CCHA

Community College Humanities Association

2026 National Conference



Being Human in a World on Fire

Hosted by the Community College of Baltimore County

CCBC Owings Mills Extension Center, Owings Mills, Maryland

CCBC

The Incredible Value

October 1-3

Being Human in a World on Fire

CCHA Staff

National Office
Andrew Rusnak, Executive Director
Arusnak@ccbcmd.edu
443-653-2777

Dr. Greg Campbell, Deputy Executive Director
GCampbel2@ccbcmd.edu
443-840-1059

Mel Berry, Deputy Director, Conterences
Mberry@ccbcmd.edu
443-840-4356

CCHA 2026 National Conference Chair
Mel Berry; Mberry@ccbcmd.edu
443-840-4356

CCHA Administrative Officer
Cathy Feehley; Cfeehley@ccbcmd.edu
443-840-5180

CCHA Board of Directors
Dr. Sandra Kurtinitis, Chair, President, Community College of Baltimore County
Dr. Stephanie Bulger, President, Lane Community College
Dr. Anthony Wise, President, Pellissippi State Community College
Dr. Wesley Lundberg, President, San Diego Miramar College
Dr. Brian Stipelman, Associate Vice President / Dean of Arts and Humanities at Frederick Community College
Sydney Elliott, Professor, Tillamook Bay Community College / Oregon State University, Pacific-Western Division
Linda Sears, Professor, Collin College, Southwestern Division
Dr. Nick Rummell, Protessor, Illinois Central College, Southern & Central Division
Amy Knapp, Professor, Central Division

2026 Conference Program Design
Garrett Brooks, Pacific Lutheran University
Kristi Waters, Frederick Community College

The Community College Humanities Association
www.cchumanities.org

Welcome to the CCHA 2026 National Conference Hosted by Community College of Baltimore County

On behalf of the Community College of Baltimore County, I welcome you to the 2026 Community College Humanities Association National Conference. CCBC celebrates the humanities with vibrant programming such as our our art galleries, performing arts initiatives, thriving English and music pathways and unique projects such as our in-house literary press, the first in the nation at a community college. It is a pleasure to host you here for this year's conference. The humanities are dear to all of our hearts at CCBC, as well as core to our mission.

This year's conference theme is Being Human in a World on Fire. This is a topic I have been pondering myself as the leader of a community college in these turbulent times. How do we remind our students to strive to be their best, to be kind and community-focused, to work toward their goals, and to maintain hope for the future, at such a moment in history? I think the humanities are a crucial tool for all of us.

While our four-year colleagues, especially those from prestigious universities, lament shrinking prestige, slashed funding, declining majors, and closed programs, the essential mission of the humanities—critical thinking, cultural understanding, and civic engagement—is nowhere more vital than at our community colleges. We educate 10.5 million students in the U.S., and the rise of artificial intelligence has made the humanities more important than ever.

Thank you for joining us as a broad community of humanists from across the country who find themselves in a challenging national climate. Let us stay focused on the resilience and commitment of our sector. Let us stay true to our mission of extending opportunity to everyone; of empowering our students and faculty to raise their voices, however they choose to do so.

Sandra L. Kurtinitis, Ph.D.
President
Community College of Baltimore County



At-A-Glance

Thursday, October 1

1:30 p.m.	**Hotel buses begin**
2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Session 1
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Session 2
4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.	**Reception**
5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	**Conference Opening**
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	**Plenary Session 1**

Friday, October 2

7:30 a.m.	**Hotel buses begin**
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Session 3
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Session 4
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Session 5
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	**Lunch Break**
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Session 6
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Session 7
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Session 8
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Session 9
5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	**CCHA Awards Ceremony**
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	**Plenary Session 2**
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	**Literary Magazine Awards Reception**

Saturday, October 3

7:30 a.m.	**Hotel buses begin**
8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	CCHA Board of Directors Meeting
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Session 10
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Session 11
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	**Plenary Session 3**

Schedule Info

Contact Mel Berry
- mberry@ccbcmd.edu

CCHA / Conference Host
- www.cchumanities.org/conferences/national

Owing Mills Campus

Keynote Event Room:
- OMC 509–511 A–C (3-in-1)

Presentation Rooms:
- **Level 5:** 508, 526
- **Level 6:** 605, 609

Opening Address

Hello CCHA Conference Attendees:

My name is Mel Berry, and I am the CCHA Conference Director. I want to offer a warm welcome to all of you from the Community College Humanities Association. The CCHA 2026 National Conference is just around the corner, and we are very excited to putting on the conference in Owings Mills, Maryland this year.

On behalf of all those who have worked so hard to make this in-person humanities conference a reality, it is an absolute honor for me to welcome scholars, researchers, and students from all over the United States to the Community College of Baltimore County and its Owings Mills Campus.

CCHA is deeply grateful to our host college, The Community College of Baltimore Country and President Kurtinitis for her constant support and leadership of CCHA, our many CCHA volunteers, and our institutional partners such as Fredrick Community College, Collin College, and the Maryland Humanities Council. Though the work of putting on a conference can be daunting at times, it is well worth it because it makes this gathering possible.

This year's conference theme, *Being Human in a World on Fire* is purposely incendiary, for we live in a world rapidly changing--and change is often difficult. Our news media is replete with stories of the unabated advancement of AI with little to no safety checks, environmental changes affecting the entire globe, financial instabilities that could cripple the world economy, and the seemingly never-ending wars in Palestine, Ukraine, and Iran. So, it seems we have reasons to be concerned. And yet, it is also true that the humanities offer us hope. They remind us of who we are, why we ask difficult questions, how we are to interpret our shared past and navigate our shared future. So, though this world be on fire, it is nevertheless, a time of opportunity. We are here, and this time is ours. As people who believe in the power of the humanities to transform individuals, societies, and cultures, we have the potential to be catalysts of positive change. And, as beings of water—both literally and figuratively—perhaps we are here for that reason? We all know well, water can put out fires.

Therefore, over three days, Thursday, October 1st to Saturday, October 3rd., we will explore many new perspectives through dynamic panels, keynote lectures, and rich conversations. Therefore, let us begin this conference with open minds, deep curiosity, and a willingness to listen—which are among the best qualities of being human.



Mel Berry
CCBC English Professor
CCHA Conference Director
Community College of Baltimore County

The Keynote Speakers



Amy Ferrer joined the American Philosophical Association as executive director in 2012. She holds a bachelor's degree in women's studies and a master's degree in public policy and administration, both from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She has spent nearly 20 years in nonprofit management, having previously worked for national and regional organizations focusing on civil liberties, public health, and advocacy. Both her work and educational background have focused on diversity issues, communications, development, and program management. She currently serves as a Senator-A-Large for the Phi Beta Kappa Society and on the board of the Academic Placement and Data Analysis project: she has previously served on the boards of the National Humanities Alliance, the American Council of Learned Societies, Delaware Humanities, and the Association of American Colleges and Universities.



Dr. Paula M. Krebs became executive director of the Modern Language Association in August 2017. She administers the programs, governance, and business affairs of the association and is general editor of the association's publishing and research programs, as well as editor of two association publications.

Krebs previously served as the dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Bridgewater State University, where she organized a regional consortium of employers, public humanities representatives, and higher education leaders to develop strategies for defining and measuring the postgraduation success of humanities majors. She has also been a regular contributor to higher education publications, including the Chronicle of Higher Education's blog Vitae.

A member of the MLA Executive Council from 2013 to January 2017, Krebs also served on the executive committee of the MLAs Association of Departments of English (2003-05). She served on the Massachusetts ACE Women's Network Board of Directors and was a member of the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities Board of Directors from 2009 to 2015.

Krebs earned a PhD in English from Indiana University, where she specialized in Victorian literature and culture, and a BA from La Salle College (now La Salle University).

The Keynote Speakers



Dr. Sarah Weicksel is executive director of the American Historical Association. She has previously worked as the Association's director of research and publications and as a project historian at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. She serves on the National Archives Federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Advisory Committee. Her book, A Nation Unraveled: Clothing, Culture, and Violence in the American Civil War Fra (Univ. of North Carolina Press, 2026), is an object-based history that explores how making, wearing, saving, and destroying clothing was central to how people waged war and acutely experienced war's costs. Her articles have focused on various aspects of nineteenth century US history, military history, gender history, and material culture. Weicksel's work has emphasized the use of artifacts in history teaching. She is the project director of the AHAs NEH grant-funded project, Teaching Things, and author of a related article, "A Case for Objects: Material Culture in the History Classroom" published in the American Historical Review. Weicksel earned a PhD in history from the University of Chicago, an MA in American material culture from the Winterthur Program at the University of Delaware, and a BA in history from Yale University.



Eric Adler received his Ph.D. in classical studies from Duke University. Prior to his arrival at the University of Maryland, he taught at Rice University, the University of Minnesota, and Connecticut College.

Adler's scholarly interests include Roman historiography, Latin prose, the history of classical scholarship, and the history of the humanities.

He is the author of three monographs: The Battle of the Classics: How a Nineteenth-Century Debate Can Save the Humanities Today (Oxford University Press, 2020); Classics, the Culture Wars, and Beyond (University of Michigan Press, 2016) and Valorizing the Barbarians: Enemy Speeches in Roman Historiography (University of Texas Press, 2011).

The Keynote Speakers



Chanel C. Johnson is inspired and passionate about her role as Executive Director for the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, which operates the Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum and the African American Heritage Preservation Grant Program.

As an Executive Director, Chanel is dedicated to serving the great state of Maryland by amplifying and supporting African American heritage sites, initiatives, and museums so they can gain further access to resources and reach new heights. As a visual artist, Chanel leads with creativity, active listening and a love for collaboration. She has exhibited throughout the region and internationally. She and her husband live in Baltimore, Maryland, where she continues to create artwork about her lived experiences and Black heritage.



Dr. Linda Scherr serves as the Chief Academic Officer at the New Jersey Council of County Colleges, where she supports the work of the Trustees, Presidents, and College staff to provide high-quality, innovative academic programs that expand access to higher education, address equity gaps, and increase adult engagement.

