The 73rd annual South Central Modern Language Association conference is in just a few short months! This year, we are expecting 500 members will attend the conference in Dallas, Texas. We’re looking forward to another lively conference this year. As in past years, many of our regular sessions have split into two or three panels. We have also received many special session proposals, covering a broad range of topics. This year’s conference promises to be a success.

The conference will take place at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel in Dallas, Texas on November 3 - 5, 2016. Located in the Dallas Arts District, the Sheraton is close to downtown Dallas, the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, Winspear Opera House and Dallas Museum of Art. Conference participants will find many fine restaurants, recreational opportunities, and cultural events within easy walking distance of the hotel. Rooms may be reserved for $119/night by calling 254-922-8000 or online here. Please state that you want the "South Central Modern Language Association" rate when making your reservation. We fully expect to sell out our room block this year, so participants are urged to make their reservations as soon as possible.

All conference participants must reserve their rooms with the Sheraton Dallas by October 2 in order to receive the conference rate.

To learn more about Dallas dining, museums and entertainment visit: http://www.visitdallas.com

“The Spectacular City: Glamour, Decadence, and Celebrity in Literature and Culture”

In 2016 the South Central Modern Language Association will hold its annual convention in one of America’s most celebrated cities, Dallas Texas, which lies in the heart of one of the largest metropolitan areas in the United States and boasts a lavish skyline, museums, parks, and diverse culture. This location inspires our conference theme: an exploration of the ways in which extravagant city environments and urban spectacle figure in literature and culture. For 2016 SCMLA invites papers that consider both tributes to and exposés of the glittering surface of urban life. Alexander Pushkin’s famous description of Russia’s shimmering imperial capital from the introduction to The Bronze Horseman; the soaring black-and-white images of bridges and skyscrapers that unfold to Gershwin music in Woody Allen’s Manhattan; Balzac’s accounts of life in the man-sions and on the promenades of Paris; Jonathan Swift’s calculated critique of London in his “A Description of the Morning” and “A Description of a City Shower”; and the seedy, decadent New York of John Schlesinger’s seminal film Midnight Cowboy are a few of the many examples that reveal, pay tribute to, and critique the spectacular city. We encourage papers that look at the forms of celebrity that have enjoyed prominence in urban centers in various periods—public extravagances such as parties, parades, and commemorative festivities; and the problems of urban excess and decay.

Please join us for SCMLA’s convention in Dallas, Texas, November 3-5, 2016.
A Message From Incoming Executive Director, José Juan Colín

Dear Colleagues:

It is with great excitement that I begin as Executive Director of the South Central Modern Language Association in May 2016. As a member of the University of Oklahoma’s Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics Department since 1999, I have attended and been a member of SCMLA for more than a decade and I have seen how the association has grown and developed over the years. After years of attending the conference, I understand first hand the true strength of the organization. While we at the University of Oklahoma take great pride in our connection to SCMLA, we understand that the success our organization enjoys depends on the participation and commitment of our over 500 members spread across our region and beyond. I have seen the dedication and work of our members and the Executive Committee. As the new Executive Director, I look forward to working with our membership to help SCMLA continue to grow in the coming years.

Nancy LaGreca, Emily Johnson, and most recently, Jason Houston, as the previous three Executive Directors set a very high standard for the position. I know that SCMLA’s Executive Committee and membership join me in expressing appreciation for Jason Houston’s outstanding service over the past few months and wish him all the best in his new adventure. Jason followed in the steps of Emily and Nancy’s efforts to stabilize the association’s finances, and grow our membership and thanks to their efforts, we are in a favorable position. In the past years, membership and conference attendance have continued to grow substantially. As a result, SCMLA has been able to increase funding for research grants, paper prizes, and travel assistance and to offer a wider range of benefits to members, including new prizes and awards and funding assistance for graduate students. The association is also lucky to have Ashley Tullius as our dedicated Assistant Program Director. It is mostly because of her that our day-to-day operations and conferences run smoothly. My job, as Executive Director, will be to continue this tremendous progress and to listen to our membership to assure SCMLA continues to develop and grow in new ways.

Our 73rd annual conference, The Spectacular City: Glamour, Decadence, and Celebrity, will take place November 3-5 at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel in the heart of Dallas’ vibrant Arts District. The hotel offers our members fine accommodations in a lively setting, just minutes from great dining and cultural attractions. Please join us for what promises to be an exceptionally lively and engaging conference with many opportunities for both networking and professional development.

I look forward to getting to know many of you over the course of this year and meeting you at the conference in Dallas. I welcome your questions and feedback at josejuan@ou.edu.

