard University

4.5 Labors of Love and Resistance: Exhaustion, Intimacy, and Care

Chair: Robert Tate Morrison, University of North Texas

- “Enduring ‘Battle Fatigue’: Explorations of Black Women’s Exhaustion in Civil Rights Movement Literature,” **Bria Paige**, Rutgers University
- “Why I Still Love You Like I Do: Black Women’s Intimacy Practices As Strategies For Survival,” **Darlene Scott**, Virginia State University

4.6 Unsettling Boundaries: Disability, Music, and Queer Black Spaces in Toni Morrison’s Works

Chair: Madison “Mocha” Hunter, University of Memphis

- “Neither Victims Nor Saints: Unsettling Binary Conceptions of Disability in the Work of Toni Morrison,” **Sarita Cannon**, San Francisco State University
- “Music-City Novels: Cyprian Ekwensi’s *People of the City* and Toni Morrison’s *Jazz*,” **Christopher N. Okonkwo**, Florida State University
- “Queer Black Spaces: Homoeroticism and Same-Sex Love in Selected Works by Toni Morrison,” **DeLinda Marzette**, Prairie View A&M University

Friday, April 25, 11:30am-1pm: CLA Business Meeting

Friday, April 25, 1pm-2:15pm

Lunch on your own

Friday, April 25, 2:30pm-3:45pm - Concurrent Sessions V

5.1 Making Life Work: Negotiating Teaching, Research, Writing, and Service (English Education Committee –Workshop)

Special Session: English Education Committee

Chair: Aaron Oforlea, Washington State University

- “Making Life Work: Balancing the Journey to Full,” **Helane Androne**, Miami University Ohio
- “Negotiating Teaching & Research,” **Constance Bailey**, Georgia State University
- **Aaron Oforlea**, Washington State University

5.2 When and Where She Enters: Black Feminist Approaches to African Diasporic Women’s Literature

Chair: Antiwan Walker, Georgia Gwinnett College

- “Re-membering the Black Body: Ecofeminist Restoration in the work of N.K. Jemisin and Grace Nichols,” **Victoria Moten**, Howard University
- “‘You Are Black, Baby’: A Black Feminist Reading of African Diasporic Women in *The Heart of a Woman* and *Americanah*,” **Latrice Johnson**, University of Mississippi
- “Enter As You Are: Intersectional Narratives of Black Women’s Activism Against Injustice and Racial Violence,” **Tanya Clark**, Morehouse College

5.3 Rage, Resistance, and (Re)defining Black Identities Across the Diaspora

Chair: **Stephanie Fullerton-Cooper**, University College of the Cayman Islands

- “Rage and Resistance in Zakes Mda’s *Ways of Dying*,” **Portia Owusu**, Texas A&M University
- “Ralph Ellison’s *Invisible Man*: A Lens to Understand 21st Century Racial Politics,” **Jason Hendrickson**, CUNY-LaGuardia Community College
- “‘It is not our Differences that Divide Us’: Redefining Blackness in the Cayman Context,” **Stephanie Fullerton-Cooper**, University College of the Cayman Islands
- “The Queen Bee: Black Girls, Predation, and Symbolic Liberation,” **Anna L. Hinton**, University of North Texas

5.4 Toni Morrison in Conversation with Jesmyn Ward, Gayl Jones, and Norman Lewis

Chair: Donovan L. Ramon, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

- “Dissenting from Disruption: The Neo Slave Narrative and Re-Claiming Black Cultural Inheritance,” **Catherine Saunders**, Bates College
- “Generational Ties That Bind: Dramatizing Conflict and Cooperation in Toni Morrison’s *Sula* and Gayl Jones’s *Corregidora*,” **Jade Harrison**, University of Kansas
- “Toni Morrison and Norman Lewis: *The Bluest Eye*’s response to Abstract Impressionism,” **Keiko Miyamoto**, Seinan Gakuin University, Japan