Before joining the Council, Dr. Scherr served as the Vice President for Academic Affairs (2019-2024) and Dean of Arts and Sciences (2016-2019) at Middlesex College (NJ). Prior to Middlesex, she worked at Mercer County Community College for 18 years as a faculty member in History, Dean for Instructional Effectiveness, and Acting Dean for the Division of Math, Science, and Health Professions. Dr. Scherr earned a Bachelor of Arts in History and Near Eastern Studies from Cornell University and a Ph.D. in Ancient History at the University of Pennsylvania.



Johnathan Fisher, Professor of English at San Juan College and Distinguished Teaching Chair for Artificial Intelligence, leads campus-wide professional development on Al. As founder of Authentic Al Literacy, Fisher provides Al-focused keynotes and workshops for higher ed, K-12, and professional audiences. His talks offer classroom-tested strategies for integrating Al in education while preserving human agency, creativity, and critical thinking.

2:30pm - 3:30pm | Session 1

Enriching the Classroom with International Collaboration

Level 5 - Room 508 | Panel - 50 mins.
How International Collaboration Enriches the Classroom
- Frank Masel, Associate Professor of World Languages, Community College of Baltimore County
- Dr. Laura Trauth, Professor of History, Community College of Baltimore County
- Robin Minor, Director of Transformational Pedagogies, Community College of Baltimore County

Against Erasure: AIDS Poetry

Level 5 - Room 526 | Presentation, Indiv. - 25 mins.
Against Erasure: AIDS Poetry as Witness and Counter-archive
- Shaylynn Marks, MFA Graduate Student, Hood College

The GIVE Program: Valuing Human Connection

Level 6 - Room 605 | Panel - 50 mins.
Creating Then & Now: Maps to Build a More Human Community
- Zosha Stuckey, Professor of English & Professional Writing, Towson University & Director of the GIVE Program
- Gianna Espinoza, Graduate Student in an M.A. program in Professional Writing at TU & GIVE Grant writing & Community Engagement Specialist
- MacKenzie Jennings, Accelerated Student B.A. English/M.A. Professional Writing at TU & GIVE Grant writing & Community Engagement Specialist
- Gabee Fon, B.S. Political Science Student at TU & GIVE Grant writing & Community Engagement Specialist

Meeting in the Moment and Beyond

Level 6 - Room 609 | Panel - 50 mins.
The Importance of Meeting: In the Moment and Beyond
- Jamie Gallagher, Professor of English, Community College of Baltimore County
- Kris Messer, Professor of English, Community College of Baltimore County

3:30pm - 4:30pm | Session 2

The African Voice

Level 5 - Room 508 | Student Panel - 50 mins.
The African Voice: Refining and Reclaiming Africa's Image
- Paula Chukwurah, Chemistry student, Community College of Baltimore County
- Toluwani Olagunju, Biology student, Community College of Baltimore County
- Keren Egyir-Robertson, Criminal Justice student, Community College of Baltimore County
- Brigite Ilunga, Social work student, Community College of Baltimore County

Honors in Action: Phi Theta Kappa

Level 5 - Room 526 | Panel - 50 mins.
What's Next? Using Phi Theat Kappa's Honors in Action Program to Imagine a Better Future
- Liesl Harris, Associate Dean of Transfer and General Studies, Jefferson State Community College
- Dartmouth Cullen, Biomedical engineering student, Jefferson State Community College

Engaging Students: Fan Culture and Perceptual Awareness

Level 6 - Room 605 | Presentations, Indiv. - 25 mins.
Comic Con in the Classroom
- Shamika Mitchell, Associate Professor of English, Rockland Community College and State University of New York

Color in the Age of Influence: Attention, Aesthetics and the Construction of Vision
- Terence Hannum, Assistant Professor of Digital Fabrication at Carroll Community College

Searching for Hope in Climate Data

Level 6 - Room 609 | Presentation, Indiv. - 50 mins.
Searching for Hope in Climate Data
- Cristina Cardona, Associate Professor of Environmental Science, Oceanography, and Physical Science, Community College of Baltimore County

Conference Reception

4:45pm - 5:45pm | Level 5 - Room 502

Opening Reception in the Hospitality Room

Finger foods and Drinks
(Free drink tickets [2] in your conference bag)

CCHA 2026 National Conference

Conference Opening

5:00pm - 5:30pm | Level 5 - Rooms 509-511 A-C

Welcome

CCHA Executive Director, **Professor Andy Rusnak**
CCBC English Professor and CCHA Conference Director, **Mel Berry**
CCBC Provost, **Dr. Juaquin Martinez**

Plenary Session 1

5:30pm - 7:00pm | Level 5 - Rooms 509-511 A-C

The Humanities are Our Future: A View from the National Organizations

Dr. Paula Krebs, MLA Executive Director of the Modern Language Association
Dr. Sarah Weicksel, AHA, Executive Director of the American Historical Society
Amy Ferrer, APA Executive Director of the American Philosophical Association

Friday - October 2

9:00am - 10:00am | Session 3

The Value and Art of Connection

Level 5 - Room 508 | Presentation, Indiv. 50 mins.
The Value and Art of Connection
- Janet Gross, Professor of English, Community College of Baltimore County

Film in the Humanities

Level 5 - Room 526 | Interactive, 50 mins.
The Use of Film in the Humanities Classroom
- Fred Jordan, Associate Professor of History and Spanish, Nashville State Community College
- Rich Marranca, Professor of English, Passaic County Community College

A Philosophical Approach to AI

Level 6 - Room 605 | Presentation, Indiv. -50 mins.
Losing Ourselves: Generative AI and the Amplification of Ontological Reductionism
- Nick Horn, Associate Professor and Program Coordinator of Philosophy,
- Community College of Baltimore County

Defining Art in the Wake of AI

Level 6 - Room 609 | Interactive Workshop - 50 mins.
How Do We Define Art in the Wake of AI?
- Linda Sears, Professor of Humanities, Collin College



10:00am - 11:00am | Session 4

A Transformative Moment

Level 5 - Room 508 | Presentation, Indiv. - 50 mins.
A Transformative Moment—At Least Dracula has the Decency to Bite
- Dr. Benjamin Nelson, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, the Community College of Baltimore County, Essex campus.

Challenges for the Academic Scholar

Level 5 - Room 526 | Presentations, Indiv. - 25 mins.
Of Being a Scholar of Erotic Cultural Artifacts: Dirty Work, Studying Sex, and the Community College Researcher
- Jessica Floyd, Professor of English at Community College Baltimore County

When Expertise Becomes Contested: Being a Scholar in a World That Questions Academia
- Michael Ha, Assistant Professor of Life and Physical Sciences, University of the District of Columbia Community College

The Humanities Initiative: Achieving the Dream

Level 6 - Room 605 | Interactive Session - 50 mins.
Transforming Community College through the Humanities Initiative
- Wanda White-Walker, Director of Humanities Education Initiatives at Achieving the Dream
- K.C. Williams, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning at Achieving the Dream
- Eric Fiero, Associate Director of Teaching and Learning and Implementation at Achieving the Dream

The Ethics of Seeing

Level 6 - Room 609 | Presentation, Indiv. - 50 mins.
The Ethics of Seeing: Learning to Be Human Through Art in Robert Hayden's
- Dulce de Castro, Professor of Foreign Languages and Literature, Collin College

11:00am - 12:00am | Session 5

Attention, Intention, and Recognition

Level 5 - Room 508 | Presentation, Indiv. - 50 mins.
Breathe More AIR℠ Into the Humanities: How Attention, Intention, & Recognition Can Reshape Your Classroom & Campus

- Katie O'Malley, Founder and Principal Coach of (en) Courage Coaching

The Humanities at Work

Level 5 - Room 526 | Presentation, Indiv. - 50 mins.
The Humanities at Work

- Dr. Eric Branscome, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Collin College

Humans Beings are Entrepreneurial

Level 6 - Room 605 | Panel, Interactive - 50 mins.
The Humanities Now: Human Beings are Entrepreneurial

- Dr. Amy Vondrak, Professor of English, Mercer County Community College
- Dr. Chris Cruz Cullari, Dean of Liberal Arts, Mercer County Community College

Student-Driven Inquiry

Level 6 - Room 609 | Presentation, Indiv. - 50 mins.
Student-Driven Inquiry Method of Personal Learning (SIMPL Inquiry

- Michael Birdsell, Professor of Philosophy, Anne Arundel, Prince George's and Wor-Wic Community Colleges

Lunch Break

12:00pm - 1:00pm

See program for restaurants and other eateries just outside on the street in front of the Owings Mills Campus

1:00pm - 2:00pm | Session 6

AI and the Internet: Ethical Pitfalls and Possibilities

Level 5 - Room 508 | Presentations, Indiv. - 25 mins.
Teaching Ethical Practice in an AI Influenced World

- Elizabeth H. Smith, Professor of Social Work and Human Services, Counseling, at the Community College of Baltimore County

Preventing Internet Dumpster Fires by Actively Engaging with Metaliteracy

- Misha Robinson, English Professor, Community College of Baltimore County

Creating a Classroom Community

Level 5 - Room 526 | Presentations - 50 mins.
Classroom Community and Belonging: Cooling the Embers of a World on Fire

- Stacie Miller, ESOL Professor and Coordinator, Community College of Baltimore County
- Sara Osman, Associate Professor of ESOL, Community College of Baltimore County

Teaching Memory

Level 6 - Room 609 | Presentation, Indiv. - 50 mins.
Tourists, Pilgrims, or Survivors? Teaching Memory in a World on Fire

- Joseph L.V. Donica, Professor of English at Bronx Community College and CUNY

Viewing the Institutional and Political Worlds through the Lens of Genre

Level 6 - Room 605 | Presentations, Indiv. - 25 mins.
Infrastructures of Recognition: Science Fiction and the Humanities in Crisis

- Ashley Moser, Professor of English and Humanities, Tacoma Community College and the Washington Corrections Center for Women

Political Humor and the Robotic: Applications of Genre Theory and Humor Studies to Critique Political Satire

