College English Association – Mid-Atlantic Group

69th ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE 2027

Call for Papers

"GATEWAYS & GUARDRAILS"

19 March 2027

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jack Dudley of Mount St. Mary's University

Jack Dudley is the author of *The New Believers: Religion and the Contemporary Novel* (Cambridge, 2026) and the forthcoming *Cambridge Introduction to Religion and Literature*.

Conference Location: University of the District of Columbia

"GATEWAYS & GUARDRAILS" is the theme for the CEA-MAG Conference 2027, which will be held at the University of the District of Columbia. This year's theme is a prompt for papers and panels that explore gateways and guardrails in English, Modern Languages, Cultural Studies, the Humanities in relation to STEM subjects, interdisciplinary subjects, and the profession of higher education. We therefore invite papers and panels from academics in higher education, AP instructors, and graduate students on any topic that is likely to be of interest to this organization. Although proposals may broadly interpret the conference theme in accordance with the subtopics indicated below, we will also gladly review for possible inclusion proposals on other topics and themes.

Some Subtopics/Themes to Consider:

- Gateways to the profession
- Access to higher education vs. gatekeeping
- Guardrails for AI
- AI: gateway to the future or existential threat?
- Gendered gateways
- Avenues to faculty advancement
- Guardrails to ensure shared governance, tenure, and academic freedom
- Pedagogical gateways & guardrails
- Approaches to teaching literature and language
- Policies for institutional success
- Portals to the Black imaginary
- AI protocols & parameters for composition
- Safeguarding the Humanities
- Literary gateways & guardrails
- Gated communities in higher education
- Buffers against attacks on higher education
- Gateways to interdisciplinary and intercultural studies
- Community Writing and counter stories
- Cultural Rhetorics and guardrails

Graduate Students: Graduate students should identify themselves to be eligible to compete for the $100 Christopher Bell prize for best grad student paper and should be prepared to submit a full copy of the accepted conference paper by March 5, 2027 to the Program Committee Chair.

Submissions: Please submit your paper abstracts (of 300 words or fewer) and panel proposals by **January 4, 2027** to the Program Committee Chair at the following link: https://forms.gle/3VqWQdnPCJjoWFai8.

Registration: Registration/CEA-MAG membership fee is $50 ($35 for adjunct instructors and $25 for graduate students). An institutional registration fee of $250 is available and covers up to five faculty. The link to the online registration page is on the webpage for the CEA-MAG: https://www.bowiestate.edu/academics/colleges/college-of-arts-and-sciences/departments/language-literature-and-cultural-studies/ceamag/ceamag-conference.php.

Questions? Other questions may be directed to CEA-MAG President Dr. Ada Vilageliu Diaz at avilageliu@gmail.com. Website: https://www.bowiestate.edu/academics/colleges/college-of-arts-and-sciences/departments/language-literature-and-cultural-studies/ceamag/ .