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The 72nd Annual Convention in Nashville: Sound and Story: The Rhythms of Languages

The 72nd annual South Central Modern Language Association convention was held in Nashville, Tennessee on October 31—November 3, at the Nashville Marriott at Vanderbilt. As always, a wide variety of topics were explored. A few of the Special Sessions include: “Creative Writing in Spanish,” “Footnoting Across Genres: The Literary Device of Dance,” “Something Old, Something New: Wedding Traditional Texts and Digital Pedagogies,” and “Fury and Protest in the Middle East, the East, and the Americas.” The conference featured a total of 134 sessions with nearly 500 individual participants listed in this year’s program. SCMLA continues to have successful conferences year after year.

Highlights of the conference include the Connected Academics Information Session led by Dennis Looney (MLA). The session provided attendees with an overview of MLA’s Connected Academics Project, which encourages doctoral programs and their students to recognize the expanded range of employment options available to humanities PhDs and supports providing more varied career development opportunities as part of doctoral education. SCMLA also continued its tradition of offering a Job Seekers Workshop and mock interviews at the conference. We would like to thank all of our members who helped with and attended these professional development opportunities.

At the SCMLA Business Meeting, President Jeanne Gillespie (University of Southern Mississippi) delivered an address focusing on the importance of the humanities. Gillespie’s talk will be reprinted in full in the May issue of SCMLA’s newsletter.

The keynote address in Nashville was given by Dr. Edward H. Friedman, Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor of Spanish, Professor of Comparative Literature, and Director of the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities at Vanderbilt University. Dr. Friedman’s talk was titled “The Humane, the Mundane, and the Future of the World.”

The 4th Annual Poet’s Corner was organized by SCMLA Vice President Julie Chappell (Tarleton State University). The poets Larry Thomas (Texas), Benjamin Meyers (Oklahoma), and Kate Daniels (Tennessee) 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, chaired by Kalene Westmoreland (College of Southern Nevada), featured Mona Frederick, Executive Director of the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, who spoke on “Recovering Lost Voices: Robert Penn Warren and the U.S. Civil Rights Movement.” Erin Garcia-Fernandez (University of Tennessee-Martin) chaired the Women’s Caucus breakfast, at which Joyce Zonana (CUNY) delivered the address “Why Women’s Studies Needs the Goddess.”

We would like to thank all those who participated in and attended the conference in Nashville. Your contributions helped to make this year’s conference a success!
2016 SCMLA Conference
November 3-5, 2016
Dallas, Texas

SCMLA will be in Dallas, Texas in 2016. Our hotel, the Sheraton Dallas Hotel, is located in the Dallas Arts District, near the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, the Dallas Museum of Art, and the Winspear Opera House.

The Call for Papers for Dallas 2016 is listed later in this edition of the Newsletter. Topics are varied and can accommodate research on a broad range of subjects. We also accept Special Session proposals on topics beyond the conference theme.

2016 Conference Theme:
“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 mansions 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. As always, papers on other topics are also welcome. Please join us for SCMLA’s convention in Dallas, Texas, November 3-5, 2016.

Recognition of 2015 Grant & Award Winners

In 2015, the following members received awards from SCMLA:

SCMLA Fellowship at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas—Austin:
Anne Quinney
University of Mississippi

SCMLA Research Grant:
Dorota Heneghan
Louisiana State University

SCMLA Research Grant for Temporary Faculty and Independent Scholars:
Ryan Calabretta-Sajder
University of Arkansas

Bill L. and Gerre D. Andrist Prize in Hispanic Gender Studies:
Amy Cummins
University of Texas—Rio Grande Valley

“Academic Agency in Young Adult Novels by Mexican American Women Authors.”

SCMLA Prize for Best Paper in Historical, Literary, and/or Cultural Studies:
Jessica C. Murphy
University of Texas at Dallas

“Language and the Female Body in English Broadside Ballads.”

Vuong Prize for Best Short Story:
Joseph Dornich
Texas Tech University

“The Continuing Controversy of the Snuggle Shack.”

Vuong Prize Runners Up:
Melanie Ritzenthaler
McNeese State University

“Like Vikings Do.”