- Kimberly Hanah-Prater, Associate Professor of Communication and Media Studies, Community College of Baltimore County

2:00pm - 3:00pm | Session 7

Putting Out the Fires: The Power of Journalism

Level 5 - Room 508 | Panel - Multiple presenters - 50 mins.
Student Newspapers in a World on Fire

- Sherie Trivane, Professor of Communication and Media Studies, Community College of Baltimore County
- Beth Baunoch, Associate Professor, Media Studies, Community College of Baltimore County
- Jeremy Caplan, Assistant Professor, Communication and Media Studies, Community College of Baltimore County
- Ramon Jones, Associate Professor, English, Frederick Community College

Pedagogical Responses to AI

Level 5 - Room 526 | Presentations, Indiv. - 25 mins.
Pirate the Pivot: Student-led Classrooms in the AI Battle

- Joe Concannon, Adjunct Professor of English and Philosophy, South Seattle College and University of Washington

The Analog Pedagogy Project: Human-Centered Learning in the Age of AI

- Mary Jo Richards, Associate Professor of English, Community College of Baltimore County

Cultivating the Well-Rounded Human in a Fast-Paced, Competitive World

Level 6 - Room 605 | Presentations, Indiv. - 25 mins.)
Most Fun Wins! Reframing Success in Competition

- Samuel Ginn, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Southern State Community College

Sleep in a World on Fire: What Sleep Loss and Sleep Disorders Reveal About Modern Humanity

- Dr. Golfam Javanoskooei, Faculty and Instructional Specialist in Polysomnography, Community College of Baltimore County

The Consequences of Forgetting History and Denying the Humanity of Others

Level 6 - Room 609 | Presentations, Indiv. - 25 mins.
If We Forget Our History, We Are Condemned to Repeat It

- Daniel Delgadillo Alvarez, Student at Frederick Community College

Gender Bias in Research and Its Cost to Modern Medicine

- Sreshta Sree Veldanda, Student, Frederick Community College

3:00pm - 4:00pm | Session 8

Retrieving Attention, Reclaiming Identity

Level 5 - Room 508 | Panel - 50 mins.
Retrieving Attention, Reclaiming Identity: Two Pathways for Re-Establishing Conscious Learning

- Trey Clements, Associate Professor of Education, Sinclair College
- Ri Molnar, Assistant Professor of Social Work, Sinclair College

Who is Doing the Thinking?

Level 5 - Room 526 | Presentation, Indiv. - 50 mins.
Who Is Doing the Thinking? An Agency Protocol for Learning with Generative AI

- Barbara Liedahl, Adjunct Professor of Humanities, Howard Community College

Misplaced Blame: Individual's Bearing the Burdens of Societal Pressures and Environmental Crises

Level 6 - Room 605 | Presentations, Indiv. - 25 mins.
"Everybody Looks at Me Like It's My Fault: The Rhetorical Construction of Infertility in BBC Africa Interviews with Nigerian Women

- Ayomide Oladimeji, Doctoral Student in English, Wayne State University

The Simulation of Scarcity: Hyperreality, Responsibility, Capital, and Who Matters

- Doug McKenney, Administrative Support Assistant in the Honors College, Community College of Baltimore County

Breaking the Fourth Wall in Writing

Level 6 - Room 609 | Presentation, Indiv. - 50 mins.
Writing, Invisible Readers, and Breaking the Fourth Wall

- Sydney Elliott, Professor of Writing and English, Tillamook Bay Community College and Oregon State University

4:00pm - 5:00pm | Session 9

An Educator's Survival Kit

Level 5 - Room 508 | Panel - 50 mins.
An Educator's Survival Kit for Apocalyptic Times

- Nikki Gonzalez, Professor of Psychology, Middlesex College
- Dr. Giuseppe Rotolo, Professor of Philosophy, Middlesex College

Meaningful Careers in the Humanities

Level 5 - Room 526 | Panel - 50 mins.
Lessons Learned from Launching Humanities in Practice: From the Classroom to Meaningful Careers at Virginia Community College

- Meredith Byrd, Coordinator of Community Partnerships at the School of Business, Humanities, and Public Service, Reynolds Community College
- Dr. Nicole Tong, Dean of the School of Business, Humanities, and Public Service, Reynolds Community College

Harnessing the Power of Words in Storytelling and Student Writing

Level 6 - Room 605 | Presentations, Indiv. - 25 mins.
Fire, Power, and the Storyteller: Reimagining Humanity through Saworo Ide

- Dr. Omolola Tosan Akinwole, Professor of Communication and Media Arts, Community College of Baltimore County

Using Theoretical Frameworks of Genre Ethnography and Critical Language Awareness in the Writing Classroom

- Breanna Lutterbie, Assistant Professor of English, Germanna Community College

Student Ethics and Teaching Resistance

Level 6 - Room 609 | Presentations, Indiv. - 25 mins.
The Promise of the Humanities at Community Colleges

- Brian Stipleman, Dean of Arts and Humanities, Frederick Community College

The Spirit of Resistance

- Nicholas Plants, Professor, Philosophy and Humanities, Prince George's Community College



PREVIEW:
Saturday Morning

CCHA Board of Directors Meeting
Conference Room 306
8:00am – 9:30am

CCHA Awards Ceremony

5:00pm - 5:30pm | Level 5 - Rooms: 509-511 A-C

Welcome

CCHA Executive Director, **Professor Andy Rusnak**
CCHA Deputy Executive Director, **Dr. Greg Campbell**
CCBC President, **Dr. Sandra Kurtinitis**
CCBC Provost, **Dr. Juaquin Martinez**

Awards:

The Constance Carroll Award
The David Berry Award
The CCHA Distinguished Service Awards

Plenary Session 2

5:30pm - 7:00pm | Level 5 - Rooms 509-511 A-C

Humanities Faculty and NGO Panel:
The State of the Humanities

Dr. Eric Adler, Professor and Chair, (Classics), University of Maryland
Chanel Johnson, Executive Director, Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture
Dr. Linda Scherr, Chief Academic Officer, New Jersey Council of County Colleges

---

Literary Magazine Awards Reception

7:00pm - 9:00pm | Hospitality Room 502

Finger foods and Drinks
(Free drink tickets (2) in your conference bag)

8:30am - 9:30am | Session 10

Being Human(e) in a World on Fire

Level 5 - Room 508 | Panel - 50 mins.
Being Human(e) in a World on Fire: Reimagining Liberal Education Through High-Impact Practices and Character Education
- Brinda Roy, Professor of English and Program Coordinator for Liberal Education Advancement and Development, Austin Community College
- Arun John, Associate Dean for Liberal Education, Advancement and Development, Austin Community College

Serendipity and the Future: Spaces for Possibility

Level 5 - Room 526 | Presentations, Indiv. - 25 mins.
Finding Space for Serendipitous Discovery in the Writing Classroom
- Dr. Erin Aust, Adjunct Faculty in English and Reading, Montgomery College

Building a Future Rather Than Responding to Crises: One College's Attempts
- James Hart, Associate Professor and Chairperson of the Arts and Humanities Department at County College of Morris.

The Individual and Responsibility

Level 6 - Room 605 | Interactive Presentation - 50 mins.
Putting out the I: A CLAW Community Seminar on the Individual and
- Candice Mayhill, Professor of English, Anne Arundel Community College
- Tim Mayhill, Professor of English, Anne Arundel Community College

Beyond the Gen AI Mindscape: Poetry and Interactive Teaching

Level 6 - Room 609 | Presentations, Indiv. - 25 mins.
Can Poetry Cure What Ails Us?
- Dr. Veronica Morrison, Assistant Professor of English and Humanities, San Antonio College

What is Wrong with Generative Artificial Intelligence and What the Academy Can Do About It
- Keith Phillips, Coordinator of French and Spanish and Associate Professor of World Language and Cultures and Co-Chair of the Artificial Intelligence Steeering Committee, Howard Community College

9:30am - 10:30am | Session 11

Integrating Civil Discourse into the Curriculum Using Online Tools

Level 5 - Room 508 | Panel - 50 mins.
We Can Teach Critical Thinking at Community Colleges. Here Is the Evidence.
- David Slakter, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Camden County College
- Aidan Kestigan, Ph.D. in Logic, Computation, and Methodology from Carnegie Mellon University
- Simon Cullen, Senior Fellow at Heterodox Academy and Faculty Research Fellow at the Segal Center for Academic Pluralism

What Does Repair Cost and Who Gets to Finish It?

Level 5 - Room 526 | Presentations - 50 mins.
Serudj Ta: Repair as Form, Not Just Theme
- Derrick Alan Everette, PhD candidate in English (Creative Writing) at Morgan State University
- Traci Williams, English PhD candidate at Morgan State University

The Promise of the Humanities and the Rebirth of Renaissance Values

Level 6 - Room 605 | Presentations, Indiv. - 25 mins.
Humanizing the Screen: The HONEST Framework for Student Ethics and Accountability
- Tanya Morris, Assistant Professor, Monroe University

Revising the Dumpster Fire: Staying Human in the Age of Generative AI
- Erika J. Simon, Professor of Humanities, Nash Community College

Prevent AI with Socratic AI

Level 6 - Room 609 | Presentation, Indiv. - 50 mins.
Prevent AI with Socratic AI: Exams and Weekly Writing for Humanities Classrooms
- Michael Gennarro, Founder and CEO of Minerva Learning Studios

Plenary Session 3

11:00am - 12:30pm | Level 5 - Rooms 509-511 A-C

Welcome

Dr. Lupita Murillo Tinnen,
Dean of Academic Affairs & Workforce at Collin College

Authentic AI Literacy

Jonathan Fisher

Professor English and Distinguished Teaching Chair
for Artificial Intelligence,
San Juan College

CCHA Conference Closing Remarks

Andy Rusnak, CCHA Executive Director
Dr. Greg Campbell, CCHA Asst. Executive Director (incoming Executive Director)
Mel Berry, CCBC English Professor and CCHA Conference Director

CCHA Literary Magazine Award Winners!

"On the reservation at Fort Yuma Indian Reservation, the earth was the color of fired poetry and old stories. The wind moved low and patient across the clay, as if it had nowhere else to be. Maybe it did not."

