The 71st annual South Central MLA convention was held in Austin, Texas, from October 18-22, 2014 at the Radisson Hotel & Suites Austin-Downtown. Sessions explored a broad range of topics, including “Reading Environment(s) in the Works of Eudora Welty,” “Animals as Forces of Nature in Medieval Iberian Literature,” “New Voices, Old Problems: Defining Native Americaness from a Mixed Heritage Perspective,” and “Unveiling the Self: Contested Desires.”

Altogether the conference featured 151 sessions. A total of 522 individual participants were listed in the program. These strong participation figures reflect SCMLA’s vitality as an organization.

Highlights of the conference included the NEH workshop led by Jane Aikin, Director of the NEH’s Research Division, a Harry Ransom Center Information Session, and a tour of the Benson Latin American Collection on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin. SCMLA also continued its tradition of offering a Workshop for Job-Seekers and mock interviews at the conference. Thanks go out to all the members who helped with these professional development opportunities.

The third Annual Poet’s Corner was organized by SCMLA English representative Julie Chappell (Tarleton State U). The poets Dorothy Alexander (Oklahoma), Alan Berecka (Texas), and Ken Hada (Oklahoma) read selections of their award-winning poetry. A work by each of these poets is included later in this newsletter.

This year’s SCCEA breakfast was chaired by Julie Chappell and featured Mallory Young (Tarleton University) who spoke on “Bad Girls: Recalcitrant Women in Literature, Legend, and Popular Culture.” Sylvia Morin (University of Tennessee-Martin) chaired the Women’s Caucus breakfast, at which Robin Schneider (Executive Director of the Texas Campaign for the Environment) delivered the address “Lending a Feminist Perspective on Eco-Organizing.”

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Summary of the 71st Annual Convention in Austin: Forces of Nature

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At the SCMLA Business Luncheon on October 19, President Melissa Bailar (Rice University) delivered an address challenging current trends in top-down management of humanities research. Bailar convincingly argued that efforts to steer humanists toward broad research themes (water, energy) identified as priorities by universities are often unproductive and lead to few successful publications and programs. Bailar’s provocative talk will be reprinted in full in the May issue of SCMLA’s newsletter.

The plenary speaker in Austin was novelist Sarah Bird, whose appearance was made possible by the generosity of The South Central Review. Bird gave a talk titled “Flipping off the Irony Switch: Coming out of the Comedy Closet” that charted her development as a writer. She noted how early life experiences, travel, and her love of photography all helped shape her as an artist. Bird’s presentation was followed by a book-signing and reception.

The Third Annual Poet’s Corner was organized by SCMLA English representative Julie Chappell (Tarleton State U). The poets Dorothy Alexander (Oklahoma), Alan Berecka (Texas), and Ken Hada (Oklahoma) read selections of their award-winning poetry. A work by each of these poets is included later in this newsletter.

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SCMLA returns to Nashville for the first time in recent memory in 2015. Members will enjoy the vibrant music scene, fine restaurants, and museums that this city offers. Our hotel is located right on the edge of Vanderbilt’s campus and within an easy walk of Centennial Park and the famed Parthenon.

The calls for papers listed later in this edition of the Newsletter are varied and can accommodate research on a broad range of subjects. We accept special sessions on topics beyond the conference theme: “Sound and Story: The Rhythms of Language.”

The rhythms of the languages we speak shape literary texts; rhyme, meter, assonance, and other sound patterns underpin our poetry, and musicality and sound figure as significant elements in many narratives. Tolstoy’s characters visit the opera; a musical passage haunts Proust’s narrator across time and space; Faulkner, like so many others, captures regional dialects in informal prose. Sound matters as much for scholars of literature as it does for linguists and language pedagogues. Just as linguists transcribe and analyze the sounds of our languages and language pedagogues help learners mirror native speaker pronunciation and intonation, writers work to capture regional inflections. Similarly, film-makers try to create compelling soundscapes, extradiegetic music shaping spectator expectations and emotional responses. Song lyrics more and more attract attention as a distinctive literary form, worthy of serious scholarly analysis. For its 2015 convention in Nashville, Tennessee SCMLA invites papers that focus on issues connected to music, musicality and sound from the perspective of all of our constituent fields, including linguistics, language pedagogy, film-studies, gender studies, and cultural studies. As always, papers on other topics are also welcome.

Please join us in exploring these themes and more in Nashville, Tennessee for the 2015 South Central MLA conference. See the pages of this Newsletter or visit “Submissions for 2015 Conference” on the home page of http://www.southcentralmla.org for calls and guidelines.

Recognition of 2014 Prize and Award Winners

In 2014, SCMLA made the following awards:

- Graduate Student Grant ($500): Rafal Stepien (Columbia University)
- SCMLA Research Grant ($1500): Richard Russell (Baylor University)
- SCMLA Research Grant for Temporary Faculty and Independent Scholars ($1500): Kristopher Mecholsky (Louisiana State University)
- 2014 SCMLA Book Award ($500): Melanie Anderson (University of Mississippi) for Spectrality in the Novels of Toni Morrison
- SCMLA Prize for Best Paper in Historical, Literary, and/or Cultural Studies ($250): Kris McAbee (University of Arkansas-Little Rock) for “Supernatural Forces and Female Power in the Sonnets of Barnabe Barnes”
- Vuong Prize for Best Short Story ($500)

"Driver’s Ed" by W. Scott Thomason, Swarthmore College

SCMLA offers $15,000 in grants and prizes in 2015!

The association is pleased to support the original research of our members with the SCMLA Research Award in the amount of $1500, open to scholars who have completed the PhD. In addition, the SCMLA also offers a Research Award for Temporary Faculty and Independent Scholars in the amount of $1500 (open to eligible members who have completed the terminal degree in their area and do not hold a regular faculty position.)

This year, SCMLA will offer new awards for Career Achievement in Research ($750) and Service to the Profession ($750) for the first time. Nominations for these NEW awards should be sent to scmla@ou.edu by March 31, 2015 and should include: a cover letter detailing the nominee’s achievements, a current CV for the nominee, and up to three letters of support. Self-nominations for these awards are not allowed. These awards will be presented at the Business meeting at the Nashville convention.