5.5 Innovative Pedagogies and Pathways for Black Diasporic Literatures

Chair: DuEwa Frazier, Coppin State University

- “‘Go for Broke’: Podcasting as a Pedagogical Tool for Exploring African American Literature,” **Julia Tigner**, Jacksonville State University
- “Teaching ‘S.E.W. Dope’ Black Diaspora Courses Through Social Action & Experiential Learning,” **Crystal Harris**, University of Central Arkansas
- “The Centrality of the Black Diaspora in the 21st Century,” **Beverly Johnson**, Central Connecticut State University

5.6 Black Playwrights: August Wilson and Alice Childress

Chair: Shayla M. Atkins, Montgomery College

- “Teaching August Wilson's Play Cycle: The G.O.A.T. Exercise and Other Pedagogical Approaches,” **Renee Schatteman**, Georgia State University
- Tommy Marie's Response to Middle-Class Idiocy in Alice Childress' *Wine in the Wilderness*, **Elizabeth Brown-Guillory**, Texas Southern University

5.7 Film Screening and Discussion: *Healing Roots*

- Discussant: Kameelah L. Martin, College of Charleston

Friday, April 25, 4pm-5:15pm - Concurrent Sessions VI

6.1 In the Life and In the Spirit: Double Consciousness, Conjuring, and Spiritualities

Chair: Wallis C. Baxter III, University of the District Columbia Community College

- “Lyrical Double Consciousness: A Survival Strategy for the Twenty-first Century,” **Nicole Lowman**, University at Buffalo
- “Transatlantic Black Missions: Two Letters and Two Sermons by Florence Randolph,” **Eduzzi David Sallah**, Texas A&M University
- “Conjuring Candomble in *Paradise*: Exploring Toni Morrison's Afro-Brazilian Spirituality,” **Ashley Burge**, Augustana College—Illinois

6.2 The Black Writing Tradition and Fugitive Memory

Chair: David F. Green, Jr, Howard University

- “Reimagining Fugitive Memory in Black Post-Black Writing for an AI Literate Readership,” **David F. Green, Jr**, Howard University
- “The Philosophical and Psychological Implications of Fugitivity in Baldwin's *Nothing Personal*,” **Joseph Burton**, Howard University
- “Observing Language Deficits in Political Discourse,” **Milford Jeremiah**, Morgan State University

6.3 Pedagogical Journeys of an HBCU Educator

Chair: Preselfannie W. McDaniels, Jackson State University

- *Ways of Seeing: Pedagogies, Papers, and Portfolios*, **Preselfannie W. McDaniels**, Jackson State University
- *Ecowomanist Pedagogies: A Journey into Nature-Oriented Methodologies*, **Christopher Peace**, Carnegie Mellon University
- “Utilizing Literature: A More Humanistic Understanding And Critical Examination of History,” **Joy Lewis**, Morgan State University

6.4 Eden, Paradise, and Divine Secrets: Alice Walker and Blink Twice (2024)

Chair: Tamalyn L. Peterson, Stillman College

- “Lilith’s Brew, Eve’s Elixir of Eden: Reassessing Emblems of Power and Knowledge in *Blink Twice*,” **Madison 'Mocha' Hunter**, University of Memphis
- “Divine Secrets of the Purple Sisterhood: How Friendship Begets Faith in Blitz Bazawule’s Adaptation of Alice Walker’s *The Color Purple*,” **Rondrea Danielle Mathis**, Albany State University
- “Regaining Paradise: Alice Walker, Wild Trees, and Legacy,” **Cheryl R. Hopson**, Roanoke College

6.5 Black Geographies, Black Spaces: Blackness, Community, and Aestheticism

Chair: Antiwan Walker, Georgia Gwinnett College

- “‘Don’t We All?’ Racial Geographies and a Critique of Bourgeois Universalism in Colson Whitehead’s *Sag Harbor*,” **Maria Lauret**, University of Sussex
- “Her Silent Announcement: Black Women Creating New Geographies,” **Christel Woods**, Washington State University
- “A Politics of Renewal, the Power of Insulated Black Community, & Black Aestheticism Beneath the Mason-Dixon Line,” **Leah Barlow**, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University

