



BARBARA F. MCMANUS
LEADERSHIP AWARD



SHELLEY P. HALEY

**CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION OF
THE ATLANTIC STATES
ANNUAL MEETING
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023**

2023 Barbara F. McManus Leadership Award

SHELLEY P. HALEY

The Edward North Professor of Classics Emerita, Hamilton College

In July 2023, the Executive Committee of the Classical Association of the Atlantic States, on behalf of the Board of Directors voted to honor Shelley P. Haley for her illustrious service to the organization and for her exceptional leadership. Today, CAAS proudly acknowledges Shelley's contributions and unique position in CAAS and in the field through the presentation of the Barbara F. McManus Leadership Award.

An African American woman, Shelley has made crucial contributions to CAAS through elected, appointed, and volunteered positions in the leadership. She has consistently given presentations at CAAS meetings and presided, co-presided, organized and sponsored many panels for CAAS annual meetings, starting from 1980 and continuing up to and including 2023. Shelley Haley fulfilled a rotation through the *cursus honorum* beginning as Second and First Vice President, rising to the position of CAAS President for 2011-2012, and eventually leading the Nominations Committee while Officer at Large and served subsequently on CAAS's Program Committee. She chaired the *ad hoc* committee in 2011 that established the Barbara F. McManus Leadership Award and recognized Barbara's eponymous contributions by presenting her with an ancient Roman coin representing Julia Domna, Augusta. In 2016, Shelley received a well-earned *ovatio* from CAAS in appreciation for her many, significant contributions supporting, at all levels, the study of the languages and cultures of ancient Greece and Rome in the mid-Atlantic region.

A lifetime member of CAAS, during the Centennial Meeting in 2007, Shelley, as a panelist for "Representing Our Ancestors", represented Anna Julia Cooper, an African American teacher of Latin, principal for Black students, and teacher for African American adults from Washington, D.C. At the same meeting, Shelley participated in a panel presentation on the historically-significant topic of "A Century of Developments in Classical Scholarship and Pedagogy: A Round Table Discussion". Shelley's continuing leadership within CAAS led in 2019 to an invitation to co-organize and to speak at the CAAS Presidential Plenary session on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion/ Racism, Marginalization, and Exclusion: A Frank Discussion on the Past and Future of Classics in the Academy, where she discussed "Antiracism and Action in Classics." Her collegiality, organizational skills, and integrity led then CAAS President, Ralph M. Rosen, to invite Shelley to become a founding member of CAAS's *ad hoc* Anti-Racism Committee. Shelley has promoted opportunities within CAAS for other Classicists to volunteer, serve on committees, and advocate for inclusivity, all while expressing their love of Greek and Latin.

Shelley epitomizes the intellectual, social, and ethical values that support research and teaching within the CAAS region: scholars from marginalized groups led the write-in campaign that, in

2021, earned Shelley Haley the Presidency of the Society for Classical Studies, an organization based in New York City and, so, within the CAAS region. Her organizational, administrative, scholarly, and empathetic skills – crafted during her tenure at CAAS, within Hamilton College’s Departments of Classics and of Africana Studies, and while a PhD candidate at the University of Michigan -- put her in good standing for the presidency. Shelley participated in the SCS 2021 Presidential Panel as a respondent for “William Sanders Scarborough and Black Classicism at the Turn of the Twentieth Century”; while President Shelley composed her own SCS 2022 Presidential Panel, "Say Her Name: Reconstructing the Career and Lived Experience of Helen Maria Chesnut", by inviting younger, female, marginalized scholars to serve as panelists. Thus she enlightened everyone about this Black Classicist educator while encouraging us all to do the work of combating racism and other forms of bigotry that prevent young scholars from remaining in the field.