Our full list of grants, awards, and paper prizes can be found in the pages of this newsletter and at http://www.southcentralmla.org
A Message from SCMLA’s Executive Director, Emily Johnson

Dear Colleagues:

I hope you are all enjoying a restful holiday season! 2015 promises to be an exciting year for SCMLA. We are scheduled to hold our annual conference this year in Nashville, Tennessee from October 31 to November 3. Our hotel, the Nashville Marriott at Vanderbilt, is located at the edge of the Vanderbilt campus on West End Avenue. The hotel is close to downtown Nashville, Centennial Park, and the famed Parthenon. Conference participants will find many fine restaurants, recreational opportunities, and cultural events within easy walking distance of the hotel. Please join us for a scholarly gathering that will be rich in opportunities for both networking and professional development. Our conference theme is “Sound and Story: The Rhythms of Language,” but we also welcome paper and panel proposals on other subjects. The priority deadline for special sessions is February 28 (late submissions will be considered if space allows) and the deadline to submit abstracts to regular and allied session chairs is March 31. Visit “Submissions for 2015 Conference” on the home page of www.southcentralmla.org for details.

It was wonderful to have the opportunity to visit with so many of you in Austin in October. I enjoyed hearing about your interests and priorities and also about the directions in which you would like to see SCMLA move in coming years. I will be keeping in mind the feedback that you provided as I make conference planning decisions in the coming months. With the support of the Executive Committee, I will be implementing one important change to our traditional conference schedule this year: beginning in 2015, SCMLA will no longer hold its Business Meeting in conjunction with a luncheon. Hotel catering prices have gone up astronomically in recent years, making our Luncheon uneconomical. As a result, fewer and fewer members have attended. By holding the Business Meeting as a stand-alone event, we hope to attract a larger audience to hear the annual presidential address, the recognition of our award winners, and also discussions of key items of Association business. We plan to hold a reception after the Business Meeting so that members have the opportunity to socialize with friends and colleagues, which has always been one of the Luncheon’s most important functions.

As many of you already know, SCMLA’s front office is in a period of transition. After many years of dedicated service, SCMLA’s long-time Assistant Program Director Diana Hodges stepped down to pursue other opportunities this past October. She will be sorely missed. I am grateful to Diana for staying to see us through our 2014 conference. We wish her the very best as she moves on to new challenges.

One last reminder: if you have not renewed your SCMLA membership for 2015, now would be the time. Please note that you must be a current member in order to submit a proposal for a paper or a special session. You can renew your membership online at http://www.southcentralmla.org I look forward seeing you in Nashville and welcome your questions and feedback at emilydjohnson@ou.edu.

Best regards,

Emily D. Johnson
Executive Director
The 2015 Conference in Nashville will feature professional development opportunities designed to be helpful to members at all career stages. In addition to a workshop for job-seekers and mock interviews, we will also hold workshops on negotiating more effectively with administrators and on academic publishing. Be sure to look for these exciting new events in the 2015 Convention Program.

We Invite Regional and National Associations to Hold Allied Sessions at the SCMLA Conference

The South Central MLA invites regional or national associations for scholars in fields of cultural studies, literature, linguistics, philosophy, theory, visual arts, and other areas of the humanities to form an allied session at our annual convention. Forming an allied session is an excellent opportunity for associations that would like to meet more frequently or for small associations that do not have the resources to plan a regularly scheduled conference. Association presidents, executive directors, or officers the association may write directly to scmla@ou.edu for details.

Friends Membership

We are pleased to offer special benefits to those who renew or join as Friends of the South Central MLA, a membership category that allows members to make a tax-deductible donation to the organization by contributing at a higher optional annual membership rate. This support allows the association to offer new research and conference travel grants, and to subsidize low graduate student rates. Please consider purchasing a membership at the Silver ($150), Gold ($300), or Platinum ($500) level when you renew your membership this year. Friends of the SCMLA receive an invitation to a special reception at the annual convention. Friends are recognized in our conference program and on a banner prominently displayed in the reception area. We thank you for your support!

Reminders for Conference Participants:

You must be a current member to propose a paper or otherwise participate in a regular or special session. Please renew your membership before sending a paper proposal to a session chair or a session proposal to our office.

All conference participants must register for the convention by August 31.

Please note: At the fall 2014 meeting, SCMLA’s Executive Committee approved a change to conference submission procedures: double submissions of abstracts are no longer allowed. Members may send a proposal to only one academic session and one creative writing session. If a good proposal cannot be accommodated in the session to which it is submitted, the chair will forward it to the Program Committee, which will try to find an alternative placement for the abstract. Alternatively, the Chair may, with the consent of the submitter, contact other sessions that might be able to accommodate the abstract and ask if they have space.

If a session chair receives five or more abstracts of high academic merit, s/he may petition to split the session into 2 panels. Please email scmla@ou.edu to ask about this option. We ask that chairs wait to confirm the acceptance of additional presenters until we verify that there will be adequate space to split the session. We expect a large turnout in Nashville and requests to split sessions will be honored on a first-come, first-served basis.

SCMLA members who present work on a creative writing session may also deliver an academic paper at the conference as in the past.

New and Retiring Executive Committee Members

Executive Committee members who will begin service in 2015 are:

- Julie Chappell (Vice-president)
- Lynn Alexander (President)
- Michael Ward (Russian and Less-Commonly-Taught-Languages)
- Jeffrey Oxford (Spanish)

Congratulations to all of you!