6.6 Speculating Memory: Black Life Writing from the Archive to the Classroom

Chair: Paulette Wright-Hall, University College of the Cayman Islands

- “Speculating Ancestral Memory in Black Women’s Memoirs and the Halsey Family Archive,” **Jessica Halsey**, Virginia Tech
- “James A. Emanuel Project,” **Tyechia Thompson**, Virginia Tech

6.7 Cultural Intersections, Shared Demands: Literature, Music, and Justice in Spain, Equatorial Guinea, and the USA

Chair: Wendy McBurney, Independent Scholar

- “The Silent Beat”: The Intersection of Bob Kaufman and Federico García Lorca,” **Luis González-Barrios**, Spelman College
- “Fruits of the Sterile Seed: Questioning the Past in «¿Qué mató al joven Abdoulaye Cissé?» By Donato Ndongu,” **Nicole Price**, Northern Arizona University
- “Crossing Borders Between Spain and Equatorial Guinea: The Possibility of Reconciliation Between the Ex-Colonizer and the Colonized in the *Novel El Diario* de Marc by Edjanga Jones Ndjoli,” **Wendy McBurney**, Independent scholar

Friday, April 25, 5:30pm-6:15pm - Career Headshot Photo Session

Friday, April 25, 6:30pm-7:30pm

Pre-Banquet Cash Bar
Book Signing
with Camille T. Dungy, Banquet Speaker

Friday, April 25, 7:30pm-9:30pm - Convention Banquet & Awards

Camille T. Dungy, Keynote Speaker

Friday, April 25, 9:30pm-12am

President's Reception, Heritage/Oak

DRAFT

Saturday, April 26

Saturday, April 26, 8am-12pm - Convention Badge Pick-Up

Saturday, April 26, 10am-12pm - Publications, Vendors, Exhibits

Saturday, April 26, 9am-10:15am - Concurrent Sessions VII

7.1 Resume, CV, and Cover Letter Workshop

Chair: Elizabeth J. West, Georgia State University

7.2 From Haiti to the Horn of Africa: Black Women Writers across Genres

Chair: Casarae Abdul-Ghani, Temple University

- “Moving in Silence: An Examination of Haitian YA narratives of Embodied Knowledges and Vodou,” **Alessandra Jacobo**, Penn State
- “Umi Says: Africana Mothering and Transnational Black Women Writers,” **Ebony O. Lumumba**, Jackson State University
- “Dissecting Black Southern Womanhood: The Paradox of Southern Italy in Relation to the American South and the Horn of Africa,” **Asha Salim**, Temple University

7.3 Rethinking Genres, Rethinking Canon: The Politics of Canonization

Chair: Danille K. Taylor, Clark Atlanta University

- “Beyond Boundaries: The Question of Genre in Black Sports Literature,” **Mikael Awake**, Lafayette College

- “Counter Histories and the Labeling of Genres: A Vital Exploration,” **Summer Tate**, Howard University

7.4 Innovations, Global Influences, and Initiatives in African Diasporic Art and Literature

Chair: Jacquetta T. Ayewoh

- “The Ragpicker in Black Diasporic Literature: A Reading of Chris Abani's *The Virgin of the Flames* from an East African's Perspective,” **Alex Nelungo Wanjala**, University of Nairobi.
- “Big Man Syndrome: Analyzing Hegemonic Masculinity in Recent African Literature,” **Jacquetta T. Ayewoh**, Howard University
- “What Is Contemporary About Contemporary Black Women's Poetry?,” **Irvin Hunt**, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

Saturday, April 26, 10:30am-11:45am - Concurrent Sessions VIII

8.2 Diasporic Stories & Texts: Culture, Memory & Meaning-Making

Chair: Rochell Isaac, CUNY LaGuardia Community College

- “Diasporic Memory and Imaginings: Grappling with the Psyche of a Violent Past Through Narrative,” **Rochell Isaac**, CUNY LaGuardia Community College
- “Black Diasporic Woman-speak: Borders, Memory & Resistance,” **Allia Abdullah-Matta**, CUNY LaGuardia Community College
- “The Blues Idiom in the Diaspora: Sleepy John Estes as Storyteller & Culture Bearer,” **Zanice Bond**, Tuskegee University