Shelley’s collaborative leadership with other SCS officers led to panels and presentations on women and gender, race, queer studies, and digital humanities, as well as a CAMP performance, *hippolytus: a queer dionysia* – all expanding opportunities within Classics for many scholarly achievements. As one colleague stated, “she was *always* an advocate in public and private contexts for young and marginalized scholars. Whether reaching out to a graduate student who had left the field to offer support, or showing up to support the Asian and Asian American Classical Caucus in solidarity against anti-Asian violence, Shelley was always there.” In addition to supporting the presence of all side-lined groups, Shelley’s advocacy “changed perceptions and actions. Shelley’s care and attention to language, to people, and especially to students was so evident throughout her Presidency and she has made a lasting impact.” Moreover, Shelley’s Presidential Address for the 2022 SCS Virtual Annual Meeting, titled “Sites of Salvation: Classics at Small Liberal Arts Colleges”, was able to “promote inclusive, vibrant, and intersectional undergraduate programs in ancient studies,” thus representing the needs of our colleagues within the mid-Atlantic and further demonstrating Barbara McManus’ own commitments and accomplishments.

Shelley has written and spoken extensively on the literary labor of otherwise under-recognized people. Proactively combining philology and examinations of ancient gendered racism, Shelley has lectured with clarity, grace, and humor around the world - including England and South Africa - as well as at Ivy League and small liberal arts colleges and universities throughout the United States, but her home and studies remain in the CAAS region. Shelley has always emphasized respect and civility in the face of disagreement. Examples proliferate: manifest among them, her acknowledgement of the works of non-binary peoples and her ability to sustain and uplift female scholars. At Howard University, where Shelley taught from 1979 to 1985, she introduced intellectual practices such as reading Cleopatra VII being part-Egyptian, investing in the personal and scholarly writings of Fanny Jackson Coppin and Anna Julia Cooper, and adopting the language of self- and other-actualization for young Black students in a manner that was standardized into the Humanities curriculum. Her expertise in gendered racism, through investigations into and analyses of the lived experiences of ancient women of color – including Dido, Sophoniba,

Cleopatra VII, and others – led to media appearances on the BBC, The Learning Channel, and most recently, Netflix. These case studies provide models for younger Classicists to conduct similar research along the sliding spectra of gender and race. The field of classics seeks to survive through various interdisciplinary efforts; Shelley, already immersed in Africana Studies, delivers a courageous echo to Patricia Williams’s statement from the latter’s *Alchemy of Race and Racism*: “I have written me.”

Shelley has been the first among women of color, *prima* among Black Classicists, and a role model for creating inclusivity through rational discourse and genial humor. Shelley Haley’s promotion of Classics in the CAAS region are manifest by her tenure at Hamilton College where she became The Edward North Chair of Classics and Professor of Africana Studies Emerita. Her Classics and Africana-related achievements at Hamilton College were rewarded by the appreciation of her students and by numerous awards and recognitions, such as the Pentagon Outstanding Service Award by the Hamilton College Class of 1997, the Samuel and Helen Lang Prize for Excellence in Teaching, and a Tedx Talk with 1200 plus views. In addition, Shelley’s role at Hamilton College as a founding member of The Kirkland Project for the Study of Gender, Culture, and Society, as well as her contributions to the Institute for Global African Studies (IGAS) reflect her “founding mother” role in the international organization, Multiculturalism, Race, and Ethnicity in Classics Consortium.

Shelley’s decades as a teacher of Latin, Greek, Africana Studies, and ancient cultures demonstrate her commitment to these fields. She guided CAAS members and others through significant transitions with well-recognized pedagogical-related activities supporting both secondary and post-secondary access and achievement in Latin, Greek, and ancient culture. Her recognition for realizing these activities were widely acknowledged: a *Merita* Award for her engagement with the American Classical League; a Certificate of Recognition from The College Board for her efforts as Reader and Question Leader, as Consultant, and finally as Chair for the Advanced Placement Latin Exam. She reviewed essays for multiple journals and was a member of the Steering Committee for the Women’s Classical Caucus. Her outreach efforts also feature her participation as a panelist for the Theatre of War’s modern, antiracist production of Sophocles’ *Philoctetes* during a CAAS meeting in New York City. Not yet finished with her list of accomplishments, Shelley received, and was lauded by CAAS in 2018 for receiving the SCS Award for Excellence in Teaching at the Collegiate Level and then, in 2019, CAAS further celebrated Shelley and her attaining the SCS Presidency as the rise of one of our own.

Let’s acknowledge our extraordinary colleague, Shelley, who has graced the CAAS region for forty years through her scholarly and pedagogical career and who exemplifies the values of CAAS and of the McManus Leadership Award.

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