Lee Conell
Vanderbilt University

“Introduction to Crystallography.”

Awarded by South Central Review: 2015
Kirby Prize for the Best Article Published in The South Central Review
Eve Morisi (University of California-Irvine) for her article “To Kill a Human Being: Camus and Capital Punishment.” This essay appeared in the Fall 2014 Special Issue (31.3), titled “A Centennial Celebration of Albert Camus.”

SCMLA offers $15,000 in grants and prizes in 2016!

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

Dear Colleague:

It is my privilege to begin as Executive Director of the South Central MLA in January 2016. As a member of the University of Oklahoma’s Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics Department since 2003, my tenure at OU has almost perfectly coincided with our status as host institution for the SCMLA. Over the past decade, I have seen how the association has grown and developed. After attending the annual conference in Nashville last Fall, I understand first hand the true strength of the organization. While we at OU take great pride in our connection to SCMLA, we all understand that the success our organization now 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, most significantly the officers and Executive Committee. As the new ED, I look forward to working with our membership to help the SCMLA continue to prosper in the years ahead.

Emily Johnson and Nancy LaGreca, the previous two Executive Directors, set a very high standard for the Executive Director position. I know that SCMLA’s Executive Committee and membership join me in expressing gratitude for Emily Johnson’s excellent service over the past two years. Emily built on Nancy’s efforts to stabilize the association’s finances, and thanks to their work, we are in an enviable stable position. In the past years, membership rolls and conference attendance have grown substantially. As a result SCMLA was able to increase funding for research grants, paper prizes, and travel assistance to $15,000 a year and to offer a better 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 administrative employee. It is mostly because of her that our conferences are so well planned. My job will be to continue this excellent progress and to listen to our membership to assure the SCMLA continues to develop in new and exciting ways.

Our 2016 convention, our 73rd edition, will take place November 3-5 at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel in the heart of Dallas’ vibrant Arts and Financial District. The hotel offers our guests fine accommodations in a lively urban setting, minutes from great dinning and countless cultural attractions. Please join us for what promises to be an exceptionally lively, engaging conference with many opportunities for both networking and professional development. Our urban setting suggested our theme “The Spectacular City: Glamour, Decadence, and Celebrity in Literature & Culture” but we also welcome paper and panel proposals on other subjects. Keep in mind the deadlines for session and paper proposals is listed on page 7.

One last reminder: if you have not renewed your SCMLA membership for 2016, now would be the time. Please also invite your colleagues at your institution or in your field to consider membership in SCMLA. 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/membership/. I look forward to getting to know many of you over the course of this year and welcome your questions and feedback at jason.houston@ou.edu.

Best regards,

Jason Houston, Executive Director
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 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 also recognized in our conference program and their names are prominently displayed in the registration and reception areas. 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.

**In addition to the paying membership fee, conference participants must register for the conference by July 31, 2016**

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.

Accommodating abstracts: If a high quality abstract cannot be accommodated in the session to which it is submitted, the chair should forward it to the SCMLA office, which will try to find an alternate 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.

Splitting Sessions: If a session chair receives five or more abstracts of high academic merit, s/he may petition to split the session into 2 or more 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 Dallas, 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.

The South Central Review Invites Ideas and Submissions

The South Central Review is edited by Richard J. Golsan, University Distinguished Professor of French and Director of the Melburn G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research at Texas A&M University. SCR is published by Johns Hopkins University Press and archived by Project Muse and is the official publication of the South Central Modern Language Association. 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: lawrennm@mailbox.sc.edu

New and Retiring Executive Committee Members

Executive Committee members who will begin service in 2016 are:

Paul Larson (Vice-president)
Christoph Weber (German)
Mallory Young (At-Large)

Congratulations to all of you!

