MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

“Agenda 2020”

In December 2008, with the generous support of the Ford Foundation, then President Patricia Mohammed, undertook the most comprehensive assessment of the CSA Governance and Financial Management processes, Programming Initiatives and Membership constitution, distribution and ongoing support to date. The final “Assessment and Strategic Action Plan” identified a number of strategic priority areas benchmarked for completion over the two year period 2008 – 2010. While a number of the Strategic Plan recommendations have been implemented, the overall outcomes of the assessment report have yet to be fully realized.

It is against this backdrop that I intend to launch, with the support of the Executive Council, the next phase of CSA’s strategic planning process: “Agenda 2020.” Under this initiative, (and using the 2008 report as a guide,) we have identified the most urgent items preventing CSA from consolidating its strengths and articulating an agenda for future growth and development. Intended to improve the institutional capacity and long term sustainability of CSA, “Agenda 2020” will target the following areas:

Governance

To strengthen organizational governance instruments; enhance operational procedures; improve reporting and compliance processes.

Financial Management

To develop and implement sound financial management systems geared towards optimizing CSA’s ability to attract funding and the sustainable allocation of financial, technical and human resources.

Membership

To provide a transformative professional and Caribbean driven academic, activist and creative community founded on diversity, inclusion and mutual respect.

These areas of institutional strengthening are succinct to facilitate their ease of reference while capturing the core values and vision of CSA since its creation in 1975. Each priority area will have its own separate set of goals, key metrics, and execution responsibilities elaborated in the Working Document to be tabled at the Executive Council meeting in Nassau, Bahamas in September. Once adopted by the Executive Council, “Agenda 2020” will be distributed widely for maximum input from our membership.

It is my hope that this document will guide us on the journey to 2020, the 45th year of existence of the CSA.

I look forward to your suggestions and recommendations as we seek to leverage our institutional strengths, technical capacities and the breadth and diversity of our membership to increase our impact within the Caribbean region and beyond.

With our collection action, commitment and decisive leadership the Caribbean Studies Association is poised to realize its full potential.

Keithley P. Woolward
President, CSA 2016-2017
Announcements

Conference
CSA Nassau 2017
Culture and Knowledge Economies: The future of Caribbean Development?
Nassau, The Bahamas
June 5th-10th 2017
The Call for Papers will be open in September 2017. Stay tuned to the CSA website and follow us on Facebook and Twitter for updates.

Call for Papers

- Caribbean Review of Gender Studies Special Issue

Job Announcements

- Assistant Professor in British, French, and/or Spanish Caribbean
- Postdoctoral Positions in Digital Humanities and African American History and Culture

Consagran a su estudio e investigación. Son los espacios necesarios para el diálogo y el intercambio con miradas abiertas y cruzadas. Resultan imprescindibles para componer las visiones contemporáneas y las de la contemporaneidad sobre el tiempo pasado. A los venidos de múltiples latitudes, portadores de saberes también múltiples, la CSA ha brindado en sus más de cuarenta ediciones uno de esos sitios privilegiados para pensar el Caribe desde diversos enfoques disciplinarios. Un espacio así es de la mayor importancia para las tareas científicas y culturales que esta región propone y requiere.

Fundada en la segunda mitad del pasado siglo, la CSA ha transitado un largo itinerario de variadas experiencias en más de una veintena de territorios tanto de las islas como de las costas continentales. Ese universo de lo común y lo diferente que el Caribe nos muestra es un acercamiento necesario para pensar el espacio que la habitan. Se encuentran situadas en el extremo nororiental del Caribe, en aguas atlánticas, que con su fuerza no solo inundan la isla en sus múltiples expresiones, involucrando la historia de sus habitantes. En todo ese contexto, la naturaleza se presenta fundamental para aportar una dimensión trascendente a la relación del individuo con el medio, ya sea construido o natural.

A través de mi participación en congresos de la Asociación, en distintos momentos y países, se me ha hecho evidente esa vocación sostenida por hacer más dinámica la visión sobre el Caribe mismo, y la importancia de mantener la continuidad de estudios e investigaciones, que se muestra incuestionable con la presencia de nuevas generaciones de profesionales que hacen pensar en un futuro integrado para la organización entrado ya el nuevo milenio. El Presidente Keithley Woolward, es en la actualidad el más joven de los que hay tenido la CSA, lo que me parece altamente representativo. Como Vicepresidenta electa en el congreso recién concluido en Haití, me siento muy alentada de poder contribuir a esos esfuerzos, sintiendo además el doble valor simbólico de haber sido votada en ese emblemático territorio, fundador de una nueva etapa de la historia regional y porque también es primera vez que un cubano integra la dirección de la CSA.