From "Clay That Remembers," by Scottsdale Community College student, Aranya Altair, Southwestern CCHA Literary Magazine Award Winner for Creative Nonfiction.

"The first time I saw the spots of blood, I didn't panic. I just stood there in the 6th grade bathrooms, thinking, *Oh, Okay, it's here.* It was a quiet moment. I knew what it was. But what I didn't know was that I was about to learn one of those unspoken rules that families pass down—a rule about what parts of yourself are okay to exist in the open, and which ones you have to learn to hide."

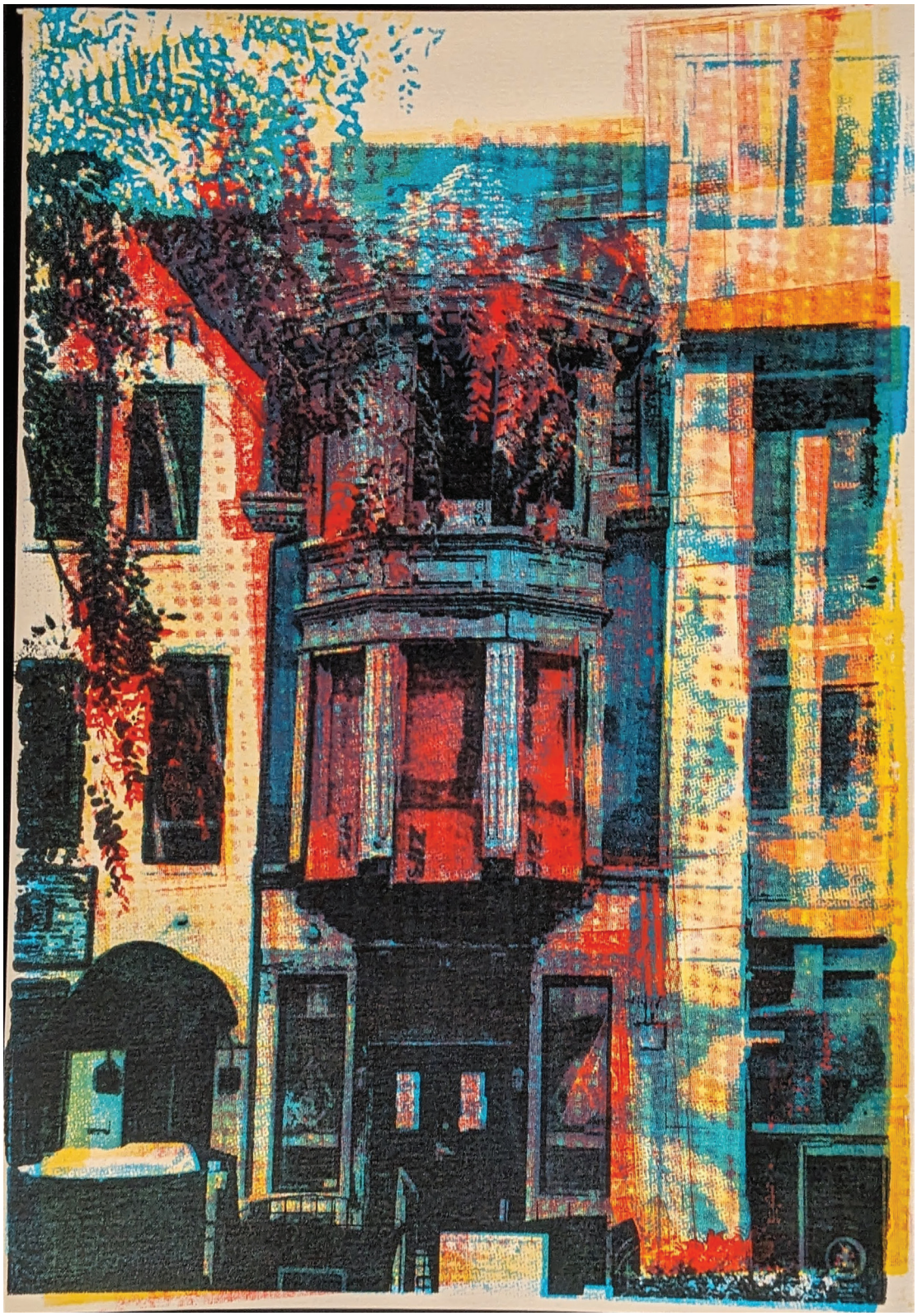
From "Beyond the Stigma," by Palomar College student Akhlas Husainy, Pacific Western CCHA Literary Magazine Award Winner for Creative Nonfiction.

"The lumpenproletariat is often described as "The 'dangerous class' and the social scum." They are seen as having no contributions to society and are described by Marx as criminals, the homeless, and the unemployed. … When observing today's society, the disparities between classes are just as evident as they were during Marx's time, but underneath the known classes described by Marx, there lies a hidden caste that further separates the preexisting classes."

From "The Veil Imposed on the Africana Proletarius," by St. Phillips College student Kayden Assimadi, Southwestern CCHA Literary Magazine Award Winner for Best Essay.

I woke as the train's wheels screeched to a stop. I got up to my feet and looked out for anyone before I hopped off the train cart. I walked down a dusty road towards a town that didn't look too different from my own. From a distance, I saw fields much bigger than those I'd worked on before: I thought maybe I could find some work there. I arrived at the town, and I got a few all too familiar stares. I minded my own business and continued walking until three tall white men blocked my way. "You lost, boy?" a man, younger than the other two asked.

From "A Shot to Man Up," by College of Lake County student Alex Gozon, Central CCHA Literary Magazine Award Winner for Best Short Story.



Right Before Demolition by Emma Masiello.

All of our children know their routes
by which they will follow in
case a person comes through their school
doors, waving around daddy's AR.
Each of our little ones know the exits
from every period's class, how to
get out without being
heard.

From the poem "Abecedarian," by Frederick Community College student Amelia Rourk, Eastern CCHA Literary Magazine Award Winner for Poetry.

And then there was that same nagging thought: the damn carpet cleaners! She'd cancelled three days before the fall. Had she not, they would have let themselves in using the door code she gave them. They would have found her lying on the stair landing in a puddle of urine, her hip no doubt broken. They would have called the ambulance, and she would have spent a week or two in the hospital. It wouldn't have been easy, stays at the hospital never are. But eventually she would have recovered and she'd be back home watching Jeopardy! before turning in for the night.

But that wasn't going to happen. The carpet cleaners weren't going to come.
No one was.

From "Spinster," by Valencia College student Mark Christmas, Southern CCHA Literary Magazine Award Winner for Short Story.

[Image on left]

"Right Before Demolition," by Community College of Baltimore County student Emma Masiello, Eastern CCHA LIterary Magazine Award Winner for Best Art.

Travel

There's much happening in Charm City during our conference. Baltimore has many cultural and historic attractions, and venues for music and laughs. (Purchase tickets online ahead of your visit!)

October 1

- Baltimore Sound Garden: Set Your Goals, The Warriors, Restraining Order, Stateside
- Pier Six: Singer Songwriter Raheem DeVaughn
- Walters Art Gallery: Art/ Sound/Now with Love Grove

October 2

- Baltimore Sound Garden: EMO Show, Sad-Iversary

October 2-4

- Walk the cobblestone streets of the annual Fells Point Fun Festival, huge live music lineup on CFG Bank Main Stage, ethnic food, art, crafts
- The Josephy Meyerhoff Symphany: Stravinski & Prokofiev

October 3

- Lyric: Comedian Chelsea Handler
- CFG Arena: Smashing Pumpkins

October:

- Baltimore Museum of Art, Exhibit: Flashback Two Centuries of Baltimore Photography
- American Visionary Art Museum
- National Aquarium
- Fort McHenry
- Edgar Alla Poe Museum and Gravesite (Oct 2-4, weekend Poe festival and awards celebration, street fest., art, books, some ticketed events)
- Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture
- America's First Washington Monument
- National Great Blacks in Wax
- Frederick Douglas-Isaac Myers Maritime Museum and Park
- Star Spangled Banner Flag House
- F. Scott Fitzgerald House
- Gertrude Stein's House
- Black American Museum
- Baltimore Museum of Industry
- Geroge Peabody Library
- Babe Ruth Museum
- Jewish Museum of Maryland
- H.L. Mencken House
- Annapolis, MD (Naval Academy, Rams Head Live (Oct 1, Victory Boyd; Oct 2, Margo Price: Wild at Heart Tour; Oct 3, Comedian Anthony Rodia; Oct 4, The Buena Vista Orchestra) – One-hour
- Washington, DC – One hour
- Visit Charm City Neighborhoods: Little Italy, Fells Point, Federal Hill (shops, dining, bars, smaller music venues)



Travel



Baltimore Fun Facts


THE FULL TEXT OF REV. KING'S MOVING SPEECH

BLUE Streak EDITION

Baltimore Afro-American

241,000 VOICES SHOUT OUT

'Our Freedom Now'

Six months given in caning case

Nation moved by magnificent march of protest

The March

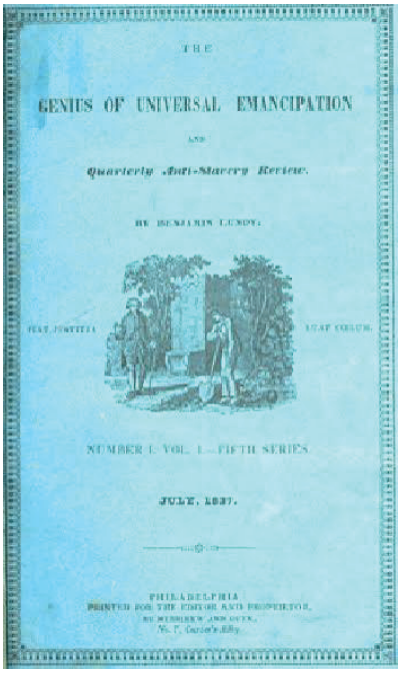
The Color

Baltimore's *Afro-American* newspaper is the longest running family-owned newspaper in the United States, established in 1892 by the Reverand William Alexander as the *Home Protector* to document the black community and advocate for civil rights. *The Afro* was purchased in 1897 by John H. Murphy Sr.