The Executive Office warmly thanks retiring EC members Melissa Bailar of Rice University (Past President), Jacob-Ivan Eidt (German) and Genaro Perez of Texas Tech University (At-Large) for their contributions to governance and their service to the profession. It has been a pleasure working with all of you!
Eligibility Requirements:
For most awards, applicants must be current SCMLA members and must have been members for the previous two years. Graduate Student and travel grant applicants must have been members for at least one full year. SCMLA Executive Committee members are ineligible. Deadlines are all in 2016. For more information, see our website: [http://www.southcentralmla.org](http://www.southcentralmla.org)

**SCMLA GRANTS**

SCMLA FELLOWSHIP AT THE HARRY RANSOM CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-AUSTIN
FOR THE 2016-2017 ACADEMIC YEAR—$3000
APPLICATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 31, 2016
INFORMATION ON ELIGIBILITY AND HOW TO APPLY: [www.hrc.utexas.edu/research/fellowships/application](http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/research/fellowships/application)

BENSON LATIN AMERICAN COLLECTION-SCMLA FACULTY RESEARCH GRANT—$1500
APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 28, 2016

SCMLA GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT—$500
at the dissertation stage
APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 28, 2016

SCMLA CONFERENCE TRAVEL GRANTS
Up to $500 for Graduate Students (at the doctoral level), Faculty, and Independent Scholars
APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 28, 2016

SCMLA RESEARCH AWARD—$1500
Open to all eligible members who have completed the PhD
APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2016

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, 2016

NEW CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS:
Career Achievement in Research—$750
Service to the Profession—$750

Nominations for the Career Achievement Awards should be sent to [scmla@ou.edu](mailto:scmla@ou.edu) by March 31, 2016 and should include a letter detailing the nominee’s achievements. The Awards Committee may also nominate members for these awards. Self-nominations for these awards are not allowed.

2016 SCMLA PAPER PRIZES

Members scheduled to present appropriate work in our Regular/Allied and Special Sessions at the Fall 2016 conference are encouraged to compete for our conference paper and writing 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, 2016 via email to the SCMLA office. 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—$250

Vuong Short Story Prize—$500

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

NEW **SCMLA Poetry Prize—$500

**SCMLA BOOK AWARD—$500**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2016

Scholarly and critical books and editions published in English in 2015 by SCMLA members are eligible for the 2016 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, 2016 to the SCMLA office

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 Dallas, Texas.
Proposed Amendment to the SCMLA Constitution

During the Fall 2015 Executive Committee meeting, SCMLA’s Executive Committee proposed amending the constitution to add a doctoral student representative with a 2-year term to the Executive committee.

The constitution would be amended as follows:

V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
1. The administration of the Association shall be in the hands of the Executive Committee composed of the President, Vice-President, the Past President, the Executive Director, the Editor of the Review, and nine members elected by the Association by ballot prior to the annual meeting.

2. All elected members of the Executive Committee provided for in Section 1 of this article shall serve for three years with the exception of the doctoral student representative, who will serve for two years. Each year between two and four new members will be elected to the Executive Committee.

3. The members of the Executive Committee shall be selected so as to represent as fully as possible the geographic distribution and the cultural groups of the Association.

4. The Executive Committee shall elect five members to constitute a Nominating Committee, who will canvass the membership and nominate persons to fill offices and vacancies on the Executive Committee and on the staff of Consulting Editors. The Nominating Committee shall make its report to the Executive Committee for its concurrence, being careful always to consider the various cultural groups and geographical distribution in the Association. In nominating candidates for the Presidency it shall see that the same cultural group is not represented two years in succession. Any additional nominations must conform to the above stipulations.

5. The Executive Committee shall administer the affairs of the Association and take action necessary to carry out the purposes and promote the interests of the Association, including publications.

6. The Executive Committee shall submit a report of its activities at each annual meeting, and its policies and actions shall be subject to the direction and approval of the membership of the Association.

7. A majority shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Committee.

This amendment will be voted on during the Business Meeting at the Dallas 2016 Conference, November 3-5. The date of the Business Meeting has not yet been set.
Announcing the MLA’s Connected Academics Program

In 2015, the Modern Language Association launched a new initiative with the generous support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation: **Connected Academics: Preparing Doctoral Students of Language and Literature for a Variety of Careers.** The project supports initiatives that will help prepare doctoral students—already well trained for postsecondary faculty positions—to use their humanistic training in a broader range of occupations than doctoral programs have, up to now, characteristically acknowledged and honored.