Todos son motivos alentadores. Y ahora la CSA encima su sede hacia Bahamas en 2017, territorio de cientos de islas, cayos e islotes, formando un mapa de plena insularidad. Se diría que esa imagen archipiélagica nos remite a la manera glissantiana de pensar la interpenetración de lo escrito y lo oral, lo gestual y lo signífico visual, lo que hacemos nosotros mismos para manifestar las complejas dimensiones de un todo de muchas partes, en la que se interpenetran lo escrito y lo oral, lo gestual y lo signífico visual, lo que se muestra incuestionable con la presencia de nuevas generaciones de profesionales que hacen pensar en un futuro integrado para la organización entrado ya el nuevo milenio. El Presidente Keithley Woolward, es en la actualidad el más joven de los que hay tenido la CSA, lo que me parece altamente representativo. Como Vicepresidenta electa en el congreso recién concluido en Haití, me siento muy alentada de poder contribuir a esos esfuerzos, sintiendo además el doble valor simbólico de haber sido votada en ese emblemático territorio, fundador de una nueva etapa de la historia regional y porque también es primera vez que un cubano integra la dirección de la CSA.

Ese universo de lo común y lo diferente que el Caribe nos muestra es de la mayor importancia para las tareas científicas y culturales que esta región propone y requiere.

Yolanda Wood
Encounters are essential for the Caribbean, and all the more so for those who are dedicated to the study and research of the Caribbean. These are the necessary spaces for dialogue and exchange, with an open mind and engaged gaze. Meetings are indispensable if we are to build up a contemporary image of the Caribbean from times past. For many people from different latitudes, bearers of a diverse history, the CSA has offered—in more than forty annual conferences—one of these privileged spaces for developing Caribbean thought from different disciplinary areas. Such a space is of the greatest importance for fulfilling the scientific and cultural tasks that the region faces.

In accordance with those good intentions, the CSA has clearly surpassed any partial vision of Caribbean studies, and offers—and ever more so—an ample and complex panorama of its multiple dimensions, involving the social sciences, the humanities and culture in a more integrative perspective that includes giving significance of to all forms of living this Caribbean space, through different historical periods as well as the significant cultural practices living in the popular space, with all its conflicts of poverty, deterioration and marginality. In this context, nature offers a fundamental and transcendent dimension to the relation between the individual and the environment, either constructed or natural.

Through my participation in CSA conferences, in different moments and in a variety of countries, this sustained vocation for a more dynamic vision about the Caribbean itself, has become very evident; so also, the importance for maintaining continuity in studies and research, demonstrated clearly in the unquestionable presence of new generations of scholars who enable us to envisage an intense future for the organization as it enters the new millennium. President Keithley Woolward is currently the youngest president the CSA has ever had, which is to me extremely significant. As Vice-president elected during the recent Conference in Haiti, I feel encouraged to be able to contribute to these efforts, and also to recognize the double symbolic significance of having been elected in this most emblematic of territories, founder of a new stage in regional history and because it is also the first time that a Cuban has participated in the leadership of CSA.

All these are promising motives. And now CSA walks forward to its next encounter in Bahamas, in 2017, a territory of hundreds of islands, keys and islets, forming its own insular map. One could say that that archipelagic image invokes the Glissantian way of looking at Caribbeanness, prefigured and confirmed in the Bahamas, with historical data, from the times of the original inhabitants. These islands are situated in the extreme north east of the Caribbean, in Atlantic waters, whose force not only floods across the Caribbean basin but also intervenes in the visibility of many islands, according to the tides and their intensity. The Bahamas are a genetic space for the history of the Americas. Also known as the Lucayan Archipelago they take us back to the first encounter, over 500 years ago. Like so many other Caribbean territories the Spanish colonized first, followed afterwards by others—the English—thus integrating a rich diversity that identifies this region and marks the Bahamas as a Caribbean space of plantations, slavery and African heritage.