In 2000, three writers from the then Baltimore City Paper (Tom Chalkley, Charles Cohen, Brennen Jensen) anthologized their contributions to a long running historical column entitled "Charmed Life." The columns were painstakingly researched historical sketches of life in Charm City. The following are excerpts from their work. Italicizations represent content taken directly from the text:

Free Press: *Baltimore in the 1820s should have been fertile ground for the anti-slavery movement. A fourth of the city's residents were of African American descent, and most of these were "free" blacks whose numbers rose from 8,000 in 1820 to 15,000 in 1830.* There also was a large anti-slavery Quaker community in the city, one of which, Benjamin Lundy entered the picture, seeing that there were still many enslaved blacks working as domestics and shipyard laborers who could not vote of serve on juries. Lundy *self-published a newspaper called The Genius of Universal Emancipation.* Enter William Lloyd Garrison, a self-educated Boston writer who differed from Lundy in that he advocated for *immediate emancipation* as opposed to *gradual dismantling.* The two had a falling out but parted amicably over a libel suit against Garrison based on a column he published in *The Genius* exposing a slave trader headed to New Orleans with 75 slaves from a Baltimore port. Garrison chose jail and eventually moved back to Boston where *he launched The Liberator, which would become the flagship newspaper of the antislavery cause* until close to the end of the American Civil War.


THE

GENIUS OF UNIVERSAL EMANCIPATION

AND

Quarterly Anti-Slavery Review.

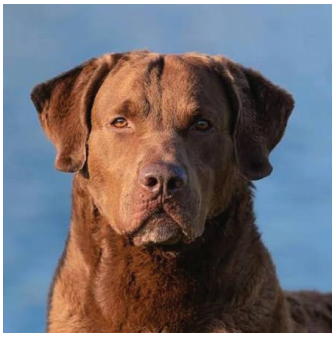
BY BENJAMIN LUNDY.

NUMBER I. VOL. I.—FIFTH SERIES.

JULY, 1821.

PHILADELPHIA

A Dog's Life: *After 20 years of breeding Chesapeake Bay retrievers, Janet Phillips knows what she wants out of her dogs. She wants her dogs to be toughest dogs on the block. She's not talking pit-bull rough. She's not talking ferocious. She's talking pickup truck tough—the kind of dog that will outwork any breed. Legend has it that the retriever bloodline goes back to two Newfoundland puppies that were rescued from a boat off the Maryland coast in 1807.* "Canton" ended up in Sparrows Point, on Maryland's western shore, while "Sailor" found his way to the Eastern Shore. Both dogs were bred separately with hounds and spaniels with the intention of creating a breed conducive to duck hunting. The descendants of both dogs looked uncannily the same,

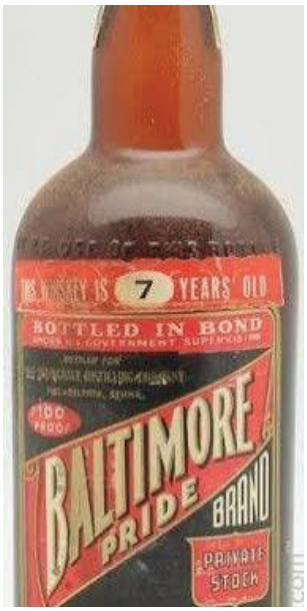


so the Chesapeake Bay Retriever was established. *Henry Weiskittel who owns property that includes Marshy Point (near Sparrows Point) … recalls taking out hunting parties with Labradors, whom he'd watch dashing in the cold water to fetch ducks. Then he would watch his Chesapeakes work, sometimes diving four feet down in the water to get a wounded duck… "I've never seen a Chesapeake quit," he says.*

Old Alma Mater: *The Patapsco Female Institute opened in 1937, its mission (according to the prospectus) "to provide for the daughters of the South facilities for an Education that shall leave nothing to be desired." Patrician daughters, alongside a few "poor girls" on scholarship, were schooled in English, literature, modern and classical languages, "natural and abstract sciences," and fine arts. The Institute's most famous alumni was Winny Davis, daughter of Confederate President Jefferson Davis. … In the 1890s, it was remodeled as a summer hotel.* It is now an eerily abandoned site overgrown with weeds, ripe for a horror movie production, perched on a bluff near Ellicott City.



Whiskey Rebellion: *Whiskey has been called "the water of life." … Time was, only four other states made more liquor than ours* [Maryland]. *In 1958, for example, Maryland distilleries poured out nearly 11 million gallons of booze, nearly half of it whiskey. In 1997, we produced nary a drop. Our cup runneth empty. We've no distilleries left. … Maryland's chief potent potable was straight rye whiskey, a firey amber liquid made around Baltimore and celebrated around the world. What Kentucky is to bourbon, what Russia is to vodka, Maryland was to rye. "The only people I sell rye whiskey to were born before World War II," says Wells Discount Liquors owner Mike Hyatt, … Maybe even Worl War I." Maryland rye's high point came in the late 1930s, when some 15 million gallons of the stuff were agin away in warehouses from Cockeysville to Dundalk. But after World War II, people's palettes began shifting toward lighter liquors—vodka, gin, run—and sweeter, smoother bourbon.*



Soul Sister: *Elizabeth Lange w as a native of Saint -Dominque—present day Haiti—whose family fled to Cuba after the 1800 slave revolt. Led by Toussaint L' Ouverture. Being wealthy Creoles—people of mixed race—she and her family were no longer welcome in her homeland. Perhaps they felt uncomfortable in Cuba too. For whatever reason, many Creoles, including Lange, decided to move to Baltimore in about 1812. "Why Baltimore? Why would a black woman come to a slave state?" Sister Virginie Fish lets the question sink in for a moment. "All things happen by God's intent," she explains. A retired teacher, Sister Virginie is a member of the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the small, mainly African American order of nuns that Elizabeth Lange—better known as Mother Lange—founded in Baltimore in 1829. … Baltimore in the early 1800s had a large free black population, but white schools and teachers generally refused to teach children of color, including Creole refugees. Recognizing a desperate need, Lange, then a lay person, established a school in her house on Back Street in Fells Point.*



APPLIED LIBERAL STUDIES
YOUR ROAD MAP TO GRADUATE DEGREES & THE WORKFORCE

One Degree. Endless Possibilities.

Applied Liberal Studies (ALS) connects your passions, experiences, and goals to real-world impact. Where will your road take you?

GRADUATE SCHOOL

ALS prepares you with the critical thinking, communication, research, and interdisciplinary skills graduate programs value.

- Education & Teaching
- Counseling & Psychology
- Public Administration
- Social Work
- Law
- Business (MBA)
- Health Professions
- And More!

DISCOVER YOUR PATH

- Explore your interests
- Connect experiences to career goals
- Personalized advising & support

APPLY & INTEGRATE TURN LEARNING INTO ACTION

- Real-world projects
- Internships & field experience
- Community engagement
- Leadership development

THE WORKFORCE

ALS graduates thrive in a wide range of careers that make a difference.

- Human Services
- Community & Nonprofit
- Business & Management
- Education & Training
- Health & Wellness
- Communications
- Public & Community Service
- And More!

YOU ARE HERE

BUILD A STRONG FOUNDATION

- Broad knowledge across multiple disciplines
- Critical thinking & problem solving
- Effective communication
- Cultural competence & ethics

WHY ALS?

- Interdisciplinary Flexibility
- Career & Graduate School Ready
- Real-World Relevance
- Make an Impact in Your Community & Beyond

YOUR ROAD. YOUR FUTURE.

With an Applied Liberal Studies degree, you have the freedom to explore, the skills to succeed, and the power to shape what's next.

MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
GROW YOUR FUTURE.

- Explore What Matters
- Build What's Possible
- Become Who You're Meant to Be

APPLIED LIBERAL STUDIES: CONNECTING KNOWLEDGE, PURPOSE, AND OPPORTUNITY.

A CONTRIBUTION FROM THE APPLIED LIBERAL STUDIES PROGRAM
College of Liberal Arts · Morgan State University

The Commons

A Student Voices Media Lab at the 2026 CCHA National Conference

Morgan State University's Applied Liberal Studies (APLS) program is proud to join the Community College Humanities Association for its 2026 National Conference, *"Being Human in a World on Fire."* APLS is Morgan's fastest-growing degree, built on a flexible, interdisciplinary curriculum that moves fluidly across the humanities, social sciences, communication, and applied fields. That breadth makes this conference an ideal home for our students: a gathering that asks, across every discipline, what it will mean to be human in a world reshaped by political, economic, technological, and cultural pressures. We are honored to take part in that conversation, and to help capture and carry it forward.

Under the banner of The Commons—a student voices media lab in APLS—six Morgan students are participating in the conference as an active, professional presence. Two graduate students contribute to the academic-professional program and lead the team; four undergraduates operate as a coordinated media unit, producing pre-conference features and speaker interviews, live and scheduled coverage, news-style segments and research overviews, and a durable digital archive of the gathering. Their work is planned in close coordination with conference organizers and executed with a disciplined attention to structure, form, and meaning, so that the students serve the conference and its participants well while learning within it.

The Commons reflects an emerging APLS commitment to culturally responsive teaching and to supporting the whole student through applied, partnership-based learning. For our students, the conference is a real-world classroom in which humanistic inquiry meets professional practice; for the APLS program, it is an opportunity to learn alongside colleagues across two- and four-year institutions, in the collaborative, boundary-crossing spirit this year's theme invites. We are grateful to the Community College Humanities Association—and to Executive Director Andrew Rusnak—for the welcome, and we look forward to being part of the conversation about being human in a world on fire.