The program supports initiatives at three partner institutions that will implement recommendations of the MLA Task Force on Doctoral Study to support career diversity for language and literature doctoral students and graduates. **Georgetown University’s program** focuses on developing a prototype for a center for public humanities. **Arizona State University** aims to accelerate and enrich the experience of earning a PhD by augmenting curricula, expanding para-curricular programming (including internship opportunities), and sharpening the process of mentoring. The University of California Humanities Research Institute’s **Humanists@Work** program offers statewide workshops where graduate students can address practical concerns around career development and pilots PhD graduate tracking programs at UC campuses.

In addition to our partner programs, the MLA is conducting its own regional initiative. **The MLA has granted stipends to twenty New York City-based language and literature PhDs to take part in its inaugural proseminar on careers.** The proseminar focuses on such issues as the versatility and reach of humanities research, professional networking, creating a professional online presence, and articulating transferable skills. Participants will also conduct site visits to units in local academic institutions and in not-for-profit organizations, cultural institutions, foundations, and other organizations related to the skills acquired in PhD programs. The proseminar will run annually for the next three years.

Additionally, the MLA is compiling data and reports on the career paths of graduates with doctorates in language and literature, including individual narratives of those who have found employment in diverse settings. We are expanding mentoring and networking activities at the MLA Annual Convention and at regional MLA meetings, and offering workshops for directors of graduate studies and placement officers on supporting their doctoral students who pursue a variety of career opportunities. We are also working with partner organizations to create a resource kit for doctoral students, directors of graduate studies, placement officers, and curricular reform committees.

The overall goal of Connected Academics is to change practices and culture in graduate programs so that all graduate students are supported in their career ambitions and educated about the full range of possibilities available to them. For more information, see the program website or follow along on Twitter. If you have questions or comments, please write to Stacy Hartman, the Project Coordinator, at shartman@mla.org.
SCMLA IS MOVING!!!

The SCMLA executive offices will be moving in January 2016. Our email address and phone number will remain the same, but our mailing address will change. Below is our new contact information:

SCMLA
780 Van Vleet Oval
Kaufman Hall 203
Norman, OK 73069

SCMLA@ou.edu

405-325-6011
South Central Modern Language Association Deadlines for 2016

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

February 2016
28 Deadline for receipt of Graduate Student Grant applications to the SCMLA office
28 Deadline for receipt of SCMLA Faculty Research Grant and Temporary Faculty Research Grant applications to SCMLA office
28 Deadline for receipt of SCMLA Temporary Faculty Research Grant
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 Chairs

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
30 Deadline for receipt of items to be included in the Summer Newsletter to SCMLA office

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

August 2016
31 Deadline for 2016 Conference Paper Prize submissions

October 2016
2 Deadline for 2016 conference hotel reservation at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel
Dallas 2016 Regular/Allied Sessions Call for Papers

Below are the call for Regular/Allied sessions. If any of the information for your session is missing or incorrect, please contact SCMLA@ou.edu.

If you are interested in presenting a paper in a session, email an abstract and a brief CV to the session chair.

Remember: double submissions are not allowed. Each member may submit a proposal to one academic sessions and one creative writing session. If a proposal deemed of high quality cannot be accommodated in the session to which it was submitted, the chair will forward it to the SCMLA office to find an alternate placement. Alternately, the chair may contact other sessions that may be able to accommodate the abstract, after receiving consent of the submitter.

Session chairs who receive more than four high quality abstracts are encouraged to split their session into more than one panel. In most years, SCMLA can accommodate these requests. Please contact the SCMLA office before confirming the acceptance of additional presenters.