The Executive Office warmly thanks retiring EC members Elizabeth Coscio of the University of St. Thomas-Houston (Past President), Paul Larson of Baylor (Spanish), and Eva Bueno of the Melburn G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research at Texas A&M University. It is published by Johns Hopkins UP and archived by Project Muse and is the official publication of the South Central MLA. Managing Editor Nick Lawrence (University of South Carolina, Lancaster) welcomes submissions and ideas for special projects and issues on a wide range of topics concerning literature, culture, and the arts. Members may contact him at LAW-RENNM@mailbox.sc.edu.
2015 Prizes & Grants

Eligibility Requirements:
Applicants for all awards must be current SCMLA members and must have been members for the previous two years. Graduate Student Grant applicants must have been members for one year. SCMLA Executive Committee members are ineligible. Deadlines are all in 2015. For more information, see our website: http://www.southcentralmla.org

SCMLA Research Grants:

SCMLA RESEARCH AWARD-$1500 (Open to all eligible members who have completed the PhD)
APPLICATION DEADLINE MARCH 31, 2015

SCMLA RESEARCH AWARD FOR TEMPORARY FACULTY AND INDEPENDENT SCHOLARS-$1500 (Only eligible members who have completed the terminal degree for their area and do not hold regular faculty positions may apply)
APPLICATION DEADLINE MARCH 31, 2015

SCMLA GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT-$500 (at the dissertation stage)
APPLICATION DEADLINE FEBRUARY 28, 2015

SCMLA FELLOWSHIP AT THE HARRY RANSOM CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-AUSTIN FOR THE 2015-2016 ACADEMIC YEAR-$3000
APPLICATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 31, 2015
INFORMATION ON ELIGIBILITY AND HOW TO APPLY:
www.hrc.utexas.edu/research/fellowships/application

BENSON LATIN AMERICAN COLLECTION-SCMLA FACULTY RESEARCH GRANT-$1500
APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 28, 2015

New Career Achievement Awards:

Career Achievement in Research ($750) Service to the Profession ($750).

Nominations for each of these awards should be sent to scmla@ou.edu by March 31, 2015 and should include: a cover letter detailing the nominee’s achievements, a current cv for the nominee, and up to three letters of support. Self-nominations for these awards are not allowed.

SCMLA Conference Travel Grants

$200 for Graduate Students at the doctoral level
$500 for Faculty and Independent Scholars
APPLICATION DEADLINE FEBRUARY 28, 2015

2015 Paper/Presentation Prizes: Members scheduled to present appropriate work at the Fall 2015 conference are encouraged to compete for our conference paper prizes. Submissions must have been accepted in a session for the current year; may be nominated by a session chair or by the author; must represent new, previously unpresented and unpublished work, must be typed and double-spaced, using 12 pt. type size; must observe a 3,500 word limit (winners agree to shorten papers for 15-20 minute delivery); and be received by August 31, 2015 via email. Entries must be submitted in English except in the case of the Andrist prize, for which entries in Spanish and Portuguese are also acceptable. Submissions must include a cover sheet with the paper title and the name of the prize being sought (papers may compete for one prize only); the cover sheet must OMIT the writer’s name and address. Winners will be notified by mid-September and will be expected to attend the SCMLA Business Meeting at the Annual Conference where their names will be announced.

Bill L. and Gerre D. Andrist Paper Prize in Hispanic Gender Studies-$1000

Vuong Short Story Prize-$500

SCMLA Prize for the Best Paper in Historical, Literary, and/or Cultural Studies-$250

SCMLA BOOK AWARD-$500
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MARCH 30, 2015
Scholarly and critical books and editions published in English in 2014 by SCMLA members are eligible for the 2015 prize. Books published in a language other than English will be considered if a translation of the book into English is provided.

Nominations, including self-nominations, will be accepted from members or from the publisher of an eligible book. Send two copies of the nominated book by March 31, 2015 to SCMLA President for 2015, Jeanne Gillespie, at the following address:

Jeanne Gillespie
University of Southern Mississippi,
118 College Dr. #5004
College of Arts & Letters
Hattiesburg, MS 39406

Nominees must be current SCMLA members and must have been members for the previous two years. The successful candidate for the SCMLA Book Award will be announced at the Annual Business Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee.
THE HARRY RANSOM CENTER, an internationally renowned humanities research library and museum at The University of Texas at Austin, will award approximately 70 fellowships for 2015–2016 for projects that require substantial on-site use of its collections. The fellowships support research in all areas of the humanities, including literature, photography, film, art, the performing arts, music, and cultural history.

ONE TO THREE MONTH FELLOWSHIPS
$3,000 PER MONTH
One- to three-month fellowships are available for post-doctoral or independent scholars whose projects require extensive work with the Ransom Center’s collections.

TRAVEL STIPENDS
$1,200 (DOMESTIC) or $1,700 (INTERNATIONAL)
Travel stipends are available for post-doctoral or independent scholars whose projects require less than one month’s work with the Center’s collections. Travel stipends may not be combined with other Ransom Center fellowships.

DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS
$1,500
Twenty dissertation fellowships, generously supported by the Creekmore and Adele Foth Charitable Foundation and The University of Texas at Austin Office of Graduate Studies, are designated for graduate students who are working on doctoral dissertations that require use of the Center’s collections.

Application Deadline: January 15, 2015, 5 P.M. CST
www.hrc.utexas.edu/fellowships
ELIGIBILITY

Applicants for one- to three-month fellowships and travel stipends must have a Ph.D. or be an independent scholar with a substantial record of achievement, if the Ph.D. is in progress, the proposal and letter(s) of recommendation must clearly indicate completion by June 1, 2015. Applicants for dissertation fellowships must be doctoral candidates engaged in dissertation research by the time of application. United States citizens and foreign nationals are eligible to apply. Previous recipients of Ransom Center fellowships are eligible to reapply after two full fellowship cycles have passed. All things being equal, however, preference is given to applicants who have not previously held a Ransom Center fellowship.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

A complete application consists of a three-page proposal and one or two letters of recommendation, depending on the application category. These materials must be uploaded to the Ransom Center’s online application system as PDF files by the application deadline. To begin your application for a 2015–2016 fellowship, create a fellowship account at www.hrc.utexas.edu/fellowships. Upon successful creation of your account, you will receive your fellowship account number, which you must use to submit your proposal, and which your reference(s) must use to submit the required letter(s) of recommendation. Please note that information cannot be revised once submitted. Previous applicants for Ransom Center fellowships must create a new account for 2015–2016, as accounts from previous applications cannot be reused.

PROPOSAL

Create your three-page proposal as outlined below. The proposal must be submitted as a single PDF file through the Ransom Center’s online application system using your fellowship account number. Files larger than three pages will not be accepted. Each page should include your name in the top right corner.

Page one of your proposal should provide your name and project title, followed by a summary of the proposed research project. Keep in mind that you are writing for an interdisciplinary review committee, so research topics and their significance should be thoroughly explained. Place the project in the context of its larger field of study and describe the anticipated result of the project (journal article, book, edited volume, or other format).