— The Applied Liberal Studies Program

Natasha Otto, Director · College of Liberal Arts, Morgan State University

Biographies

Dr. Omolola Tosan Akinwole is a Scholar of communication, media, gender, and African cultural studies with 15+ years of experience in broadcasting, maternal and public health communication. Strong record of teaching, interdisciplinary research, and community engagement. Published author on gender representation, African women's narratives, and media institutions. Skilled in qualitative and quantitative research, multimedia storytelling, and curriculum development. She has her Ph.D. in Communication and Media (Film Studies), M.A in Communication and Language Arts and her B.A in English all from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. She is a published author and co-author of chapters in books and academic journals

Dr. Erin Aust is an adjunct faculty member in the English & Reading Department at Montgomery College (in Germantown, MD). She also works with Signum University, an online graduate program, and frequently teaches with JHU's Center for Talented Youth. Her academic background is interdisciplinary, with a research focus on discursive norms in literary communities, especially how they are shaped by literary institutions.

Beth Baunoch, is an Associate Professor of Media Studies (podcast instructor and podcast production advisor) at Community College of Baltimore County.

Melvin Berry is an Assistant Professor of English at Community College of Baltimore County.

Michael Birdsell is a Professor of Philosophy at Anne Arundel, Prince George's and Wor-Wic Community Colleges

Dr. Eric Branscome is Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at Collin College in Texas where he oversees various fine arts disciplines. Previously, he was chair of the music programs at East Texas A&M University and Austin Peay State University in Tennessee. His publications and research interests include leadership, arts advocacy, and music career advising. A former elementary music teacher, Dr. Branscome is a true believer in the value of education and the impact that the arts and humanities have on society.

Bonnie K. Brennan is an Instructor and Department Chair of History at Metropolitan Community College.

Meredith Byrd graduated from George Mason University with a masters' degree in English. She was a professor of English and College Composition at Northern Virginia Community College, Austin Community College and Brightpoint Community College in Chesterfield Virginia prior to joining Reynolds Community College. In addition to those teaching positions, she taught high school English in Texas and Virginia and worked for a college and career readiness company helping school districts nationwide prepare students for their post-graduation plans. She is the Coordinator for Community Partnerships at the School of Business, Humanities and Public Service, where she works to develop and strengthen the opportunities for students to gain workplace experience in their fields of study.

Jeremy Caplan is an Assistant Professor of Communication and Media Studies (journalism instructor and student newspaper editor) at Community College of Baltimore County.

Dr. Cristina Cardona is an Associate Professor at the Community College of Baltimore County, Essex. She teaches Environmental Science, Oceanography, and other Physical Science courses. She has sailed on the inaugural 2YC STEMSEAS cruise from Seattle, Washington to Honolulu, Hawai'i and led a student cruise in the Chesapeake Bay in 2025. In 2026, she mentored faculty on the second 2YC STEMSEAS cruise from Seward, Alaska to Newport, Oregon. She is presenting the need for arts and humanities instructors and students to engage in this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Trey Clements is a Professor of Education at Sinclair College whose work bridges trauma-informed pedagogy, cultural humility, and systems-level equity. With deep expertise in designing reflective, healing-centered tools for educators and youth professionals, he empowers faculty and staff to move beyond compliance toward transformative practice.

Joe Concannon is a middle child from Kenosha, Wisconsin and a part-time instructor in English and Philosophy at South Seattle College and University of Washington. Since 2014, he has worked and volunteered for Seattle-area community-based organizations with various missions in education and job training. This nonprofit background in grant writing, program management, copy editing, and volunteer coordination sits alongside academic preparation in Anglophone poetics and literary theory. In 2021, he received a PhD in English from the University of Washington. He writes about institutional culture, teaching, and everyday readers and writers.

Dr. Chris Cruz Cullari is the Dean of Liberal Arts at Mercer County Community College and Co-PI of the Trenton Scholars Project Achieving the Dream Grant and Co-PI of Reading in the Humanities Teagle Foundation Grant.

Dartmouth Cullen is studying biomedical engineering at Jefferson State Community College and is completing a research internship at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She has served as president of her Phi Theta Kappa chapter for the past two years and also served as an Alabama state officer. She is passionate about advocating for community colleges as a smart choice and uplifting her peers to become student leaders.

Simon Cullen is a Senior Fellow at Heterodox Academy and co-founder and president of Disagree Wisely, a nonprofit research organization that helps learners cultivate essential intellectual virtues—humility, cognitive empathy, critical thinking, and the ability to engage constructively across differences. His research combines philosophy, cognitive science, and educational technology to improve reasoning and communication. He was a Faculty Research Fellow at the Segal Center for Academic Pluralism in 2025, and won HxA's 2024 Open Inquiry Award for his work on AI facilitation

and for his Carnegie Mellon course, Dangerous Ideas in Science and Society. Sway generalizes that course's approach, so that instructors anywhere can give their students the same hands-on, low-stakes, scaffolded practice with constructive disagreement regardless of resources.

Dulce de Castro is Professor of Foreign Languages at Collin College, where she also teaches American literature and world literature. She is a frequent presenter at regional, national, and international conferences, and her research interests focus on language pedagogy, multilingualism, multimodality, intermedial adaptations, and ekphrasis. Her presentation models how cross-medium encounters and reflective attention across literary and visual texts cultivate empathy and imaginative openness during times of crisis.

Paula Chukwurah is a Chemistry student at CCBC with aspirations of becoming a forensic scientist. Growing up in Nigeria, she developed a deep appreciation for the power of community, cultural identity, and the role education plays in shaping individuals and societies. Through her involvement in student organizations, mentorship, and service initiatives, she strives to create meaningful opportunities for others while fostering connection and belonging. Passionate about encouraging people to embrace and celebrate their roots, she believes that understanding one's culture is essential to building strong communities and appreciating diverse perspectives. Her core passion lies in empowering others through knowledge, helping individuals recognize their potential, discover their strengths, and pursue their goals with confidence.

Daniel Delgadillo Alvarez is a student at Frederick Community College.

Anthony Dodson is an International Keynote Speaker, Life Coach, and Author.

Joseph L. V. Donica, PhD, is a Professor of English at Bronx Community College, CUNY and a scholar of memory studies, dark tourism, and commemoration in American literature. His current book project, *Inequality's Memory: American Literature after the Arab Spring and Occupy Wall Street*, examines how contemporary fiction remembers economic crisis and collective protest. Sitting at the intersection of memory studies, queer studies, and utopian studies, this work has appeared in journals including *College Literature*, *The Journal of American Culture*, and *Science Fiction Film and TV.* He also co-edited the collection *Queer Then and Now* (Feminist Press, 2023). Donica is currently turning his work toward questions of the theological dimensions of memory and resistance and writes publicly on his Substack, *The Memory Maniac.* And he is actively involved in labor organizing and serves as a delegate to his union, PSC-CUNY.

Keren Egyir-Robertson is a Criminal Justice student at CCBC who plans to transfer to the University of Baltimore and pursue a career in law. As a Ghanaian, she has developed a strong interest in the relationship between law, society, and the people impacted by the justice system. Passionate about advocacy and service, she hopes to become a lawyer and use her understanding of the legal system to stand up for others while contributing to a more just society. She views education not simply as a path to a career, but as an opportunity to gain the knowledge, confidence, and perspective needed to make a meaningful and lasting impact on the lives of others.

Sydney Elliot is a Professor Writing and English at Tillamook Bay Community College and Oregon State University. Sydney holds an MFA in Creative Nonfiction from Pacific Lutheran University with an emphasis on Pedagogy. She has taught literature and writing as well as specializing in trauma-informed curriculum and practices. Sydney is the editor of the Community College Humanities Review and Fireweed: Poetry of Oregon. She is the recipient of the 2020 Dale P. Parnell Faculty Distinction Recognition award from the American Association of Community Colleges and also currently a writing instructor at Oregon State University. Sydney is a kayaker, surfer, published writer, and a member of her county's Search & Rescue team. She lives on the Oregon coast with her foster and rescue pets.

Gianna Espinoza is a graduate student assistant for Towson University's English Department GIVE (Grantwriting in Valued Environments) program.

Derrick Alan Everett is a PhD Student in English at Morgan State University.

Eric Fiero is the associate director of teaching and learning innovation and implementation at Achieving the Dream, where he supports the coordination and delivery of the Teaching and Learning team's work. That includes project management, thought leadership, and the design and delivery of professional development for grant-funded initiatives and fee-for-service engagements with Network colleges and state systems.

Eric is also a faculty member at Montgomery College, where he teaches courses in music history. Teaching keeps him in the same classroom he is helping other faculty strengthen, and grounds his national work in the day-to-day realities of community college instruction. He came to higher education after serving as a band director in Montgomery County, and is originally from Long Beach, CA.

Dr. Jessica Floyd is a Professor of English at the Community College Baltimore County where she teaches undergraduate writing and literature. Her research is focused on erotic cultural artifacts and recent work investigates the intersection of sex and philosophy with forthcoming publications focused on sex and sound as well as sacred sex and joy. Book-length projects include a close study of eroticism in chanteys (sailing work songs of the sea) in Cabin Boys, Milkmaids (2024), and Rough Seas and the evolution of the sailor as erotic object in The Sons of Neptune (2026). Dr. Floyd has been published in Porn Studies, English Studies, The Restoration Journal, and many others.

Biographies

Jamie Gallagher is a Professor of English at Community College of Baltimore County.

Samuel Ginn is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Southern State Community College in Southern Ohio. He specializes in philosophy of mind, ethics, and logic. He earned his BA in philosophy at UC Santa Cruz, and he earned his MA in philosophy at Cal State San Francisco.

Janet Gross is a Professor of English at Community College of Baltimore County.

Nikki Gonzalez is a Professor of Psychology at Middlesex College.

Kimberly Hannah-Prater is an Associate Professor of Communication and Media Studies at Community College of Baltimore County

Terence Hannum is an artist, educator, and Assistant Professor of Digital Fabrication at Carroll Community College. His teaching and research explore the intersections of digital technologies, material practice, ecology, and speculative futures. Working across painting, sculpture, sound, and digital media, he investigates how emerging technologies reshape relationships between human, organic, and constructed systems. Hannum holds an MFA in Painting and Drawing and a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, as well as a BA in Religion/Philosophy and Studio Art from Florida Southern College. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally (www.terencehannum.com).