ALLIED SESSIONS

ASOCIACIÓN DE LITERATURA FEMENINA HISPÁNICA
Chair: Sylvia Morin, University of Tennessee – Martin. smorin@utm.edu
Secretary: Raquel Patricia Chiquillo, University of Houston – Downtown. chiquillor@uhd.edu

CONFERENCE ON CHRISTIANITY AND LITERATURE
Chair: Garnet S. Branch, University of Louisiana-Lafayette. garnetbranch1@gmail.com
Secretary: Bill Lancaster, Texas A&M University – Commerce. blancaster99@gmail.com

THE EUDORA WELTY SOCIETY
Chair: Jada Ach, University of South Carolina. jach@email.sc.edu
Secretary: Jennifer Martin, University of South Carolina. jdmartin@email.sc.edu

REGULAR SESSIONS

FLANNERY O’CONNOR SOCIETY
Chair: Kathleen Lipovski-Helal, St. Edward’s University. kathleen@stedwards.edu
Secretary:

INTERNATIONAL COURTLY LITERATURE SOCIETY
Chair: Tamara Caudill, Tulane University. tcaudill@tulane.edu
Secretary: Susan Hoppkirk, Ryerson University. shopkirk@ryerson.edu

SOCIETY FOR CRITICAL EXCHANGE
Chair: Marco Iñiguez Alba, Texas A&M University – Kingsville. kfmri00@tamuk.edu
Secretary: Michelle Johnson Vela, Texas A&M University – Kingsville. kfmrj00@tamuk.edu

SOUTH CENTRAL COLLEGE ENGLISH ASSOCIATION
Chair: Brett Riley, College of Southern Nevada. brett.riley@csn.edu
Secretary: John Ziebell, College of Southern Nevada. john.ziebell@csn.edu

WOMEN IN FRENCH
Chair: Theresa Varney Kennedy, Baylor University. theresa_kennedy@baylor.edu
Secretary: Marie-Dominique Boyce, Fairfield University. mboyle2@gmail.com

AFRICAN-AMERICAN LITERATURE
Chair: Carol Bunch-Davis, Texas A&M University – Galveston. bunchc@tamug.edu
Secretary: Matt Spencer, Middle Tennessee State University. mls8a@mtmail.mtsu.edu

AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
Chair: Michael Ward, Trinity University. mward@trinity.edu
Secretary: Michael Winston, University of Oklahoma. mewinston@ou.edu

AMERICAN LITERATURE I: LITERATURE BEFORE 1900
We request papers on any aspect of American Literature before 1900, and particularly valuable papers that deal with the city or urbanity.
Chair: Jamie Korsmo, Georgia State University. jkorsmo1@gsu.edu
Secretary: Jason Payton, Sam Houston State University. jlpayton@shsu.edu

AMERICAN LITERATURE II: LITERATURE AFTER 1900
Chair: Marc Lusk, University of Texas – Dallas. marc.lusk@utdallas.edu
Secretary: Farah Siddiqui, University of Texas – Dallas. fxs121830@utdallas.edu

APPLIED LINGUISTICS
Chair: Linda McManness, Baylor University. linda_mcmanness@baylor.edu
Secretary: Deborah L. Arteaga, University of Nevada Las Vegas. deborah.arteaga@unlv.edu

AUTOBIOGRAPHY AND BIOGRAPHY: Identity in Literature and Culture
Chair: Jenn Alandy Trahan, McNeese State University. jennifer.alandy@gmail.com
Secretary: Debbie Williams, Abilene Christian University. debbie.william@acu.edu

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND TEXTUAL CRITICISM
Chair: Jada Ach, University of Southern Arkansas. jach@email.sc.edu
Secretary: Amy Cummins, University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley. amy.cummins@utrgv.edu

CHILDREN’S LITERATURE
Chair: Sara Day, Southern Arkansas University. skday@saumag.edu
Secretary: Amy Cummins, University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley. amy.cummins@utrgv.edu

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE: Glamour, Decadence, and Celebrity in Literature and Culture
Chair: Moira DiMauro-Jackson, Texas State University. mdi11@txstate.edu
Secretary: Jeffrey A. Sartain, University of Houston – Victoria. sartainj@uhv.edu

CREATIVE WRITING - CREATIVE NONFICTION
Chair: David J. Eshelman, Arkansas Tech University. deshelman@atu.edu
Secretary: Sarah Shelton, University of Texas – Arlington. sshelton@uta.edu

CREATIVE WRITING - POETRY
Chair: William Hank Jones, Tarleton State University. wjonnes@tarleton.edu
Secretary: Dorsey Craft Olbrich, McNeese State University. dorseyolbrich@gmail.com
**CREATIVE WRITING - SHORT STORY**  
Chair: Melanie Ritzenhaler, McNeese State University.  
Chair: Cristian Bratu, Baylor University.  
Chair: Elizabeth Fredericks, Baylor University.