That universe of the “common and the diverse” that the Caribbean displays to us, is one of its greatest strengths, and a never ending source for research and study. To be able to foment this move to a greater diversity from within CSA, and to encourage a greater understanding of ourselves as part of a human complex that
Meagan Sylvester
transcends history and culture, is one of the aims that inspires me in the vice-presidency that I have just embarked on. Valuing the wealth that nourishes Caribbean identity, expressed in its multilingualism and in the variety of its artistic and cultural expressions, reveals certain clues for thinking about the cultural diversity of the Caribbean people, of its islands, mainland coasts and diaspora.

At the Conference in Bahamas 2017 the true “discovery” will happen: the one we make ourselves, to reveal the complex dimensions of the “all of many places”, where the oral and the written word interconnect with performance, visual arts, music and dance. In this “whole mixed together”, to cite Nicolas Guillén, a way of thinking is inscribed, that blurs the boundaries of balkanizations, prejudice and discrimination, and leads to understanding Caribbeanness as a cultural value, created through time, through a succession of peoples who arrived at, or who were brought to, the Caribbean from so many places. In this web of beliefs, knowledge, practices and ways of understanding the world, the Caribbean space stands out; and it greatly needs our individual and collective actions for communication, dialogue, cooperation and projection. The CSA has been and is an essential space for these purposes, now and in the future.

Yolanda Wood
Vice President, CSA 2016-2017

MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM CHAIRS

Guido Rojer, Jr.
Okama Ekpe Brook

Having just left the concrete reality of the Haitian capital Port-au-Prince two months ago, we settle in to the digital infrastructure that powers the Caribbean Studies Association as we plan the CSA 2017 Conference in, Nassau, The Bahamas. With the Caribbean Sea separating us physically we take up the responsibilities as program co-chairs with many whatsapp messages, emails, and meetings over skype. These technological advancements transcends beyond the “borders” that limited those who came before us, while also offering a multiplicity of opportunities for our organization and especially for our annual conference gathering. From the administrative offices of the College of the Bahamas, to the government building of St. Maarten, and the scientific quarters of the University of Curacao we piece together ideas for our next exchange of research, activist agendas and creative work to be held in Nassau in June upcoming. It is therefore necessary to give a sneak peak to what the call for papers will look like.

“Knowledge and Culture Economies: The Future of Caribbean Development?” is the theme for our next conference. The Caribbean has come a long way in “development” (a term which has its own problematic definitions and applications), but still falls short as a region with respect to competitiveness, relevance and economic impact, other than the tourism offerings for the North. Creative industries, African rooted cultural practices and traditional and artisanal Knowledge Economies abound across the Caribbean region from Caribbean theater, film and visual arts, to rhyming spirituals, to bush medicine, goat skin drums and the indigenous retentions in Papiamento and kreyol poetry and literature. Can these forms of Caribbean cultural being form the basis of a new and or different model through which to (re)imagine, (re)theorise the future of Caribbean development? Our next conference will open up this discussion among ourselves, with the intention to refocus our attention to developing our ideas into tangible products for the Caribbean peoples, wherever they may be.

Guido Rojer, Jr.
Okama Ekpe Brook
Program Chairs, CSA 2016-2017

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Guido Rojer, Jr.
Okama Ekpe Brook
Program Chairs, CSA 2016-2017

I wish to take this opportunity to wish all new and returning members of the Caribbean Studies Association warm August greetings!

After completing our successful annual conference in Haiti last June, we are posed and on the cusp of another year of hard work and due diligence as we remain committed to building, developing and growing our Caribbean academic community. As we look towards the future, The Caribbean Studies Association is determined to effect strategies that would ensure that we “be the change that we want to see”.

To my team members on the Newsletter Editorial Committee I salute you for a job well done over the last year. Together with you, I pledge to make the next year, the best in our delivery of examples of academic excellence, public service and community engagement.

There has been a changing of guards at the organisation’s helm and I want to say a heartfelt welcome to our new President Keithley Woolward and our new Vice-President, Yolanda Wood.
Hélène Zamor

Here’s looking forward to exciting new academic journeys at the Caribbean Studies Association.

Please feel free to email the Newsletter Editor directly at newseditor@caribbeanstudiesassociation.org to share your views, comments and the good news of your academic success with us.