Liesl Harris is the Associate Dean of Transfers and General Studies and Phi Theta Kappa Advisor at Jefferson State Community College.

James Hart is an Associate Professor and Chair Person of World Languages/Linguistics at County College of Morris.

Brigite Ilunga is a Social Work major with aspirations of working with children and making a meaningful impact in their lives. Congolese by heritage and Ugandan by birth, she is passionate about helping others learn and grow. Her core passion lies in bridging knowledge gaps, ensuring people fully understand complex concepts, and empowering individuals through education, guidance, and support.

Dr. Golfam Javanoskooei is a sleep medicine professional and educator with more than 15 years of experience in polysomnography. She is a Registered Polysomnographic Technologist (RPSGT) and serves as full-time faculty in the Polysomnography Technology Program at CCBC. She also serves as Chair of the Maryland Board of Physicians Polysomnography Advisory Committee and as a delegate for the World Sleep Society. She is actively involved in the sleep medicine community and is passionate about educating future sleep professionals and advancing the field of sleep health.

Arun John is Associate Dean for Liberal Education, Advancement and Development, Austin Community College.

Ramon Jones is an Associate Professor of English (newspaper and reporting instructor and student newspaper advisor) at Frederick Community College.

Fred Jordan is an Associate Professor History and Spanish at Nashville State Community College. He has published numerous articles in the *Community College Humanities Review* and has written many op-ed pieces for newspapers in Tennessee and New Mexico.

Aidan Kestigian, Ph.D. is the COO/CSO for Thinker, an education non-profit organization. Aidan received her Ph.D. in Logic, Computation, and Methodology from Carnegie Mellon University in 2018 and taught logic and ethics to college students for a decade before and during her time at Thinker. She is the author of Democratic Decisions in a Critical Thinking Crisis (2025).

Barbara Liedahl is an Adjunct Professor of Humanities at Howard Community College, where she is beginning her fourth-year teaching Introduction to Creative Arts, and Humanities 101. A retired Media Arts Instructional Specialist with more than 35 years in education, she has worked as a music educator, instructional technology specialist, and professional development provider. She holds an M.Ed. in Instructional Technology. Her current work explores student agency, authorship, and meaning making in learning with generative AI, including the development of an Agency Protocol for Learning with Generative AI.

Breanna Lutterbie is an assistant professor of English at Germanna Community College in Virginia, where she joined the full-time faculty in 2018. She brings over twenty years of teaching experience across high school and college settings, and her scholarship focuses on community college composition and rhetoric. She holds an M.A. in English from George Mason University and is currently a doctoral student in English at Old Dominion University, where her research explores faculty and student perspectives on purposes of community college first-year writing courses through the theoretical lens of rhetorical velocity. She was the 2026 recipient of Germanna's Richard C. Gossweiler Jr. Distinguished Learning-Centered Professorship, awarded for dedication to student success and lifelong learning. In an alternate universe, she is a culinary anthropologist studying how food and cooking express identity.

Shaylynn Marks is a graduate student at Hood College and, as of this semester, I have begun teaching as an adjunct for an English Composition course at Hood part-time. I am set to graduate with my MFA in June 2027.

Rich Marranca is an English Professor at Passaic Community College. He received his Ph.D. in the School of Education at New York University in 1996. His majors were Creative Arts & Educational Philosophy, and his minors were World Literature & Humanities.

Biographies

Frank Masel is a Professor of World Languages and Coordinator of World Languages at Community College of Baltimore County.

Candice Mayhill is one of the Co-Conveners of the Center for Liberal Arts Work (CLAW) at Anne Arundel Community College, a Teagle Foundation Cornerstone Project. She teaches in English at AACC. The CLAW is in its third year at AACC and offers the college and its surrounding community opportunities for open conversation around transformative texts, ideas, and experiences. Both Mayhill and Mayhill are strong believers in the power of poetry and the power of language to both endure and to allow humanity to endure, which led one of them to be a Milton scholar and the other a Dickinson scholar.

Tim Mayhill is one of the Co-Conveners of the Center for Liberal Arts Work (CLAW) at Anne Arundel Community College, a Teagle Foundation Cornerstone Project. He teaches in English at AACC. The CLAW is in its third year at AACC and offers the college and its surrounding community opportunities for open conversation around transformative texts, ideas, and experiences. Both Mayhill and Mayhill are strong believers in the power of poetry and the power of language to both endure and to allow humanity to endure, which led one of them to be a Milton scholar and the other a Dickinson scholar.

Deanna Niles McConnell is a graduate student in the Professional Writing Program at Towson University.

Doug McKenney is an Administrative Support Assistant II in the Honors College at the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC). My academic interests include philosophy, ethics, and critical theory, particularly in relation to climate crisis, scarcity, and responsibility. My presentation explores these issues through Baudrillard, Wynter, and care ethics.

Kris Messer is a Professor of English at Community College of Baltimore County.

Stacie Miller is an ESOL Professor, ESOL Coordinator, and Learning Community Program Coordinator at Community College of Baltimore County.

Robin Minor is the Director of Transformational Pedagogies and Editor-in-Chief of TAILS at Community College of Baltimore County.

Shamika Mitchell is an Associate Professor of English at State University of New York and Rockland Community College

Ri Molnar, MSW, LISW-S (they/them) is an Assistant Professor of Social Work at Sinclair Community College. Ri entered the field of social work through community organizing and then discovered the magic of healing while co-facilitating expressive arts therapy groups for children in 2012. Ri applies that clinical knowledge in the classroom with a trauma-informed education practice. Ri founded Rainbow Connection Mental Healthcare in 2022, which serves the LGBTQAI+ community and our allies and is the recipient of the NASW Oh Region 7 Emerging Leader Award for 2020.

Dr. Tanya L.W. Morris is an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Monroe University where she focuses on community health, research, and pediatric health.

Dr. Veronica Morrison is an Assistant Professor of English and Humanities at San Antonio College.

Ashley Moser teaches English and Humanities courses for Tacoma Community College and the Washington Corrections Center for Women. He is also finishing a dissertation through the University of Konstanz, Germany focusing on the utopian possibilities of science fiction infrastructures. Recent presentations include "Opening the Black Box: Infrastructure and Crisis" at the Environmental Mobilities conference in Munich, Germany, and "Alien Shores: Planetary Dark Ecology and Blue Utopianism" at the Utopian Studies conference in Wrightsville Beach, NC.

Benjamin Nelson is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Community College of Baltimore County, Essex.

Ayomide Oladimeji is a second-year PhD student in Rhetoric and Writing Studies at Wayne State University. She earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in English from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, as well as a professional certificate in TESOL from Arizona State University. Her research interests include rhetoric of health and medicine, feminist rhetoric, digital rhetoric, and black rhetorics. She has also presented at academic conferences and contributed to scholarly discussions on rhetoric, inclusion, and subaltern resistance.

Toluwani Olagunju is a Biology student at CCBC who plans to graduate in 2027, transfer to Towson University, and pursue a career as a gynecologist. Originally from Nigeria, she hopes to use her future career to empower young women pursuing healthcare, support survivors of domestic violence, and create opportunities for children in need through community and nonprofit initiatives.

Katie O'Malley is a leadership educator and executive coach who helps ambitious professionals build meaningful careers, sustainable leadership practices, and healthier relationships with work.

Keith Phillips is Coordinator of French and Spanish and Associate Professor of World Languages and Cultures at Howard Community College in Columbia, Maryland. He holds an M.A. in Spanish from Michigan State University and a B.A. in Spanish with a minor in French from Ball State University. Prior to joining HCC, he taught French and Spanish at the university, college, and community college levels in Illinois and Michigan.

Before his current role, Keith served as President and CEO of an educational technology startup focused on improving the world language learning experience for teenage and adult learners. His work as an edtech innovator includes an approved patent ("Language Learning System and Method") as well as a separate RISE Patent Concept Award ("Conversational AI for World Language Learning"). He is currently a Ph.D. candidate (ABD), with an expected completion in 2027, in Engineering (Innovation in Education, with an emphasis on Machine Learning and Machine Cognition) at the Universidad de Deusto in Bilbao, Spain.

His research interests lie at the intersection of machine learning, machine cognition, language learning, and responsible AI innovation for the common good, with particular interest in the efficiency and sustainability of emerging technologies. His dissertation, "Development of a Master Ontological Neurosymbolic Intelligent Cognitive Algorithm (MONICA) for Language

Learning, Lifelong Learning, and Artificial Intelligence," investigates how machines learn and whether greater alignment with human cognition can lead to more effective and meaningful interactions between humans and AI.

Dr. Nicholas Plants is Professor of Philosophy at Prince George's Community College in Largo, Maryland, where he has served as a faulty member since 2004. In addition to being the Chair of the General Education Committee for more than ten years, Dr. Plants has served as the Academic Coordinator for the General Studies Program since 2020. His principal interest is in theories of subjectivity and authenticity as they are developed within the existentialist, hermeneutical, and postmodernist traditions; his secondary interests include philosophy and literature, philosophy and film, and philosophy of comedy. As well as having articles published in Method: Journal of Lonergan Studies and having his work anthologized in *In Deference to the Other,* Dr. Plants was a co-editor of and contributor to *Sobering Wisdom: Philosophical Explorations of Twelve-Step Spirituality*, published by the University of Virginia Press. He lives in Laurel, Maryland with his wife and daughter.

Mary Jo Richards is an Associate Professor of English at the Community College of Baltimore County in Maryland where she has taught since 2005. Prior to coming to CCBC, Prof. Richards was an Instructional Skills Specialist in English at Palo Alto College in San Antonio, Texas, and she served as a high school English teacher in prior to that. This is her thirty-second year as an educator. She holds a BA in English and sociology and an MA in English language and literature, both from Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas, and an MS in adult learning from Walden University. Mary Jo is also an amateur film photographer, typewriter collector, and fountain pen enthusiast. Her photography has been published in the anthology *Unhoused* by Prolific Pulse Press (2026) and the Photozine Collective's latest zine, *Convergence* (2026).

Jeffrey Roberson is a Professor of Architecture at Anne Arundel Community College.