Page two of your proposal should provide a detailed account of your anticipated use of the Ransom Center’s collections. Describe the materials that you will consult, their relevance to the project, and why these materials must be consulted on-site during the length of fellowship requested.

Page three of your proposal should consist of an abbreviated curriculum vitae emphasizing relevant publications.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Applicants for one- to three-month fellowships and travel stipends must include two confidential letters of recommendation from individuals who are qualified to judge the proposal. Applications for dissertation fellowships must include only one letter of recommendation from the dissertation director or an appropriate member of the dissertation committee. Letters of recommendation must be submitted through the Center’s online application system by the referee using the applicant’s fellowship account number. Letters must be submitted as a PDF file and bear the referee’s signature and institutional letterhead.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

The proposal and required letter(s) of recommendation for 2015–2016 fellowship applications must be submitted through the Center’s online application system by January 15, 2015, 5 p.m. CST. An automated email will be sent to the applicant upon the successful submission of each item. Applicants are responsible for making sure that their referees meet the deadline. Materials cannot be accepted after the deadline has passed.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF DECISIONS

Decisions will be announced by email on March 31, 2015. Fellowship recipients will receive additional materials related to their award by mail. Details about applications in process cannot be acknowledged. Fellowship recipients and their research projects will be acknowledged in the Ransom Center publicly.

RESIDENCY

Recipients of 2015–2016 fellowships must complete their residencies between June 1, 2015, and August 31, 2016. During their residency period, fellows are expected to maintain a significant, consistent presence at the Center. Complete information about the fellowship policies and expectations may be found in the fellowship guidelines at www.hrc.utexas.edu/fellowships.

ABOUT THE COLLECTIONS

Applicants must identify the Ransom Center collections they propose to consult. Information about the Center’s collections and use of the collections may be found online at www.hrc.utexas.edu/research/info. Applicants may contact the appropriate curator or librarian at the Ransom Center with specific inquiries about the collections and to confirm that the materials they wish to consult will be available during their proposed visit. Information about the collections should be requested by December 1. After that date, the Center cannot guarantee a response before the application deadline. Please contact only one curator or librarian at the Center to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort. If more than one collection is involved, Center staff will ensure that your message is properly forwarded.

The Ransom Center is currently celebrating the 25th anniversary of its fellowship program. Since the program’s inauguration in 1989, the Center has awarded fellowships to more than 900 scholars from around the world. Learn more at www.hrc.utexas.edu/fellowships25.

25 years of fellowships twenty-five years
The Fund for Education Abroad (FEA) is a non-profit organization that provides scholarships to U.S. undergraduates to participate in study abroad opportunities. FEA study abroad scholarships are generous and game-changing, offering awards of $10,000 for an academic year, $5,000 for a semester, and a minimum of $1,250 for a summer program of four weeks. FEA aims to increase and diversify the population of U.S. undergraduates studying abroad, and demonstrates a preference for underrepresented students, including STEM majors, community-college students and first-generation college students.

We are currently receiving application for students who plan to study abroad during Summer 2015, Fall 2015 and/or Spring 2016, or between May 2015 and May 2016. The application deadline is January 16, 2015, 11:59PM EST. If you have students who may be strong candidates for an FEA scholarship, please encourage them to submit an application through our website: www.fundforeducationabroad.org.

In addition, we invite you to participate in reading for the scholarship by volunteering to become an application reviewer. Given the importance placed on strong academic planning and language study in our selection process, we encourage more university language professors participate in evaluating applications. With your insight, we ensure that we select the strongest applicants possible. If you are interested in becoming an application reviewer, please contact our Assistant Director, Olivia Moore, at omoore@fundforeducationabroad.org or (202) 349-7356.

We look forward to becoming a key resource for you and your students. We offer our sincere thanks to Dr. Emily D. Johnson for encouraging us to share information about the Fund for Education Abroad with members of South Central MLA.
South Central MLA Deadlines for 2015

February 2015
28 Deadline for receipt of Graduate Student Grant applications to the SCMLA office
28 Deadline for receipt of SCMLA Faculty Research Travel Grant applications to SCMLA office
28 Deadline for receipt of Benson-SCMLA Faculty Research Grant applications to SCMLA office
28 Deadline for SCMLA office receipt of Final Proposals for Special Sessions for Nashville 2015

March 2015
31 Proposers of Special Sessions for Nashville 2015 will be notified
31 Deadline for Book Prize Nominations to Jeanne Gillespie, SCMLA President
31 Deadline for submission of Papers/Abstracts for Nashville 2015 to Regular/Allied Session Chairs

April 2015
30 Deadline for SCMLA office receipt of Final Program Copy for all 2015 sessions
30 Deadline for requesting audio-visual equipment for Nashville 2015
30 Deadline for receipt of SCMLA Conference Travel Grants applications to SCMLA office
30 Deadline for 2015 conference participants to become members of SCMLA

May 2015
31 Deadline for SCMLA office receipt of items to be included in the Summer Newsletter

August 2015
31 Deadline for registration for Nashville Conference
31 Deadline for 2015 Conference Paper Prize submissions
31 Deadline for voting for SCMLA Executive Committee

September 2015
30 Deadline for 2015 conference hotel reservation at the Nashville Marriott at Vanderbilt
Nashville 2015
Regular/Allied Sessions

Below are the calls for Regular/Allied sessions. In some cases, we are missing important information. If you have knowledge of this missing information, or if something is incorrect, please contact SCMLA@ou.edu. We appreciate everyone’s help!

If you are interested in presenting a paper in a session, email an abstract and a brief CV to its chair. New procedures for 2015: double submissions are not allowed. Each member may submit a proposal to one academic session and one creative writing session. If a good proposal cannot be accommodated in the session to which it is submitted, the chair will forward it to the Program Committee, which will try to find a different placement for the abstract. Alternately, the Chair may, with the consent of the submitter, contact other sessions that might be able to accommodate the abstract and ask if they have space.

Session Chairs who receive more than four good abstracts are encouraged to consider splitting their session into two panels. In most years, SCMLA can accommodate such requests.

