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Handwritten signature in blue ink, possibly 'J. Wittreich'.

February 6, 1992

Dear Audre Lorde,

The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies became an official center of the CUNY Graduate School last April, ~~and~~ ^At our inaugural event this past October (co-chaired by Adrienne Rich and Alice Walker) we were able to announce a gift from David R. Kessler to endow the annual Kessler lecture to be given each year by "a leading figure in gay/lesbian life and thought."

It is our great pleasure to invite you to be the inaugural Kessler honoree. You were the unanimous first choice of CLAGS' Kessler Committee. The lecture would take place on November 20, 1992, and would carry a fee/award of \$2,000. We hope you will be able to accept.

If you do, our plan would be to surround the event with something like a citywide celebration of the life and work of Audre Lorde. The Kessler lecture (and reception) would be the centerpiece, but both Marcellus Blount, chair of African-American Studies at Columbia, ^(and a CLAGS Board member) and Allan Brick, chair of the English Department at Hunter, have already expressed enthusiasm for joining in honoring you. We would talk as well to Marilyn Young at NYU about possibilities there.

You have been ^a remarkable inspiration to legions of people and we hope this planned celebration will do you proper honor.

We are enclosing materials about CLAGS which will familiarize you with our plans and vision, but we want to stress

that we are a multicultural institution, committed to gender parity in all our operations and guided by feminist principles.

We deeply hope to have a positive response from you.