

# 19<sup>th</sup> Annual CASE Festival

## Schedule of Events

### Friday, April 4

- 3:00 p.m. to  
4:20 p.m.      Remembering Emmett Till 70 Years Later  
Rev. Wheeler Parker and the Emmett Till Interpretive Center Staff  
Benjamin Saulsberry and Jay Rushing  
COFO Civil Rights Education Center
- 4:30 p.m.      Sunset with Students: Music, Food, and Spoken Word  
Reception and Open Mic  
COFO Civil Rights Education Center

### Saturday, April 5

- 8:30 a.m. to  
9:00 a.m.      Registration and Q&A: Continental Breakfast  
JSU Student Center 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Front Desk
- 9:00 a.m. to  
10:15 a.m.      Concurrent Session I  
JSU Student Center rooms 3210, 3241, Johnson Hall Art Gallery
- 10:30 a.m. to  
11:45 a.m.      Concurrent Session II  
JSU Student Center rooms 3210, 3241, Theater, Johnson Hall Art Gallery
- 12:00 p.m. to  
1:15 p.m.      Thee Black Panther: JStyleU Modeling and Fashion Collective  
Luncheon  
JSU Student Center Ballroom
- 1:30 p.m. to  
2:45 p.m.      Concurrent Session III  
JSU Student Center rooms 3210, 3241, 3250, Johnson Hall Art Gallery
- 3:00 p.m. to  
4:00 p.m.      Natasha Trethewey and Shanna Smith  
Closing Conversation and Awards Ceremony  
JSU Student Center Theater



CREATIVE ARTS AND  
SCHOLARLY ENGAGEMENT

## Concurrent Sessions Saturday, April 5, 2025

**9:00-10:15 a.m.**

**Panel 1:** Written

JSU Student Center room 3210

*The Perfect Negros*

Jayla Jones, Jackson State University

*Writing Against the Simulation: Black Women Authors and the Task to Rewrite the Real*

Nia Johnson, Tougaloo College

*If Looks Could Kill: Reconciling the Power and Intent of the Black Gaze*

Kaelyn Conley, Jackson State University

**Moderator:** Shelia Bonner, Tougaloo College

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**9:00-10:15 a.m.**

**Panel 2:** Visual Arts

Johnson Hall Art Gallery

*Look Into the Past*

Aubrea Caldwell, Lanier High School

*What If?*

Kynadie Young-Batteast, JPS-Tougaloo Early College High School

*Who? – Us – Identity – United*

Ty Washington, JPS-Tougaloo Early College High School

**Moderator:** Majeska Coleman, Ambition Preparatory Charter School

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**9:00-10:15 a.m.**

**Panel 3:** Written

JSU Student Center room 3241

*If the Trees Could Talk*

Iyana Sobers, Jackson State University

*The South*

Jeremy McDuffey, Jackson State University

**Moderator:** RaShell Smith-Spears, Jackson State University

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**10:30-11:45 a.m.**

**Panel 4:** Poetry

JSU Student Center room 3210

*The Black Culture of America*

Peyton Washington, Piney Woods School

*Did the River Cry?*

Edom Kiros, Piney Woods School

*Sunburn – My Skin Is Black*

M.T. Gray, Jackson State University

**Moderator:** helen crump, Jackson State University

**10:30-11:45 a.m.**

**Panel 5:** Visual Arts

Johnson Hall Art Gallery

*Lineage – Baby – Thou Art Black*  
Jada Gibbs, St. Joseph Catholic School – Greenville

*Capital Beat – For My People by Margaret Walker Visualized*  
Pharaoh Hardge, Piney Woods School

*Empty Spaces: A Photo Documentary*  
Samson Oklobia, University of Mississippi

**Moderator:** Latrice Lawson, Agora Eversole

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**10:30-11:45 a.m.**

**Panel 6:** Written and Performing Arts

JSU Student Center Theater

*The Struggle No Longer Straggles Us*  
Mariah Banks and Carmel Ray, Mississippi Valley State University

*The Spirit of Afrocentrism in Chicago Black Renaissance*  
LaTonzia Evans, Mississippi Valley State University

*Black Than Thou: Affirming the Blackness through the Exploration  
of the Black Identities in Poems from “For My People”*  
Allison Wiltshire, Mississippi Valley State University

**Moderator:** Deborah Purnell, Mississippi Valley State University

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**10:30-11:45 a.m.**

**Panel 7:** Creative Writing

JSU Student Center 3241

*Giovanni’s Room: A Spring Salon*

*Where is Your Seat?*  
Blaise Adams, Jackson State University

*Person*  
Anndria Norris, Jackson State University

*Charlene*  
Makaya Davis, Jackson State University

**Moderator:** Danielle Littlefield, Jackson State University

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**1:30-2:45 p.m.**

**Panel 8:** Visual Arts and Poetry

Johnson Hall Art Gallery

*Love & Revolution: A Tribute to Nikki Giovanni*

Destiny Wilson, Jackson State University  
Samuel Watts, Jackson State University  
Devin Irvin, Jackson State University

John Warren, Jackson State University  
Marcus Payne, Jackson State University

**Moderator:** Brittany Myburgh, Jackson State University

**1:30-2:45 p.m.**

**Panel 9:** Written

JSU Student Center room 3210

*Cracked Pavements, Colonial Echoes: An African's Lens on Blackness in Jackson, Mississippi*  
Blessing Asuquo-Ekpo, Jackson State University

*Made of Yazoo Clay*  
Imani Skipwith, Jackson State University

*History Next Door: My Grandmother and the Evers Family*  
Vergie Redmond Morgan, Jackson State University

**Moderator:** Ray Mikell, Jackson State University

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**1:30-2:45 p.m.**

**Panel 10:** Poetry and Creative Writing

JSU Student Center room 3250

Selected Writings from *Thee 1877 Literary and Arts Magazine*  
Jackson State Writers Alliance

*Who Is to Blame?*  
Anastasia Taylor, Jackson State University

*Dear You*  
Grace Ann Elinski, Jackson State University

*Necks, Trees and Voices*  
Scottie Stewart, Jr., Jackson State University

*Deimos*  
Trey Clark, Jackson State University

*Speak Like a Child*  
M.T. Gray, Jackson State University

**Moderator:** Kelly Ellis, Jackson State University

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**1:30-2:45 p.m.**

**Panel 11:** Written

JSU Student Center room 3241

*Reflections on the Mississippi Movement*

*From Segregation to Legacy: A Family's Fight for Educational Equity Across Generations*  
Amara Stovall, Jackson State University

*Fannie Lou Hamer: Medical Racism and Bias throughout her Life*  
Jada Van Buren, Jackson State University

*I Am My Ancestors: Resilience, Resistance, and the Misrepresentation of African American History in Mississippi*  
Tonette Delk, Jackson State University

**Moderator:** Christina Thomas, Jackson State University