**ALLIED SESSIONS**

**ASOCIACIÓN DE LITERATURA FEMENINA HISPÁNICA:** Open Topic
Chair: Dorota K. Heneghan, Louisiana State U, dheng1@lsu.edu
Secretary: Silvia Morin, U of Tennessee-Martin, smorin@utm.edu

**CONFERENCE ON CHRISTIANITY AND LITERATURE:**
This panel explores the reciprocal relationship between literature and a variety of religious rhetorics, including faith and doubt, liturgy, devotion, and theology
Chair: Garnet Branch, U of Louisiana-Lafayette, garnet-branch1@louisiana.edu
Secretary: Sarah Honeycutt, Wiley College, shoneycutt@wiley.edu

**THE EUDORA WELTY SOCIETY:**

**Open Topic**
Chair: Joshua Lundy, U of South Carolina, jlundj@email.sc.edu
Secretary: Jada Ach U of South Carolina, jach@email.sc.edu

**FLANNERY O’CONNOR SOCIETY:** Open Topic
Chair: Julianna Leachman, U of Texas-Austin, juliannaleachman@gmail.com
Secretary: Kathleen Lipovski-Helal, St. Edwards U, kathleen@stedwards.edu

**INTERNATIONAL COURTLY LITERATURE SOCIETY:** Open Topic
Chair: Monica L. Wright, U of Louisiana-Lafayette, mwright@louisiana.edu
Secretary: Tamara Bentley Caudill, Tulane U, tcaudill@tulane.edu

**SOCIETY FOR CRITICAL EXCHANGE:** Jewish Literature and Film in the Americas
We invite papers on topics related to Jewish literature and/or film from North America, Central America, the Caribbean, and/or South America
Chair: Michelle Johnson Vela, Texas A&M U-Kingsville, kfmjr00@tamuk.edu
Secretary: Marco Íñiguez-Alba, Texas A&M U-Kingsville, kfoi00@tamuk.edu

**SOUTH CENTRAL AMERICAN DIALECT SOCIETY:** Dialect, Sound and Story: The Way Dialect Enhances Understanding
The American Dialect Society invites submissions that enhance research into linguistics, dialect studies and how they come together.
Chair: Geoffrey Clegg, Arkansas State U, gclegg@astate.edu
Secretary: Michael Dressman, U of Houston Downtown, dressman-mi@uhd.edu

**SOUTH CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF DEPARTMENTS OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND DEPARTMENTS OF ENGLISH**
Chair: Jeanne Gillespie, U of Southern Mississippi, jeanne.gillespie@usm.edu
Secretary:

**SOUTH CENTRAL COLLEGE ENGLISH ASSOCIATION:** AMERICAN LITERATURE AND POPULAR CULTURE: Representations of the Hero in Modern Storytelling
This session will examine the complex and diverse representations of heroes and heroism in today’s literature, film, and television – the superhero, the feminist icon, the anti-hero, the traditionally marginalized other.
Chair: Kalene Westmoreland, College of Southern Nevada, kalenewestmoreland@csn.edu
Secretary: Brett Riley, College of Southern Nevada, brett.riley@csn.edu

**WOMEN IN FRENCH**
Open Topic
Chair: Rachel Williams, Eastern Kentucky U, rachel.williams@eku.edu
Secretary: Theresa Varney Kennedy, Baylor U, theresa_kennedy@baylor.edu
Chair: Linda McManness, Baylor U, linda_mcmanness@baylor.edu
Secretary: Lucía Llorente, Berry College, llorente@berry.edu

**REGULAR SESSIONS**

**AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE:** Open Topic
This panel welcomes papers on any period or aspect of African American literature
Chair: Khristeena Lute, Middle Tennessee State U, kml4z@mtmail.mtsu.edu
Secretary: Carol Bunch Davis, Texas A&M U-Galveston, davisc@tamug.edu

**AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES:** Open Topic
Chair: Emily Johnson, U of Oklahoma, emilyjohnson@ou.edu
Secretary:
AMERICAN LITERATURE I: LITERATURE BEFORE 1900: Open Topic
Chair: Dan Walden, Baylor U, dan_walden@baylor.edu
Secretary: Jamie Korosmo-Ergle, Georgia State U, jkorsmo1@gsu.edu

AMERICAN LITERATURE II: LITERATURE AFTER 1900: Open Topic
We solicit papers on any aspect of American literature after 1900
Chair: Carol Bunch Davis, Texas A&M U-Galveston, davis@tamug.edu
Secretary: M. Lance Lusk, U of Texas-Dallas, marc.lusk@utdallas.edu

APPLIED LINGUISTICS: Open Topic
Chair: Lucia Llorente, Berry College, lllorente@berry.edu
Secretary: Debbie Arteaga, U of Nevada-Las Vegas, debo-rah.arteaga@unlv.edu

ARABIC LITERATURE AND CULTURE: Open Topic
Chair: Diana Obeid, Christopher Newport U, diana.obeid@cnu.edu
Secretary: Samar Zahrawi, Sam Houston State U, szahrawi@shsu.edu

AUTOBIOGRAPHY & BIOGRAPHY: Open Topic
Chair: Dana McMichael, Abilene Christian U, dana.mcmichael@acu.edu
Secretary: Jennifer Alandy, McNeese State U, msa-jfarber@student.mcneese.edu

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND TEXTUAL CRITICISM: Open Topic
Chair: Elizabeth Willingham, Baylor University, beth_willingham@baylor.edu
Secretary: Thomas Bonner, Xavier U of Louisiana, tbonner@xula.edu

CHILDREN’S LITERATURE: Children’s and Young Adult Literature Open Topic
All topics in children’s and young adult literature are welcome. Submit proposals and short CV to the session chair and secretary.
Chair: Leigh Hickman, Dallas Baptist, profleigh7@gmail.com
Secretary: Sara Day, Southern Arkansas U, skday@saumag.edu

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE: Open Topic
Chair: Amy Smith, Lamar U, amy.smith@lamar.edu
Secretary: Moira DiMauro-Jackson, Texas State U, md11@txstate.edu