8.3 Ha!: Humor as Resistance in Black Women's Writing Across the Diaspora

Chair: Jimisha Relerford, Howard University

- “Reading Spoiler's Humour as Acts of Subversion,” **Kela Francis**, The University of Trinidad and Tobago

- “Black Women Writing Humor, Irony, and Satire Across the Diaspora,” **Jimisha Relerford**, Howard University
- “Black Girl Memoir: Hip Hop and Humor in Radha Blank’s *The Forty-Year Old Version*,” **Jalylah Burrell**, Loyola Marymount University

8.4 Cinematic Landscapes and Literary Transformations: Black Voices Across Time

Chair: Tajane L. Barnes, University of Central Oklahoma

- “Landscape, Home, Memory: Remaking South Carolina through the Eyes of Viola Davis, Eartha Kitt, Vertamae Grosvenor and Alice Childress,” **Corrie Claiborne**, Morehouse College
- “A Liberated Reader: Texts as Transformation in *Angela Davis: An Autobiography*,” **Sharon Jones**, Ball State University
- “Transatlantic Tensions: Black British Actors, Hollywood, and the Perception of Racial Excess,” **Felicia Cosey**, Western Washington University
- “Revisionist Futures: Imagining Untraumatized Black Girls in Afrofuturistic Literature and Film,” **Sondra Bickham Washington**, Florida Atlantic University

Saturday, April 26, 12pm-1:15pm - Concurrent Sessions IX

9.1 Special Session of the Creative Writing Committee

Chair: Alana King, Austin Community College

9.2 Narrations of Black Lives through Intersections of Gendered, Geographical, and Generational Spaces (Special Session of the Black Studies Standing Committee)

Special Session: Black Studies Standing Committee

Chair: Elizabeth J. West, Georgia State University

- “A Book for My Great-grandmother – or Weaving History from Strands,” **Karine L. Narahara**, University of North Texas

- “Black Women Activists’ Histories of Resistance in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil,” **Kenneth Williamson**, Kennesaw State University
- “Reluctant Raconteurs, Rememory, & The Politics of Family History,” **Kameelah L. Martin**, College of Charleston

9.3 A Pedagogical Consideration of How Literature Helps Us to "Become" in a Growing Diasporic Context (Roundtable - HBCU Standing Committee)

Chair: Helen Crump, Jackson State University

9.4 Double Consciousness, Diasporic Consciousness: Black Literature and Historical Memory

Chair: Shirley Toland-Dix, Auburn University-Montgomery

- “The Chosen People, the Timeless People: Paule Marshall's Prophetic Epic of the Black Atlantic,” **Shirley Toland-Dix**, Auburn University-Montgomery
- “Generational Mercy, Generational Wealth: Lucille Clifton's Hermeneutic of Mercy,” **Gena E. Chandler**, Virginia Tech
- “Redefining the Canon: Mulatto Imagery and Hybridity in *Wide Sargasso Sea*, *Abeng*, and *Jane Eyre*,” **Reginald Watson**, East Carolina University

9.5 CLA Scholars Reflect on Issues of Pedagogy and the Organization’s Leadership

Chair: Dawn F. Stinchcomb, Purdue University

- “Billie Geter Thomas: First Female President of the College Language Association,” **James J. Davis**, Howard University
- “Teaching Differently: Developing a Pedagogy for the Teaching of Literature in World Languages,” **Dawn F. Stinchcomb**, Purdue University
- “Transnational Pedagogy, The Black Atlantic, Black,” **Chanta Shenell Palmer**, University of Maryland-Baltimore County