Best regards,

José Juan Colín
Executive Director
Executive Committee Election

You can vote in the 2016 Executive Committee Elections as part of the conference registration process. Candidate statements can be found on our website here.

Executive Committee 2016 Nominations:
(Service begins January 1, 2017)

Vice President:
Sylvia Morin, University of Tennessee - Martin
Debra A. Andrist, Sam Houston State University

French Language Representative:
Lowry Martin, University of Texas - El Paso
Cristian Bratu, Baylor University

At-Large Representative:
Sara Day, Southern Arkansas University
Ryan Calabretta-Sajder, University of Arkansas

American Literature Representative:
John G. Morris, Cameron University
Christopher Black, Francis Marion University

Consulting Editors for South Central Review to Approve:
American Literature: Sarah Peters, East Central University
French: Robert Zaretsky, University of Houston
German: Stefanie Harris, Texas A&M University
Philosophy: Kristi Sweet, Texas A&M University
Spanish: Nancy LaGreca, University of Oklahoma

Members are invited to submit nominations and self-nominations for the 2017 election of English Language Representative, Russian and Less-Commonly Taught Languages Representative, and Spanish Language Representative. Candidates for these position should be ready to serve three-year terms. The Executive Committee meets annually at the fall convention and also confers over email as necessary. Executive Committee members typically serve on two or three sub-committees each year. Expenses for the fall meeting must be paid by the member or the member’s institution. Nominations/self-nominations should be accompanied by a brief curriculum vitae (max. 4 pages).

Send nominations by October 1, 2016 to scmla@ou.edu.

Keynote Speaker: Lou Berney

Lou Berney is the Edgar Award-nominated author of The Long and Faraway Gone, Whiplash River, and Gutshot Straight. His short stories have appeared in publications such as The New Yorker, Ploughshares, and the Pushcart Prize anthology, and he's written screenplays for, among others, Warner Brothers, Paramount, Focus Features, ABC, and Fox. He teaches in the graduate creative writing program at Oklahoma City University.

Dr. Abigail Keegan is a Professor at Oklahoma City University and has published critical essays and an academic book on Lord Byron’s Oriental Tales as well as three books of poetry. Her third poetry collection, Depending on the Weather, was a finalist for the Oklahoma State Book Award in 2012. She is currently working on her fourth collection of poetry.

Dallas Conference Speakers

Jessica Simpson Isaacs, Professor, Seminole State College, is the winner of the 2015 Oklahoma State Book Award for her collection of poetry, Deep August. Each year, she runs the Howlers and Yawpers Creativity Symposium, a showcase of Oklahoma artists, musicians, actors, writers and dancers. Additionally, she selects and coordinates the readings of the poets for the annual Woody Guthrie Festival with poetry readings in Oklahoma City and Okemah. With Rayshell Clapper, Isaacs co-edits an online poetry journal, The Dragon Poet Review.

Dr. R. Flowers Rivera is an award-winning poet currently teaching at the University of Texas-Dallas. Rivera’s second collection of poetry, Heathen, was released in February 2015. It has been selected by poet and literary activist E. Ethelbert Miller as the winner of the 2015 Naomi Long Madgett Poetry Award, which recognizes an outstanding book-length manuscript by an African-American poet. This award was announced in the Fall edition of Poets & Writers.
2016 Paper Prizes

AWARDS EXCLUSIVE TO SCMLA FALL CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS
Members with appropriate papers scheduled for the Dallas 2016 conference are encouraged to compete for our conference paper and creative writing prizes. For rules, please see our website.

Bill L. and Gerre D. Andrist Prize in Hispanic Gender Studies—$250
Vuong Short Story Prize—$500
SCMLA Prize for the Best Paper in Historical, Literary, and/or Cultural Studies—$250
SCMLA Poetry Prize - $500

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGUST 31, 2016

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 2016. For more information, see our website.

2017 Prizes & Grants

SCMLA FELLOWSHIP AT THE HARRY RANSOM CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-AUSTIN FOR THE 2017-2018 ACADEMIC YEAR-$3000
Information on eligibility, how to apply and deadline here.

BENSON LATIN AMERICAN COLLECTION-SCMLA FACULTY RESEARCH GRANT-$1500
APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 28, 2017

SCMLA RESEARCH GRANTS
$1500 for Faculty (Open to eligible members who have completed the PhD)
$1500 for Temporary Faculty and Independent Scholars (Only eligible members who have completed the terminal degree for their area and do not hold regular faculty positions may apply)
APPLICATION DEADLINE FEBRUARY 28, 2017

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANT-$500 (at the dissertation stage)
APPLICATION DEADLINE FEBRUARY 28, 2017

SCMLA CONFERENCE TRAVEL GRANTS
Up to $500 for Graduate Students at the doctoral level, Faculty and Independent Scholars
APPLICATION DEADLINE APRIL 30, 2017

SCMLA BOOK AWARD-$500
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2016
Scholarly and critical books and editions published in 2015 by SCMLA members are eligible for the 2016 prize. 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, 2017 to SCMLA office.