**DIGITAL HUMANITIES**  
Chair: Charley Silvio, Louisiana State University.  
Chair: Jennifer Martinez, El Paso Community College.

**ENGLISH I: OLD AND MIDDLE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**  
Chair: Rebecca Dark, Dallas Baptist University.  
Chair: Holly Tipton Hamby, Fisk University.

**ENGLISH II: RENAISSANCE LITERATURE EXCLUDING DRAMA**  
Abstracts should be 300 to 500 words. Abstracts that relate directly to the conference theme “The Spectacular City: Glamour, Decadence, and Celebrity in Literature and Culture” are particularly welcome.  
Chair: Melissa Haickel Bagaglio, University of Memphis.  
Chair: Rebecca Sader, University of Texas – Dallas.

**ENGLISH III: RESTORATION AND EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY BRITISH LITERATURE**  
This panel welcomes any papers on restoration and 18th century prose, poetry, and drama.  
Chair: Courtney Simpkins, Radford University.  
Chair: Eugene Nelson, Waynes State University.

**ENGLISH IV: NINETEENTH-CENTURY BRITISH LITERATURE**  
Chair: Lexey Bartlett, Fort Hays State University.  
Chair: Sharon Fox, University of Arkansas.

**ENGLISH V: TWENTIETH-CENTURY BRITISH LITERATURE**  
Chair: Elizabeth Fredericks, Baylor University.  
Chair: Stuart McClinton, Midwestern State University.

**ENGLISH VI: GENERAL LINGUISTICS**  
Chair: Mary Lynn Hill, St. Mary’s University.  
Chair: John G. Morris, Cameron University.

**FILM 1: ENGLISH LANGUAGE FILM**  
Chair: Scott Baugh, Texas Tech University.  
Chair: John G. Morris, Cameron University.

**FILM 2: FRENCH AND FRANCOPHONE FILM**  
Chair: Melissa Bailar, Rice University.  
Chair: John G. Morris, Cameron University.

**FILM 3: HISPANIC FILM: The City in Hispanic Film**  
Chair: Nancy Membrez, University of Texas – San Antonio.  
Chair: Madhavi Biswas, University of Texas – Dallas.

**FOLKLORE**  
Chair: Helen McCourt, Collin College – Spring Creek.  
Chair: Marie-Laure Boudreaux, University of Louisiana–Lafayette.

**FRANCOPHONE LITERATURE**  
Chair: Michael E. Winston, University of Oklahoma.  
Chair: Cristian Bratu, Baylor University.

**FRENCH I: LINGUISTICS AND LITERATURE TO 1600**  
Chair: Susan Hopkirk, Ryerson University.  
Chair: Cristian Bratu, Baylor University.

**FRENCH II: LITERATURE 1600–1800**  
Chair: Stuart McClinton, Midwestern State University.  
Chair: Stuart McClinton, Midwestern State University.

**FRENCH III: LITERATURE AFTER 1800**  
Chair: Rachael Williams, Eastern Kentucky University.  
Chair: Rachael Williams, Eastern Kentucky University.

**FRESHMAN ENGLISH AND ENGLISH COMPOSITION**  
Chair: Anna Hall, Blinn College.  
Chair: Stacy Egan, Midland College.

**GAY AND LESBIAN STUDIES IN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**  
Chair: Erin Clair, Arkansas Tech University.  
Chair: Nancy Correro, Georgia State University.

**GERMAN I: LINGUISTICS AND LITERATURE BEFORE 1890**  
Chair: Vernon Miles, Henderson State University.  
Chair: Erin Clair, Arkansas Tech University.

