

**48<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**  
**March 28, 2026**  
**Seton Hall University**

**Welcome to the annual conference of the New Jersey College English Association. We're delighted to have you with us.**

**Schedule at a Glance:**

**8:15 – 9:00 Sign in; breakfast**

**9:00 – 10:00 Keynote Address**

**10:15 – 11:45 Concurrent Sessions**

**12:00 – 12:45 Lunch and Business Meeting**

**1:00 – 2:30 Concurrent Sessions**

**2:45 – 4:15 Concurrent Sessions**

**All sessions take place in Jubilee Hall.**

**Health and Safety Measures:**

Masks are welcome, but not required.

**Refreshments:**

A hot breakfast will be available until 10:30am in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor Atrium. Lunch will be served. Please contact Lisa Sisler (lsisler@kean.edu) if you have any specific dietary needs.

Coffee and tea will be available throughout the day in the Atrium.

**Connect to SHU-Guest Wi-Fi**

Alumni, visitors, and guests on campus should connect to **SHU-Guest**. In order to use the guest Wi-Fi network, users must provide a mobile phone number in order to receive a text message verification code. Upon activation, access is enabled for 24 hours.

1. In your device's network settings, connect to **SHU-Guest**.
2. Your web browser will load the guest sign-in page. Enter your mobile phone number and select **continue**.
3. An authentication code will be sent via text message to your mobile phone number.
4. Open your web browser and enter the authentication code, accept the terms of the Appropriate Use Policy, and select **Sign In**. <https://setonhall.atlassian.net/wiki/x/B4Dxf>

## **Wireless Projection with AirMedia**

AirMedia is the application needed to use the wireless projection system found in all of the labs and classrooms on the South Orange campus. **Directions can be found following the schedule below.**

## **DETAILED CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

### **8:15 – 9:00**

Registration/Breakfast

Jubilee Hall Atrium, 4<sup>th</sup> floor

### **9:00 – 10:00**

Jubilee Hall Atrium, 4<sup>th</sup> floor

Welcome: Mary Balkun, NJCEA Immediate Past President

Lisa Sisler, NJCEA President: Panel Introduction

### **Keynote: “New Voices: Revitalizing the Humanities Classroom”**

Panelists:

**William Arguelles**, CUNY, “Contract Grading and Cooperative Course Building”

**Tehyah Carver**, Teachers College, Columbia, “Playfulness in the Classroom”

**Matthew Frye Castillo**, Lehman College, “Using Chatbots in Writing Classrooms”

**Nicole Schroeder**, Kean University, “Universal Design”

### **10:15 - 11:45**

**Panel 1: Round Table–World Literature Treasures and Adaptions**      **Jubilee 221**

Chair: Dena Arguelles, Kean University

Panelists:

**Dan Gover**, Kean University

**Anthony D'Errico**, Kean University

**Kimberly Alvarado**, Kean University

**Panel 2: Opportunity-Making as Rhetorical Praxis I: Embodying Writing  
Jubilee 209**

Chair: Abriana Jetté, Kean University

Panelists:

**Lisa Sisler**, Kean University, “Writing the Body—Cross-Disciplinary Opportunities in Writing Instruction”

**Christina Mastroeni**, Kean University, MA: “Travel Writing—From Blog to Publication”

**Melida Rodas**, NJCU alumna, Jersey City Poet Laureate (2024-2026), “The Responsibility of a Voice.”

**Gianna Valdez**, NJCU alumna, Teacher, Kindle Education Public Charter School, “My Literary Journey as Student, Host, Mentee, Writer”

**Panel 3: Creative Writing**

**Jubilee 218**

Chair: Maria Miranda, Stockton University

Panelists:

**Carter Bryant**, Seton Hall University, “V.E.S.S.E.L.”

**Panel 4: American Literature and Political Discourse**

**Jubilee 210**

Chair:

Panelists:

**Russell Sbriglia**, Seton Hall University, “Mr. Hawthorne Goes to Washington: Hawthorne, Lincoln, and the Politics of Romance”

**Mary Balkun**, Seton Hall University, “Getting What We Deserve in *The (New) Gilded Age*”

**John Wargacki**, Seton Hall University, “‘Greg Stillson for President’: Stephen King’s *The Dead Zone* and MAGA Dystopia”

**Sam Klein**, Seton Hall University, “Fearless Speech in the Age of Cancel Culture”

**12:00 – 12:45**

Lunch and Business Meeting

Rosen Award

Graduate Student Essay Award

Announcements

Jubilee Hall Atrium, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

**1:00 – 2:30**

**Panel 1: Opportunity-Making as Rhetorical Praxis II: Building Community  
Jubilee 209**

Chair: Abriana Jetté, Kean University

Panelists:

