



COLLEGE ENGLISH ASSOCIATION – MID-ATLANTIC GROUP

68th Annual Conference - Friday, 10 April 2026

“Declarations”

**Hosted by the University of the District of Columbia
College of Arts and Sciences
4250 Connecticut Avenue, NW - 4th floor**

(All sessions are in Event Space 6, except where noted below.)

Washington, DC 20008

[Registration](#)

[Virtual Link](#)

2026 Program

9:00 – 9:30 AM: Welcome/ Meet and Greet/ Continental Breakfast - Event Space 6

Session I - 9:30 - 10:30 AM

Moderator: David Kaloustian, Bowie State University

“The UDC Op-Ed Initiative: Short Does Not Mean Easy” Craig Wynne and Nicole Wynn, University of the District of Columbia

“Come on and Zine a Zine a Zine! How the crafting of zines in a composition class encourages authentic writing and student buy-in.” Jacqueline Scott, Community College of Baltimore County, Catonsville Campus

Session II - 10:30 - 11:30 AM

Moderator: Pearlie Peters, Rider University (Virtual moderator)

“The Evolution of Disability Language: Declarations of Identity and Power from PreK to Higher Education” Arlene King-Berry, Carolene Charles, Pamela Butler, University of the District of Columbia

Session III - 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Session III A - Room 7B Moderator: Aparajita De, University of the District of Columbia

“Mimicry and the Expression of Love in ‘The Blue Jar’” S. Selina Jamil, Prince George’s Community College (Virtual)

“Margaret Atwood’s ‘Elbows Up!’” Jack Dudley, Mount St. Mary’s University (MD)

Session III B - Event Space 6 Moderator: Bishnu Ghimire, College of Southern Maryland

“Architects of Society’: Bishop John J. Wright, Catholic Vocation, and the Workers Who Built the Nuclear Navy, Pittsburgh, 1949–1983” Charles Strauss, Mount St. Mary’s University

“Ruining the Sacred Truths: Formalist Orthodoxies and Their Legacies” David Kaloustian, Bowie State University

“We declare, we proclaim, we define”: Origins of Contemporary Authoritarian Discourse in Medieval Papal Speech Acts” Sean Lewis, Mount St. Mary’s University

12:30 - 1 pm Lunch Break & CEAMAG Business Meeting - Event Space 6

PLENARY - “ Declarations: Who Gets to Speak, Who Gets to Belong, and What We Owe One Another”

1:00 pm - 1:45 pm

Introduction to Keynote Speaker: CEAMAG President Ada Vilageliu-Díaz (University of the District of Columbia)



Dr. Adanna J. Johnson, Associate CAO of Faculty Affairs, University of the District of Columbia
Dr. Adanna J. Johnson is a psychologist and faculty development leader. Her research focuses on underrepresented groups in higher education and racism in fashion.

Session IV

2:00 - 3:00 PM

Moderator: Steven Lessner, Northern Virginia Community College

“Selective Ignition: Autobiography, AI, and Narrative Sovereignty Under Digital Surveillance” Cherie Ann Turpin, University of the District of Columbia (Virtual presenter)

“‘I Stole This From a Chemist’: Declarations from an Interdisciplinary Assessment Model of Student Product and Process” Kenyatta Dorey Graves, University of the District of Columbia, and John Harkless, Howard University

“Anomaly Emancipation” Suzanne Lea, University of the District of Columbia

Session V

3:00 - 3:30 PM Event Space 8 (The UDC Writing Center)

Moderator:

“The UDC Writing Center: A Declaration of Hygge” Helene Krauthamer, Natalie Bridgewater and Peer Tutors, University of the District of Columbia

3:30 - 4 PM

Closing Reception - Event Space 8

2026 Conference Planning Committee

Program and Site Chair: Helene Krauthamer, University of the District of Columbia
CFP Coordinator: David Kaloustian, Bowie State University
Evaluation Coordinator: Steven T. Lessner, Northern Virginia Community College
Site Chair Committee: Aparajita De, University of the District of Columbia

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President: Ada Vilageliu-Díaz, University of the District of Columbia (ada.vilageliudiaz1@udc.edu)
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CEA-MAG Website: <http://www.bowiestate.edu/ceamag>

The College English Association, Mid-Atlantic Group (CEAMAG), a regional affiliate of the **College English**

Association, is an association of teachers and scholars of English and related disciplines in the humanities whose mission is to promote professional growth through dialogue on literature, language, culture, technology, rhetoric, and composition.