Misha Robinson is an Adjunct Faculty Member in the English Department at the Community College of Baltimore County. Their teaching interests include composition, critical literacy, metaliteracy, and the ethical use of artificial intelligence in education. She is currently collaborating with colleagues both within and outside of CCBC to use technologies, including AI, to foreground accessibility and student engagement in higher education.

Dr. Giuseppe Rotolo is a Professor of Philosophy at Middlesex College.

Brinda Roy is a Professor of English and Program Coordinator for Liberal Education Advancement and Development (LEAD) at Austin Community College.

Linda Sears is a Professor of Humanities at Collin College. She is a dedicated member of CCHA, having held several leadership positions.

Clare Sigrist is a Visting Professor of English at The College of Wooster.

Erika J. Simon is a Professor of Humanities at Nash Community College in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, where she sees herself less as the "sage on the stage" and more as a "guide on the side." She enjoys helping students think critically, ask better questions, and make meaningful connections in courses such as critical thinking, technology and society, British Literature, and film studies. She serves as faculty advisor for the Drama Club and as a member of my campus AI Committee, exploring how technology can thoughtfully support both the arts as well as teaching and learning. Outside the classroom, she is the proud mom to two beautiful albeit feral boys and the grateful wife of a wonderful husband who is watching both of them while she can be here at this conference.

David Slakter is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Camden County College.

Elizabeth H. Smith (Liz) is a Professor of Social Work and Human Services Counseling at Community College of Baltimore County.

Brian Stipelman is the Associate Vice President/Dean of Liberal Arts at Frederick Community College in Maryland, and was previously an Associate Professor of Political Science at Dowling College in New York. He holds a PhD in Political Science from Rutgers University and is the author of two books. *That Broader Definition of Liberty: The Theory and Practice of the New Deal* (2013, Lexington Press) examines the institutionalization of a welfare state in a conservative political ecosystem. The far more personal *I Am No Guide: Pearl Jam Song by Song* (2024, Fonthill Press) is an exploration of

the evolutionary themes in their music. He is also the President of the Community College Humanities Association Leadership Committee.

Dr. Nicole Tong holds an EdD in Educational Policy, Planning and Leadership from the College of William and Mary and an MFA in Creative Writing from George Mason University. Prior to her tenure of Dean at Reynolds Community College, she was a Professor of English and Creative Writing at Northern Virginia Community College for sixteen years. Her publications include a book of poems, *How to Prove a Theory* (WWPH, 2017) and a dissertation, *Transparency in Learning and Teaching: An Action Research Study of Community College Faculty Personal and Professional Development* (2026). She has served on core teams for Reynolds Community College's Achieving the Dream and Aspen's Unlocking Opportunity initiative, which assists cohort of community colleges with improving post-secondary outcomes for students.

Laura Trauth, PhD is a Professor of History and Online Learning Coordinator for the Schools of Wellness, Education, Behavioral and Social Sciences at Community College of Baltimore County.

Sreshta Sree Veldanda is a student at Frederick Community College.

Sheri Trivane is a Professor of Communication and Media Studies at Community College of Baltimore County.

Nick Van Horn is an Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator of Philosophy at Community College of Baltimore County Essex. He is currently working towards a Graduate Certificate from Texas State University in Ethics and Digital Technologies. His approach pulls from the works of Aristotle, Heidegger, Shannon Vallor, and Robin Wall Kimmerer, and attempts to situate artificial intelligence within the broader context of our condition as embodied and relational beings.

Dr. Amy Vondrak is a Professor of English at Mercer County Community College and Co-PI of the Trenton Scholars Project Achieving the Dream Grant and Co-PI of Reading in the Humanities Teagle Foundation Grant.

Wanda White-Walker, Ed.D., is the inaugural Director of Humanities Education Initiatives at Achieving the Dream (ATD), where she leads a national initiative to support community colleges in integrating the humanities as a catalyst for student success, workforce readiness, community vibrancy, and institutional transformation. Her passion for humanities education was shaped early in her career as a former Department Chair and Associate Professor of English at the community college level and as a Dean of University Writing Programs at the university level.

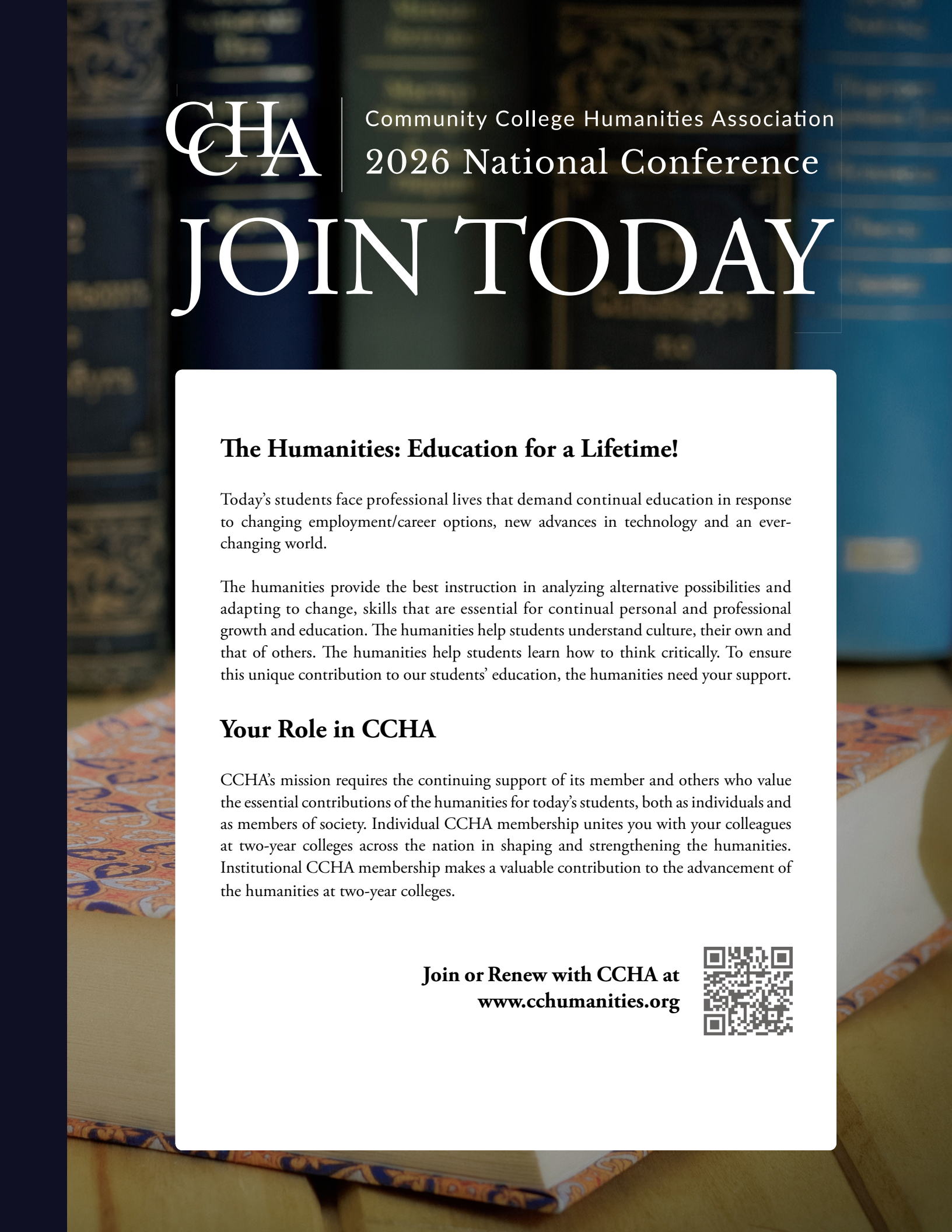
Throughout her career, Dr. White-Walker has been recognized for leading innovative initiatives that bridge pedagogy with technology resulting in institutional change. She is particularly known for her work in digital tool integration and most recently of ways to use human -centered generative AI as a collaborative partner to enhance teaching and learning. Dr. White-Walker is a nationally recognized presenter, author, facilitator, and thought partner who is committed to empowering educators and colleges with evidence-based practices to create meaningful learning experiences that prepare students to thrive in an ever-changing world.

K.C. Williams, Ed.D., worked in higher education for more than 20 years, teaching art history and humanities across institutions of all sizes. She began her professional journey in community colleges overseeing the art galleries and later chairing an interdisciplinary arts and humanities division. While at Northwest Florida State College (NWFSC), she held multiple positions in academic affairs administration, while remaining an active member of the humanities faculty. In 2019, she was named the inaugural Director of the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning at NWFSC and served as a SME for faculty development and online learning for the Florida College System Foundation's Guided Pathways program.

In 2021, she joined Anthology, Inc., and helped build Anthology Academy, a source for professional development and training for higher ed faculty and staff. As Director, Education Products, she led the launch of Anthology Academy 2.0 and oversaw strategy for a broad portfolio of education services.

Her current role of Executive Director of Teaching and Learning continues the thread that has been woven throughout Dr. Williams' career: promoting student achievement by developing and supporting faculty in today's technology-rich higher ed environment.

Traci D. Wiliams is a Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of English and Language Arts, Morgan State University.



CCHA

Community College Humanities Association

2026 National Conference

JOIN TODAY

The Humanities: Education for a Lifetime!

Today's students face professional lives that demand continual education in response to changing employment/career options, new advances in technology and an ever-changing world.

The humanities provide the best instruction in analyzing alternative possibilities and adapting to change, skills that are essential for continual personal and professional growth and education. The humanities help students understand culture, their own and that of others. The humanities help students learn how to think critically. To ensure this unique contribution to our students' education, the humanities need your support.

Your Role in CCHA

CCHA's mission requires the continuing support of its member and others who value the essential contributions of the humanities for today's students, both as individuals and as members of society. Individual CCHA membership unites you with your colleagues at two-year colleges across the nation in shaping and strengthening the humanities. Institutional CCHA membership makes a valuable contribution to the advancement of the humanities at two-year colleges.

Join or Renew with CCHA at
www.cchumanities.org