CREATIVE WRITING NONFICTION: Sound and Story: The Rhythms of Language
Our conference this is focused on sounds, therefore, we seek submissions that incorporate the sounds and rhythms of narrative. Personal story and auto-ethnography, in particular, can infuse sense experience. We are looking for submissions that invite the ears to listen.
Chair: Miriam Rowntree, U of Texas-Arlington, miriam.rowntree@mavs.uta.edu
Secretary: David J. Eshelman, Arkansas Tech U, deshelman@atu.edu

CREATIVE WRITING - POETRY: Open Topic
Chair: John Graves Morris, Cameron U, johnmor@cameron.edu
Secretary: William (Hank) Jones, Tarleton State U, wjones@tarleton.edu

CREATIVE WRITING – THE SHORT STORY: Open Topic
A panel in which SCMLA members can read their works of short fiction
Chair: Jennifer Alandy, McNeese State U, jennifer.alandy@gmail.com
Secretary: Mark Maynard, Sierra Nevada College, maynard02@charter.net

DIGITAL HUMANITIES: Open Topic
Chair: Bradford Hincher, Trident Technical College, b@hincher.us
Secretary: Charley Silvio, Louisiana State U, char-

EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
Chair: Emily Johnson, U of Oklahoma, emilyjohnson@ou.edu
Secretary:

ENGLISH I: OLD AND MIDDLE ENGLISH: Open Topic
Chair: Geoffrey B. Elliott, Oklahoma State U, geofrey.b.elliott@gmail.com
Secretary: Brian Brooks, Oklahoma State U, brian.brooks@okstate.edu

ENGLISH II: RENAISSANCE LITERATURE EXCLUDING DRAMA: Open Topic
Chair: Kris McAbee, U of Arkansas-Little Rock, kmcmacbee@ualr.edu
Secretary: Melissa Bagaglio, U of Memphis, mhbagglio@memphis.edu

ENGLISH III: RESTORATION & EIGHTEENTH CENTURY BRITISH LITERATURE
Chair: Joel T. Terranova, U of Louisiana-Lafayette, joel.terranova@gmail.com
Secretary: Jena Al-Fuhaid, Kuwait University, jalfuhaid@gmail.com

ENGLISH IV: NINETEENTH CENTURY BRITISH LITERATURE
Chair: Emily Monteiro, Blinn College, emily.monteiro@blinn.edu
Secretary: Lexey Bartlett, Fort Hays State U, labartlett@fhsu.edu

ENGLISH V: TWENTIETH CENTURY BRITISH LITERATURE
Chair: Courtney Patrick-Webber, Texas Woman’s U, cpatrick-webber@twu.edu
Secretary: Irina I. Simonova, Strout, U of Tulsa, strout@tulex.net

ENGLISH VI: GENERAL LINGUISTICS
Chair: Mary Lynne Hill, St. Mary’s U, mhill@smartryx.edu
Secretary: Geoffrey Clegg, Arkansas State U, gclegg@astate.edu
FILM I: ENGLISH LANGUAGE FILM
Papers on any topic of film in English will be considered.
Chair: Michelle Johnson Vela, Texas A&M U-Kingsville, kmjr00@tamuk.edu
Secretary: Scott L. Baugh, Texas Tech U, scott.baugh@ttu.edu

FILM II: FRENCH AND FRANCOPHONE FILM: Open Topic
Chair: Rokitou Soumaré, U of Oklahoma, rokitou.soumare-1@ou.edu
Secretary: Parfait Bonkoungou, Auburn U-Montgomery, pbonkoun@aum.edu

FILM 3: HISPANIC FILM: Open Topic
Chair: Elizabeth Willingham, Baylor U, beth_willingham@baylor.edu
Secretary: Nancy J. Membrez, U of Texas-San Antonio, nan-cy.membrez@gmail.com

FOLKLORE: Open Topic
Chair: Joy Smith, Kansas State U, joymosssmith@ksu.edu
Secretary: Helen McCourt, Collin College, hmcourt@collin.edu

FRANCOPHONE LITERATURE: Open Topic
Chair: Latifa Zoulagh, U of Oklahoma, latifa.zoulagh-1@ou.edu
Secretary: Laura Loth, Rhodes College, lothl@rhodes.edu

FRENCH I: LINGUISTICS AND LITERATURE TO 1600: Open Topic
Chair: Cristian Bratu, Baylor U, cristian_bratu@baylor.edu
Secretary: Susan Hopkirk, Ryerson U, shopkirk@ryerson.ca

FRENCH II: LITERATURE 1600-1800
Chair: Sara Wellman, U of Mississippi, slwellma@olemiss.edu
Secretary: Gilles Viennot, U of Arkansas, g_viennot@yahoo.com

FRENCH III: LITERATURE AFTER 1800: Open Topic
Chair: Nisrine Slitine, U of Oklahoma, nslitine@ou.edu
Secretary: Gilles Viennot, U of Arkansas, g_viennot@yahoo.com

FRESHMAN ENGLISH AND ENGLISH COMPOSITION: Open Topic
Chair: Thomas W. Reynolds, Jr., Northwestern State U, reyn-oldst@nsula.edu
Secretary: Anna Hall, Blinn College, anna.hall@blinn.edu

GAY AND LESBIAN STUDIES IN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE: Open Topic
Open topic call for papers on LGBTQ literature, theory or pedagogy. We are particularly interested in works that challenge expectations, but will choose the best abstracts regardless.
Chair: Rita D. Costello, McNeese State U, rcostello@mcneese.edu
Secretary: Erin Clair, Arkansas Tech U, eclair@atu.edu

GENDER & RACE IN TWENTIETH CENTURY LITERATURE
This panel explores the themes of race and gender in literature of any genre, from any time, from any country.
Chair: Emily Clark, U of the Incarnate Word, ejclark@uiwtx.edu
Secretary: Tanja Stampfl, U of the Incarnate Word, stampfl@uiwtx.edu

GERMAN I: LINGUISTICS, LITERATURE AND CULTURE BEFORE 1700: Open Topic
Chair: Emily Johnson, U of Oklahoma, emilyjohnson@ou.edu
Secretary: Cheyenne Tercero, U of Oklahoma, ctercero@ou.edu

GERMAN II: LITERATURE AND CULTURE FROM 1700-1890: Open Topic
Abstracts are invited that discuss any aspect of Germanophone literature from 1700-1890. Topics reflecting the conference theme are encouraged, but not required.
Chair: Christelle LeFaucheur, U of Texas-Austin, lefaucheur@texas.edu
Secretary: Nancy A. Hester, Texas A&M U, nhester@tamu.edu