Meagan Sylvester
Newsletter Editor
Caribbean Studies Association

MESSAGE FROM THE LANGUAGE SUB-EDITORS

Nouvèl (Martinican French Creole)

ASOSYASYON ETID KARAYIB-LA

Asosyasyon Etid Karayib-la fondé an 1975. Sa kè kawant an pasè ki i ka travay anpil métè réjyon Karayib-la an valé. Organiz tala pa ka fé lajan mè l i ni an lo lektè, pwofèsè, étidyen twazyèm sikle, moun ki adan larechch ki ka enmen kitli, istwa, ékonomi, mizik, lang, relatyon ant nomi épil fann, sosyoloji di réjyon nou.


Helene Zamor
French & Martinican Creole Language Sub-editor
CSA Newsletter

Español

DOS DÉCADAS DE ESTUDIOS SOBRE EL CARIBE DESDE EL TERRITORIO INSULAR COLOMBIANO

Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Sede Caribe, San Andrés Isla, www.caribe.unal.edu.co

Docencia, investigación, publicación e interacción cultural comunitaria constituyen los cuatro pilares en los que sustentan los estudios caribeños desde San Andrés, Isla. Veinte años después, el instituto proyecta un trabajo que, como la corriente del mar caribe, está volcado a unir el continente con las islas. Su impronta trasciende el ámbito nacional y ocupa espacios de socialización académica y cultural a nivel regional.

El quehacer profesional del instituto es excelente, merece especial atención destacar la permanencia del programa de Maestría en Estudios del Caribe fundado en el año 2000 y la Maestría en Ciencias-Biología, línea Biología Marina que, sin dudas, es uno de los pilares en la Isla del Mar de los Siete Colores.

Portada de la Revista Cuadernos del Caribe, No. 20, 2015. Disponible en:

De igual manera felicitamos iniciativas como el Centro de Pensamiento del Gran Caribe y la Revista Cuadernos del Caribe, que en palabras de su directora, la Dra. Yusmidia Solano Suárez, “nuestra meta es que Cuadernos del Caribe se convierta en un medio de publicación, difusión y promoción de la producción de conocimiento realizados desde y para el Caribe, en el marco amplio de los Estudios del Caribe entendidos estos como las propuestas epistémicas, teóricas y metodológicas que nos ayudan a pensar el Caribe desde sí mismo y a desarrollar alternativas a las problemáticas sociales y ambientales de la
diaspora, the role of intersectionality cannot be emphasized. As an organization that focuses on the Caribbean region and secondary education, there is more to be done.

Growing and defining themselves within the space of post-representation has mattered a great deal to many young scholars of large institutions. Disciplines have grown and developed in power to tell their own stories, and to make use of the resources been many opportunities created by people on the margins of area studies has grown over the past few decades, there have been many opportunities created by people on the margins of power to tell their own stories, and to make use of the resources of large institutions. Disciplines have grown and developed in gender, sexuality, and race studies as well. And while this representation has mattered a great deal to many young scholars growing and defining themselves within the space of post-secondary education, there is more to be done.

As an organization that focuses on the Caribbean region and diaspora, the role of intersectionality cannot be emphasized...
Dr. Samuel A. Floyd, Jr.

Samuel A. Floyd, Jr., educator, musician, scholar and champion of black music research died in Chicago on Monday, July 11, after an extended illness. Dr. Floyd was born in Tallahassee, Florida, on February 1, 1937. He received his bachelor's degree from Florida A & M University and later earned a masters (1965) and Ph.D. (1969) from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. He began his music career as a high school band director in Florida before returning to Florida A & M to serve as Instructor and Assistant Band Director under legendary band director William "Pat" Foster. In 1964 he joined the faculty at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, and in 1978, he began a faculty position as Professor of Music at Fisk University, where he founded and served as Director of the Institute for Research in Black American Music. In 1983 he moved to Columbia College Chicago to found the Center for Black Music Research (CBMR), which became an internationally respected research center under his leadership. Critical to the creation of the CBMR was the establishment of the CBMR Library and Archives, which has grown to be one of the most comprehensive collections of music, recordings, and research materials devoted to black music. At Columbia College, Dr. Floyd also served as Academic Dean from 1990 to 1993 and as Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost during 1999–2001. He retired as Director Emeritus of the CBMR in 2002.