Saturday, April 26, 2025, 2-4 PM

Film Screening and End of Convention Social: *The Five Demands*

- Discussant: Jervette R. Ward, CLA President

Saturday, April 26, 2025, 4:30-7:30 PM

Post-Convention Transition Dinner

Executive Committee, 2025 Host Committee, and 2026 Host Committee

DRAFT

Participant Index

Abdul-Ghani, Casarae
Abdullah-Matta, Allia
Addington, Thom C.
Akassi, Clément A.
Akassi, Monique L.
Androne, Helane
Atkins, Shayla M.
Awake, Mikael
Ayewoh, Jaquetta T.
Bailey, Constance
Barbour-Payne, Yunina
Barnes, Tajanae
Baxter III, Wallis C.
Bell, Victoria
Bernard, Cecily
Bond, Zanice
Boykins, Brittney
Bragg, Beauty
Brown-Guillory, Elizabeth
Brown, Scot
Burge, Ashley
Burns, Phyllis Lynne
Burrell, Jalylah
Burton, Joseph
Cannon, Sarita
Chandler, Gena E.
Chandler, Mario A.
Charity-Hudley, Anne
Claiborne, Corrie
Clark, Tanya
Collins, Cherish
Cosey, Felicia
Crosby, Shelby L.
Crump, Helen
Davis, James J.
Ductan, Monic
Duke, Dawn
Dunning, Stefanie
Duru, Emily
Dye, Angel C.
Edwards, Jessica
Flood, Anna
Francis, Kela
Frazier, DuEwa M.
Fullerton-Cooper, Stephanie
Gibson, Ebony
Gipson-Marion, Sheronda
Godfrey, Mollie
González-Barríos, Luis
Green, Jr, David F.
Green, Kim
Halsey, Jessica
Harper, Alexis
Harper, Donna Akiba
Sullivan
Harris II, Emmanuel
Harris, Crystal
Harrison, Jade
Hendrickson, Jason
Hinton, Anna L.
Hite, Michelle S.
Hopson, Cheryl R.
Hos, Gul
Hunt, Irvin
Hunter, Madison
“Mocha”
Ingram, Shelley
Isaac, Rochell
Jacobó, Alessandra (Sandra)
Jeremiah, Milford
Johnson, Beverly
Johnson, Daniyel
Johnson, Kenneth
Johnson, Latrice
Jones, Sharon
Kabugi, Magana
King, Alana
Lauret, Maria
Lawson, Joshua
Layne-Worthey, Glen
Lester, Neal A.
Lewis, Joy
Lewis, Thabiti
Lowman, Nicole
Lumumba, Ebony O.
Lutz, Jay
Marcus, Greg
Martin, Kameelah L.
Marzette, DeLinda
Mathis, Rondrea
Danielle
McBurney, Wendy
McDaniels, Preselfannie
W.

Meeks, Roshad
Demetrie
Melton, McKinley
Miyamoto, Keiko
Moten, Victoria
Narahara, Karine L.
Nero, Charles
Oforlea, Aaron
Okonkwo, Christopher
N.
Owusu, Portia
Paige, Bria
Palmer, Chanta Shenell
Peace, Christopher
Peterson, Tamalyn L.
Price, Nicole
Ramon, Donavan L.
Relerford, Jimisha

Rude Walker, Sarah
Salam, Kalamu Ya
Salim, Asha
Sallah, Edudzi David
Saunders, Catherine
Schatteman, Renee
Scott, Darlene
Smith, Cassander
Smith, R. Nicole
Stinchcomb, Dawn F.
Striker, Tristan
Tate, Summer
Taylor, Danille K.
Temple, Christel N.
Temple, Christel N.
Thomas, Griselda
Thompson, Tyechia
Tigner, Julia

Toland-Dix, Shirley
Wanjala, Alex Nelungo
Washington, Durthy A.
Washington, Sondra
Bickham
Watson-Miller, Ingrid
Watson, Reginald
West, Elizabeth J.
West, Elizabeth J.
Wheeler, Eva Michelle
Wilburn, Reginald
Williams, Justin
Williamson, Justin
Williamson, Kenneth
Woods, Christel
Wynter Parks, Iona
Yohe, Kristine