GERMAN III: LITERATURE AND CULTURE FROM 1890 TO PRESENT: Open Topic
Chair: Katherine Arens, U of Texas-Austin, karen@texas.edu
Secretary: Amanda Randall, U of Texas-Austin, azran-dall@utexas.edu

GERMAN WOMEN WRITERS: Sound and Story: The Rhythms of Language in the Works of German Women Writers
This panel welcomes submissions on the conference theme, investigating the importance of sound and story to German women’s writing and its contribution to better understand the significance of these literary elements.
Chair: Cindy Walter-Gensler, U of Texas-Austin, waltergensler@utexas.edu
Secretary: Erika Berroth, Southwestern U, berrothe@southwestern.edu

GOTHIC: Open Topic
Chair: Joel T. Terranova, U of Louisiana-Lafayette, joel.terranova@gmail.com
Secretary: Melanie R. Anderson, U of Mississippi, mrand-ers@olemiss.edu

HISPANIC LITERATURE WRITTEN IN THE UNITED STATES: Open Topic
Chair: Elizabeth Coscio, U of St. Thomas-Houston, coscio-oe@stthom.edu
Secretary: Marcy Tanter, Tarleton State U, tanter@tarleton.edu

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IN THE HUMANITIES: Open Topic
Chair: Cristelle LeFaucheur, U of Texas-Austin, lefaucheur@texas.edu
Secretary: Nancy A. Hester, Texas A&M U, nhester@tamu.edu

SOUTH CENTRAL NEWSLETTER
IRISH LITERATURE: Sounds and Stories of Easter, 1916
Chair: Jeffrey Longacre, U of Tennessee-Martin, jlonggac1@utm.edu
Secretary: Bill Lancaster, Texas A&M U-Commerce, blancaster99@gmail.com

ITALIAN STUDIES I: MEDIEVAL-RENAISSANCE
Chair: Annachiara Mariani, U of Tennessee, amariani@utk.edu
Secretary: Silvia Tiboni-Craft, Wake Forest U, tibonis@wf.edu

ITALIAN STUDIES II: Open Topic
Chair: Annachiara Mariani, U of Tennessee, amariani@utk.edu
Secretary: Silvia Tiboni-Craft, Wake Forest U, tibonis@wfu.edu

LITERATURE AND POLITICS
Chair: Ashley Bender, Texas Woman’s U, abender@twu.edu
Secretary: Marina Trninic, Prairie View A&M, matrninic@pramu.edu

LITERARY CRITICISM AND THEORY: Open Topic
Chair: Syliva Morin, U of Tennessee-Martin, smorin@utm.edu
Secretary:

LUSO-AFRO-BRAZILIAN LANGUAGE & LITERATURE: Open Topic
This panel is open for any topics on Luso Brazilian literature and language
Chair: Martha C. Galvan, U of Oklahoma, marthagalvan@ou.edu
Secretary: Celia Carmen Cordeiro, U of Texas-Austin, celiacarmencordeiro@utexas.edu

MODERN DRAMA: Open Topic
Chair: Elizabeth Brown-Guillory, Texas Southern U, brown-guillorye@tsu.edu
Secretary: Rita D. Costello, McNeese State U, rcostel-lo@mcneese.edu

NATIVE AMERICAN LITERATURE: Open Topic
Chair: Jeannie Stone, Arkansas Tech U, dstone3@atu.edu
Secretary: Eric Blackburn, Interlochen Center for the Arts, eric.blackburn@interlochen.org

PERSIAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE: Open Topic
Chair: Emily Johnson, U of Oklahoma, emilyjohnson@ou.edu
Secretary:

REGIONAL FICTION WRITERS: Open Topic
Chair: Lynn Alexander, U of Tennessee-Martin, lalexand@utm.edu
Secretary:

RENAISSANCE DRAMA: Open Topic
Chair: Dan Pigg, U of Tennessee-Martin, danielp@utm.edu
Secretary:

RUSSIAN LANGUAGE AND METHODOLOGY: Open Topic
Chair: Lonny Harrison, U of Texas-Arlington, lonnyharrison@uta.edu
Secretary: Marina Potoplyak, U of Texas-Austin, mari-na.potoplyak@gmail.com

RUSSIAN LITERATURE: Open Topic
Chair: Alexandra Kostina, Rhodes College, kosti-na@rhodes.edu
Secretary: Lonny Harrison, U of Texas-Arlington, lonnyharrison@uta.edu

SCIENCE AND LITERATURE
Chair: Jeffery Sartain, U of Houston-Victoria, sartainj@uhv.edu
Secretary: Debra Andrist, Sam Houston State U, an-drist@shsu.edu

SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY
Chair: Jessie Casteel, U of Houston, jrcasteel@uh.edu
Secretary: Joe R. Christopher, Tarleton State, jchristo-pher@tarleton.edu

SHORT FICTION: THEORY & CRITICISM: Sound and Language in Short Stories and Novellas
Seeking papers that explore the interrelation of sound and language, poetry and prose, and oral and written traditions within the short narrative format
Chair: Robert C. Hamilton, Wiley College, r.hamilton@wileyec.edu
Secretary:

SLAVIC AND EAST EUROPEAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
Chair: Maria Makowiecka, Bergen Community College, marynka@aol.com
Secretary: Danuta Hinc, U of Maryland, dhinc@umd.edu

SOUTHERN LITERATURE: Open Topic
Chair: Cheryl Wiltse, Collin College, cwiltse@collin.edu
Secretary: Mark Sursavage, U of Houston, mark.sursavage@gmail.com

SOUTHWESTERN AMERICAN LITERATURE: Open Topic
Chair: Annette Cole, Texas Woman’s U/Tarrant County College, colea7543@gmail.com
Secretary: Kellie Matherly, Texas Woman’s U/Grayson College, matherlyk@grayson.edu