Nominees must be members by March 1; nominees must be current SCMLA members and must have been members for the previous two years. The successful candidate for the SCMLA Book Award presented in 2017 will be announced at the conference in Tulsa, OK.

South Central Modern Language Association Deadlines for 2016

January 2016
15 Application deadline for SCMLA/Harry Ransom Center Fellowship
http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/research/fellowships/

February 2016
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 receipt of Proposals for Special Sessions for Dallas 2016 to the SCMLA office

March 2016
31 Proposers of Special Sessions for Dallas 2016 will be notified
31 Deadline for receipt of Book Prize Nominations to the SCMLA office
31 Deadline for submission of Papers/Abstracts for Dallas 2016 to Regular/Allied Session

April 2016
30 Deadline for receipt of Final Program Forms for all 2016 sessions to the SCMLA office
30 Deadline for requesting audio-visual equipment for Dallas 2016
30 Deadline for receipt of SCMLA Conference Travel Grants applications to SCMLA office
30 Deadline for 2016 conference participants to become members of SCMLA

May 2016
31 Deadline for receipt of items to be included in the Summer Newsletter to SCMLA office

June 2016
31 Deadline for registration of conference participants for Dallas 2016
31 Deadline for voting for the SCMLA Executive Committee

July 2016
31 Deadline for receipt of Midlands Grant applications to SCMLA office

August 2016
31 Deadline for 2016 Conference Paper Prize submissions

October 2016
2 Deadline for 2016 conference hotel reservations at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel

Future Conference Dates

2017
Tulsa, Oklahoma
October 5-8
Renaissance Tulsa

2018
San Antonio, Texas
October 11-14
Menger Hotel

NEW AWARDS FOR SCMLA MEMBERS

SCMLA will offer awards for Career Achievement in Research ($750) and Service to the Profession ($750). Nominations for these awards should be sent to scmla@ou.edu by March 31, 2017 and should include: letter detailing the nominee’s achievements and a current CV for the nominee. Self-nominations for these awards are not allowed.
Thank you, 2016 Friends of SCMLA!

Silver
Pamela Genova
Vernon Miles

Gold
Frieda Blackwell
John G. Morris

Platinum
Debra D. Andrist

2016 Sustaining Departmental Members
Midwestern State University
Department of Foreign Languages

Tarleton State University
Department of English and Languages

University of Oklahoma
College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Modern Languages,
Literatures, and Linguistics

University of Tennessee - Martin
College of Humanities and Fine Arts

University of Texas at Arlington
Department of English

Conference Registration Deadline for Dallas 2016 is July 31st

Register online here. During the registration process, you will have also the opportunity to vote in SCMLA elections. Candidate statements can be found on our website.

SCMLA MEMBER NEWS

Last year Pamela S. Saur was named Distinguished Professor Emerita by Lamar University. She also published a book with Edwin Mellens Press, The Spiritual Meaning of Material Things in the Novels of Adolfo Stifter (1805-1868).


Gustavo Costa is releasing a book in portuguese titled “A identidade brasileira por meio de imagens na obra Triste fim de Polpocuro Quaresma.” The book was released in Brazil last March by Gramma editorial, and will be sold on Amazon by the end of August.

Lonny Harrison’s book, Archetypes from Underground: Notes on the Dostoevskian hero, will be published this month by the Wilfrid Laurier University Press.


Lucas Wilson received the Academic Achievement Award from Vanderbilt University for graduating with first honors in the MTI program through the University’s Divinity School. He was also selected as a Fellow for the Auschwitz Jewish Center 2016 Fellowship and was also selected to participate in The Center for Jewish History’s Seminar on Archival and Historical Research where he researched second language problems and language planning.

Claudia Cavallin published Ciudades de Película: Fictiones urbanas del cine, la literatura y la música y Especial de la palabra: La metáfora en Borges: Los juegos del lenguaje que hacen posible la configuración de un Universo de imágenes recursivas.


Research Fellowships offered at Harry Ransom Center

The Harry Ransom Center, a humanities research library and museum at The University of Texas at Austin, invites SCMLA members to apply to its research fellowship program. The Ransom Center awards approximately 50 fellowships to post-doctoral and independent scholars each year—with one annual fellowship designated specifically for SCMLA members—support on-site research in its collections. The Center also supports dissertation fellowships for graduate students admitted to candidacy.