The CEAMAG is a collegial organization that values diversity and inclusion. CEAMAG has hosted an annual conference since 1957 and has published a peer-reviewed scholarly journal, The Mid-Atlantic Review, since 1991.

CEA-MAG 2026 Conference Land Acknowledgement

The current city of Washington, DC, and the University of the District of Columbia are on land from which European settlers forcibly removed the Nacotchtank and the Anacostan, whose descendants are now part of the Piscataway Indian Nation. We acknowledge that UDC is a land-grant university and that the land that was given to this university was taken and belonged to the original inhabitants of Washington, DC. Their primary villages were in Southeast DC near Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, along the eastern shore of the Potomac and Anacostia rivers, ([Tayac](#)) and from today's Palisades neighborhood in Northwest DC to Arlington, Virginia ([Hilleary](#)). It was not until 2012 that the Piscataway Indian Nation and the Piscataway Conoy Tribe, which is divided into the Piscataway Conoy Confederacy and Subtribes and the Cedarville Band of Piscataway Indians, were officially recognized in the state of Maryland. They are not federally recognized.

We acknowledge the painful history of dehumanization, genocide, land theft, displacement, deadly exposure to European diseases, famine, kidnapping, enslavement, and environmental degradation of Washington, DC. During the early contact with Europeans, villages were destroyed, goods were stolen, and entire groups were kidnaped to serve as guides or translators, sold to other regions as slaves, or taken to European courts for display. Such is the case of a boy from the Potomac River who was kidnapped by the Spanish in 1588 and immediately died of grief (Rountree 20).

According to Elizabeth Rule (Chickasaw) DC is the capital of Indian Country, a site where “Native American political issues advanced in the capital city, representations of First Americans presented in monuments and museums, the cultural footprint made by Indigenous arts, and intertribal activism leaving a powerful legacy” ([Indigenous DC](#) 175). Thanks for indigenous activism, DC is also where the NFL football team changed its name from the Redskins or the R-word team to the Washington Commanders after years of protests and petitions. This was an offensive name that reflected a racist slur and racist stereotype as we can see from a 1863 announcement in the Winona Daily Republican in Minnesota: “The State reward for dead Indians has been increased to \$200 for every red-skin sent to Purgatory. This sum is more than the dead bodies of all the Indians east of the Red River are worth” (qtd. in Rule 124).

We are aware that land acknowledgement can seem performative without real action. For that purpose, we believe that Indigenous communities deserve to have their land back. In the DC area, the Piscataway Land Trust is beginning the process of “rematriat[ing] ancestral land to the Piscataway and other Indigenous peoples of the Chesapeake region.” The trust’s website is still in development, but we are including links to their Instagram and PayPal:

www.instagram.com/piscatawaylandtrust

www.paypal.com/paypalme/cedarvilleband

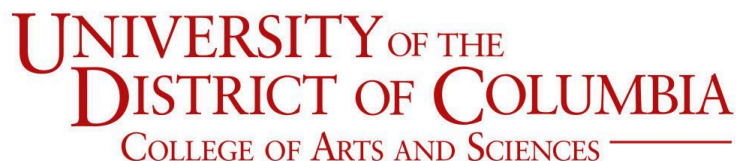
<http://www.throughpiscatawayeyes.org>

A land acknowledgement recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples as the original stewards of the land on which an event is happening. It affirms the traditional and lasting relationship between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories. Land acknowledgments are formal statements which recognize Indigenous Peoples

and can provide a call to action to support specific organizations which provide monetary or political empowerment. We provide land acknowledgements in gratitude for those on whose traditional territory we reside or work.

This statement was written by Ada Vilageliu-Diaz and Chris Anglim from UDC Learning Resources Division.

A BIG THANK YOU to all our supporters!



Accommodations: Though the Day's Inn is closest to campus, we recommend considering hotels on the Metro Red Line. Here's one that is only two stops away:

Embassy Suites by Hilton Washington DC Chevy Chase Pavilion

4300 Military Road Nw, Washington, DC, US

Reservations: +1 (833) 311-3991

Recommended Places to Visit in DC:

[JF Books](#): This is the only Chinese bookstore in DC, owned and operated by one of our UDC English graduates, Miao Yu.

[Frederick Douglass National Historic Site](#)