SPANISH I: PENINSULAR LITERATURE BEFORE 1700: Open Topic
Chair: Mitch McCoy, Belmont U, mitch.mccoy@belmont.edu
Secretary: Paul Larson, Baylor U, paul.larson@baylor.edu
SPANISH II: PENINSULAR LITERATURE 1700-1898
Chair: Dana Ward, Arkansas Tech U, dward@atu.edu
Secretary: Bruce A. Boggs, U of Oklahoma, baboggs@ou.edu

SPANISH III: 20TH AND 21ST CENTURY PENINSULAR LITERATURE
Chair: Natalia Pelaz-Escribano, Belmont U, pelaz@belmont.edu
Secretary: Frieda Blackwell, Baylor U, friedab.blackwell@baylor.edu

SPANISH IV: COLONIAL LITERATURE THROUGH MODERNISMO
Chair: Lucy Harney, Texas State U, harney@txstate.edu
Secretary: Edma I. Delgado-Solórzano, U of Arkansas-Little Rock, edelgadoso@ualr.edu

SPANISH V: 20TH CENTURY LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE: Ritmos y Sonidos en el siglo XX
We will explore the rhythms and sounds of Latin American Literature
Chair: Jeanne Gillespie, U of Southern Mississippi, jeanne.gillespie@usm.com
Secretary: Susana Perea-Fox, Oklahoma State U, susana.perea-fox@okstate.edu

SPANISH VI: 21ST CENTURY LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE: Open Topic
Chair: Paul Larson, Baylor U, paul.larson@baylor.edu
Secretary:

SPANISH VII: LINGUISTICS: Open Topic
Chair: Carmen Parron, U of Houston-Downtown, parronc@uhd.edu
Secretary: Deborah Arteaga, U of Nevada-Las Vegas, debo-rah.arteaga@unlv.edu

TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM: Open Topic
Chair: Laura Osborne, Stephen F. Austin State U, osborne@sfasu.edu
Secretary: Rachelle Bradley, Blinn College, rachelle.bradley@blinn.edu

WAR, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS: Sound & Story: Women in War at Home and Away
Any aspect of women and war, multimedia format especially sought
Chair: Marcy Tanter, Tarleton State U, tanter@tarleton.edu
Secretary: Matthew David Perry, Del Mar College, mattr-perry@delmar.edu

WOMEN OF COLOR
Chair: Elizabeth Brown-Guillory, Texas Southern U, brown-guillorye@tsu.edu
Secretary: Christina Boyles, Baylor U, christina.boyles@baylor.edu

WOMEN’S CAUCUS OF THE SCMLA: Open Topic
Chair: Merry Lynn Byrd, Virginia State U, mbyrd@vsu.edu
Secretary: Erin García-Fernández, U of Tennessee-Martin, eringarciafdez@gmail.com

SPECIAL SESSIONS

THE SOUND OF FURY, THE STORY OF PROTEST
All social change begins with the cry for justice of those too angry to maintain the status quo. Their resulting movements, social, political, economic, engender the literatures of protest
Proposer: Debra D. Andrist, Sam Houston State U, andrist@shsu.edu

FAULKNER AND ERDRICH: CONVERGENCES
This panel seeks papers on shared aspects of story and language in works by William Faulkner and Louise Erdrich. Possible topics include questions of influence, regionalism, history, and cultural differentiation.
Proposer: Melanie R. Anderson, U of Mississippi, mranders@olemiss.edu

SPECIAL SESSION FINAL PROPOSAL FORM DEADLINE
The priority deadline for the SCMLA office receipt of Special Session proposals is February 28, 2015. Download the form from our website here.
Poems from the 2014 South Central Poets’ Corner Poets

Like Hawks above Sage

Something about a prairie
makes you want to follow
flying low like hawks above sage
scattered stalks of bluestem
renegade in late October
too stubborn to die easy
too tough to be anything else.

The wind has ended. Calm
covers like glass, the world
a museum. I would pay
twice to soar once again;
I would pay double to see
from a hawk’s eye cruising,
regal, sovereign, fearless.

Ken Hada

Ken Hada is a professor and poet with four current collections of poetry in print: The Way of the Wind (Village Books Press, 2008), Spare Parts and The River White: A Confluence of Brush & Quill (Mongrel Empire Press, 2010 and 2011), and Margaritas and Redfish (Lamar UP, 2013).
Traveling the Milky Way

for Kim Alexander, 1953-1989

On nights like this when he drifts through her dreams like smoke from burning wood, it helps to rise, to step out into darkness, hear coyotes howling on the western ridge, the moon skulking behind the gnarled elms, stars hovering so close they can hear her breathe.

She imagines his bitter sweet presence. Not on this planet where she is stranded but out there among the receding points in the realm of Orion and his heavy belt a million million light years away.

She whispers his name and waits, like the nights of his boyhood, when aflame with need to share the wonders of the night sky, he whispered her awake, showed her distant worlds through his telescope.

She imagines him now as one of those ancient lights, in a heaven of his own choosing.

Dorothy Alexander

God’s Radio

In Religious Ed a nun once told us that we should always make the sign of the cross before and after we prayed. The first gesture opened God’s wavelength, the second closed it off.

I wonder if the sister knew how many nights I would lie in bed, panicked, wide awake unable to remember if I had signaled Roger and out. Odds or evens—heaven or hell. I crossed myself without stopping, hoping to land on evens or at least to interrupt the feed before my memories of Linda Ursoni’s blouse and her fully developed fifth grade breasts bubbled forth from the back of my pubescent mind.

Even as an adult, I find myself playing the same game, while hoping that someday I might cross myself one last time and be done with it, but the deep need to hide always follows—in the name of the Father, and of the Son. . . .

Alan Berecka

Alan Berecka is the author of three books of poetry: The Comic Flaw (NeoNuma Arts, 2009), Remembering the Body (Mongrel Empire Press, 2011), and With Our Baggage (Lamar University Press, 2013)
CONVENTION HOTEL INFORMATION
Our 72nd annual conference will be held at the
Nashville Marriott at Vanderbilt
2555 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37203
Saturday, October 31 to Tuesday November 3

South Central MLA rate:
$139 single/double plus tax

Reservations:
1-800-285-0190

Please state you want the “South Central Modern Language Association rate” when making your reservations. All conference participants must reserve their rooms with The Nashville Marriott at Vanderbilt by September 30, 2015 in order to receive the conference rate.