The Ransom Center’s collections include 42 million manuscripts, nearly one million rare books, five million photographs, and 100,000 works of art, as well as major holdings in film and the performing arts. Highlights from the collections include the manuscripts of Julian Barnes, Tim O’Brien, T. C. Boyle, J. M. Coetzee, Penelope Fitzgerald, Spalding Gray, Denis Johnson, Doris Lessing, Norman Mailer, David Mamet, Jayne Anne Phillips, James Salter, and Anne Sexton; the publishing archives of Alfred Knopf and McSweeney’s; the film archives of Robert De Niro and Gone With The Wind producer David O. Selznick; and the Watergate papers of Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein.

The collections support research across such wide-ranging disciplines as African and African American studies, Jewish studies, Latin American studies, women’s and gender studies, detective and science fiction studies, publishing history, travel literature, and more. Fellows’ research topics reflect the breadth of the Center’s holdings. Projects of recent fellows include “Pedigree and Personhood in the Printed Plays of Early Modern England,” “Imagined Heartlands: Post-Postmodern Literature and the American Midwest,” “The Aesthetics and Poetics of Big Print in Screenwriting Practice,” and “W. B. Yeats and the Writing of Art.”

Fellows incorporate their findings into scholarly articles and monographs, conference presentations, cultural histories, critical editions, exhibitions, and biographies. During their residencies, fellows also engage in an environment of intellectual exchange at the Ransom Center and across The University of Texas at Austin campus. Throughout the year, the Center hosts lunches and weekly coffee gatherings that create opportunities for fellows, independent research visitors, Ransom Center staff, and other members of the University community to discuss the work taking place within the Center’s collections. Fellows have also presented talks to the Ransom Center’s members and to University and community groups.

The fellowships range from one to three months, with stipends of $3,000 per month. Also available are $1,200 or $1,700 travel stipends and dissertation fellowships with a $1,500 stipend. All applicants, with the exception of those applying for dissertation fellowships, must have a Ph.D. or be independent scholars with a substantial record of achievement.

To be eligible for the SCMLA fellowship, a one-month award jointly sponsored by the Ransom Center and the South Central Modern Language Association, applicants must be current SCMLA members who have been members for the previous two years at the time of application. SCMLA Executive Committee members are ineligible.

The Ransom Center will begin accepting fellowship applications for its 2017–2018 fellowships during the summer of 2016. For more information about the program and application instructions, visit www.hrc.utexas.edu/fellowships.

Reminder About Scheduling Requests

Dear Members: At this time of year, the SCMLA office is covered in long printer sheets of scheduling information. As SCMLA grows, creating the conference schedule has become increasingly complex. We work hard to make sure that no member is scheduled to be in two places at once, try not to run panels on similar topics against each other, and places panels that require projectors in rooms that will offer them. In years in which many of our regular sessions split to accommodate interest, this job is particularly hard. A single individual (the chair of a multi-panel regular session, a member of the Executive Committee) may have five or six engagements over the course of the conference; more and more panels require AV each year.

For this reason, SCMLA can no longer accept individual requests that sessions be scheduled at a particular time or on a specific conference day with one notable exception: if we are informed that a panelist cannot present on a specific day because of religious beliefs, we will make every effort to accommodate. Please be sure to make these special requests at the time you submit your conference proposals.

Thank you in advance for your understanding regarding this change.

of the Center’s collections by area of study may be found in the online Guide to the Collections at www.hrc.utexas.edu/collections/guide.
CONFERENCE HOTEL INFORMATION

Our 73rd annual conference will be held at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel
400 North Olive Street
Dallas, TX 75201

Thursday, November 3 to Saturday, November 5

South Central Modern Language Association rate:
$119 single/double plus tax

Reservations: 214-922-8000 or online

Please state you want the “South Central Modern Language Association rate” when making your reservations. All conference participants must reserve their rooms with the Sheraton Dallas Hotel by October 2, 2016 in order to receive the conference rate.

Dallas Ground Transportation and Parking:

Hotel Parking:
Self-parking $14 day/overnight

Shared Shuttles:
City Shuttle, L. L. C. 214-760-1998 (approximately $34 for 2 people)
Go Yellow Checker Shuttle 214-841-1900 (approximately $38 for 2 people)
SuperShuttle DFW, Inc. 972-456-3128 (approximately $32 for 2 people)

Taxi:
Estimated $40 from Dallas International Airport to Sheraton Dallas Hotel