**Melissa Libbey**, Kean University, “Exploration, Embodiment, and Collaboration—Intentionally Designing Active Learning Lessons in the Writing Classroom”

**Edvige Giunta**, New Jersey City University, “Dear Writers: Building a Literary Community”

**Joshua Fausty**, New Jersey City University, “Learning Without Limits: Making Opportunity through Tutor-Faculty Communities of Practice”

**Panel 2: Power and Knowledge in Classic Literature**

**Jubilee 210**

Chair: John Gruesser, Kean University

Panelists:

**Emma Donnelly**, Seton Hall University, “The Role of Light and Double-Consciousness in Jean Rhys’s *Wide Sargasso Sea*”

**Stanley S. Blair**, Monmouth University, “Clown Writing: Dan Rice, Performance, and Literature”

**Panel 3: From Podcast to Pedagogy: How to Teach the Humanities in an Age of AI and Technology Overload**

**Jubilee 211** Chair:

Ameenah McKiethen, BA in English at Kean University

Panelists:

**Andrew Rimby**, Seton Hall University, Kean University, and Montclair State University

**Jan Balakian**, Kean University

**Mary Balkun**, Seton Hall University

**Angela Weisl**, Seton Hall University

**Stefanie Shapiro**, SUNY Maritime College

**2:45 – 4:15**

**Panel 1: Monstrous and Toxic Gender**

**Jubilee 221**

Chair: John Wargacki, Seton Hall University

Panelists:

**Carter Bryant**, Seton Hall University, "Patriarchy, Please Don't Put Your Words in My Mouth: Analysing Hawthorne's Treatment of Female Characters Through a Modern Feminist Lens"

**Courtney Janes**, Seton Hall University, "I Am Nobody But Myself: Identity and Monstrosity in *Invisible Man*."

**Jessica McKenzie**, Seton Hall University, "Half- Feminism at Blithedale: Gender, Power, and Patriarchal Restoration in *The Blithedale Romance* by Nathaniel Hawthorne"

**Panel 2: Truth and Resistance in Literature**

**Jubilee 223**

Chair: Russell Sbriglia, Seton Hall University

Panelists:

**John Gruesser**, Kean University, "Fearful Symmetry and Dubious Veracity in The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym and *Life of Pi*"

**Thomas Deignan**, Seton Hall University, "Metamodernism and Institutional Death in *On Beauty*"

**Lauren Colandro**, Seton Hall University, "Is man no more than this?: The Political Horrors of Language in *King Lear*"

**Breanna Guinta**, Seton Hall University, "Pandemic-Induced Trauma: A New (or Old) Opportunity for Literary Trauma Theory"

**Nicole Mautone**, Montclair State University,, "What is Love?: The Concept of Love as a Weapon in *Nineteen Eighty-Four*

**Panel 3: Student Centered Opportunities in Writing Instruction**

**Jubilee 219**

Chair: Lisa Sisler, Kean University

Panelists:

**Chris Friend**, Kean University, "Student-Authored Textbooks: Revitalize Your Classes with Accessible, Authentic, AI-Agnostic OERs"

**Maria Miranda**, Stockton University, "Teaching Student Centered Research Methods in Writing Studies"

**Maria Plochocki**, CUNY, “Alternative Assessments: Possibilities, Perils – and Limits?”  
**Eleonore D. Klaibe**, Seton Hall University, “Decolonizing the Psychoanalytic Myth: Guiding First-Year Students in the Humanities into the Maieutic Exploration of the Unconscious”

**Panel 4: New Approaches to Medieval Studies**

**Jubilee 209**

Chair: Angela Weisl, Seton Hall University

Panelists:

**Kara McShane**, Ursinus College, “Compulsory Heterosexuality in *The Other Merlin*”

**Dena Arguelles**, Kean University, "Melusine, Maud, and Freud sitting on the sofa discussing cigars"

## **Projection Directions for Crestron AirMedia**

AirMedia is a wireless presentation device available in various classrooms and meeting spaces on campus. AirMedia enables students, faculty, and staff to connect instantly and share materials wirelessly to a projector or screen. In order to use AirMedia, users must [connect to the campus Wi-Fi network](#).

1. Locate the projector control panel in the room, press the On button to power on the projector and select Wireless Display.
2. If you already have the AirMedia app, skip to step #4.

Open a web browser and type the IP address displayed on the top of the projector screen.

3. If you do not already have AirMedia installed, you may be prompted to download the app.
4. Open the AirMedia app, enter the code, as displayed on the projector screen in the room, and select Connect.
5. Press the Start and Stop button to start or stop sharing to the display in the room.