At the CBMR, Dr. Floyd devoted himself to discovering and publishing the information that would allow black music to receive its rightful recognition from audiences and scholars. His early publications (with Marsha Heizer) were bibliographies of research materials and biographical resources. Later he edited a collection of essays, Black Music in the Harlem Renaissance (1989), which won the Irving Lowens Award for Distinguished Scholarship in American Music from the Society for American Music. He also edited the International Dictionary of Black Composers (1999) a reference book that won several awards from the library community, including an honorable mention for the American Library Association's Dartmouth Medal in 2000.

While still at Fisk, Dr. Floyd founded Black Music Research Journal, a juried scholarly journal which moved with him to the CBMR in 1983; it has been published continuously since its founding in 1980. He also founded and edited a grant-funded journal, Lenox Avenue: A Journal of Interartistic Inquiry, dedicated to exploring the role of music within the broader arts of the African Diaspora, the Music of the African Diaspora book series, which is published by the University of California Press, a monographs series, and several newsletters. Under his direction, the CBMR held numerous national and international conferences highlighting scholarly research; sponsored a series of postgraduate research fellowships funded by the Rockefeller Foundation for scholars studying the music of the African Diaspora, and taught two seminars for college teachers on African-American music, under the auspices of the National Endowment for the Humanities. He also established the Alton Augustus Adams Music Research Institute in St. Thomas (2000–2006), U.S. Virgin Islands, to study and document black music throughout the Caribbean.

Performance was another important aspect of the CBMR's programming. Dr. Floyd created four professional ensembles at the CBMR: the Black Music Repertory Ensemble, devoted to music by black composers; Ensemble Kalinda Chicago, which performed African-influenced music of Latin America and the Caribbean; Ensemble Stop-Time, which concentrated on
African-American popular music and jazz; and the New Black Music Repertory Ensemble, which combined the performance capabilities and repertoires of the previous three ensembles. The ensembles, which introduced audiences at every level to black music, produced recordings, performed nearly 200 concerts locally and on national tour, recorded eight nationally broadcast radio shows, and presented lecture-demonstrations in schools.

Dr. Floyd was a prodigious grant-writer who won significant funding to help support the CBMR's public programming and the development of the CBMR Library and Archives. Among the most supportive agencies were the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Illinois Arts Council, the Institute for Museum and Library Services, the Chicago Community Trust, and the Sara Lee, Joyce, Ford, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur, Rockefeller, and Fry foundations, among many others.

Samuel Floyd was a true visionary. Through the CBMR he was able to realize his concept of black music as a totality expressing African Diasporic culture across genre and time. His book, The Power of Black Music, published by Oxford University Press in 1995, epitomized his ideas. It was one of the first scholarly studies to transcend historical reporting and synthesize the information he had founded the CBMR to discover and preserve. In his retirement he was engaged in further studies intended to carry his synthesis even further. Two new books are scheduled to be published by Oxford University Press.

Among the awards received by Dr. Floyd in recognition of his vision, service, and contributions are: the National Association of Negro Musician's Award for Distinguished Contributions to Music, the Pacesetters Award in recognition of Outstanding Achievement in Higher Education from the American Association of Higher Education Black Caucus, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society for American Music. Floyd was a Fellow at the University of Michigan Institute for the Humanities, and was twice a Fellow at the National Humanities Center, Research Triangle, North Carolina, including a term as the John Hope Franklin Senior Fellow. He was also Scholar-in-Residence at the Bellagio Student and Conference Center (Italy), a Robert M. Trotter Lecturer for The College Music Society, and was named an Honorary Member of the American Musicological Society.

Dr. Floyd is survived by his wife of over 50 years, Barbara, and their three children—Wanda, Samuel Floyd III, and Cecilia. No formal memorial has been planned by the family and services will be private. Expressions of condolence may be sent to Mrs. Barbara Floyd, 2960 North Lake Shore Drive #408, Chicago, IL 60657. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to benefit his alma mater at the FAMU Foundation, 625 East Tennessee Street, Suite 100, Tallahassee, FL 32308-4933. http://www.famu.edu/index.cfm?GiveToFAMU&FoundationHome.