**GERMAN II: LITERATURE AND CULTURE BEFORE 1890**  
Chair: Jacob-Ivan Eidt, University of Dallas.  
Chair: Jacob-Ivan Eidt, University of Dallas.

**GERMAN III: LITERATURE AND CULTURE FROM 1890 TO PRESENT**  
Chair: Christoph Weber, University of North Texas.  
Chair: Christoph Weber, University of North Texas.

**GERMAN WOMEN WRITERS**  
Chair: Jason Williamson, University of Oklahoma.  
Chair: Jason Williamson, University of Oklahoma.

**GOTHIC**  
Chair: Melanie Anderson, University of Mississippi.  
Chair: Ben Fisher, University of Mississippi.

**HISPANIC LITERATURE WRITTEN IN THE UNITED STATES**  
Chair: Marc H. Galvan, University of Oklahoma.  
Chair: Marth C. Galvan, University of Oklahoma.

**JAPANESE LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**  
Chair: Marli Tamate, University of North Texas.  
Chair: Marli Tamate, University of North Texas.

**KOREAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**  
Chair: Wonhyo Lee, Mississippi State University.  
Chair: Wonhyo Lee, Mississippi State University.

**LITERATURE AND RELIGION**  
Chair: Brian Clack, Midwestern State University.  
Chair: Brian Clack, Midwestern State University.

**MUSIC AND LITERATURE**  
Chair: Mary Lynn Hill, St. Mary’s University.  
Chair: Mary Lynn Hill, St. Mary’s University.

**MUSCULUS ROMA**  
Chair: Mary Lynn Hill, St. Mary’s University.  
Chair: Mary Lynn Hill, St. Mary’s University.

**NORTH AMERICAN LITERATURE**  
Chair: Karen Armstrong, University of Oklahoma.  
Chair: Karen Armstrong, University of Oklahoma.

**POLISH LITERATURE**  
Chair: Monika J. Zlotnik, University of Oklahoma.  
Chair: Mary Lynn Hill, St. Mary’s University.

**POTTERIA**  
Chair: John G. Morris, Cameron University.  
Chair: John G. Morris, Cameron University.

**RHYTHMS IN LITERATURE**  
Chair: Mary Lynn Hill, St. Mary’s University.  
Chair: Mary Lynn Hill, St. Mary’s University.

**SHOPKIRK**  
Chair: Janet McMillan, University of North Texas.  
Chair: Janet McMillan, University of North Texas.

**SOUTHERN LITERATURE**  
Chair: Mary Lynn Hill, St. Mary’s University.  
Chair: Mary Lynn Hill, St. Mary’s University.

**SPOKEN WORD AND FOLK ORALITY**  
Chair: Mary Lynn Hill, St. Mary’s University.  
Chair: Mary Lynn Hill, St. Mary’s University.

**TECHNOLOGY AND LITERATURE**  
Chair: Mary Lynn Hill, St. Mary’s University.  
Chair: Mary Lynn Hill, St. Mary’s University.

**TIBETAN LITERATURE**  
Chair: Mary Lynn Hill, St. Mary’s University.  
Chair: Mary Lynn Hill, St. Mary’s University.

**TOLLERUS**  
Chair: Mary Lynn Hill, St. Mary’s University.  
Chair: Mary Lynn Hill, St. Mary’s University.

**TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION**  
Chair: Mary Lynn Hill, St. Mary’s University.  
Chair: Mary Lynn Hill, St. Mary’s University.

**WOMEN’S LITERATURE**  
Chair: Mary Lynn Hill, St. Mary’s University.  
Chair: Mary Lynn Hill, St. Mary’s University.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IN THE HUMANITIES: Engaging with the Digital</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This panel seeks work that integrates humanities scholarship with digital production. Work in digital humanities, digital pedagogy, digital scholarship and publication, and digital presentation are encouraged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair: Christina Boyles, University of Iowa. <a href="mailto:christina_boyles@uiowa.edu">christina_boyles@uiowa.edu</a></td>
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<td>Secretary:</td>
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<tr>
<th>IRISH LITERATURE: Irish Cities/Irish Expanse</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tension between the urban and rural often develops in Irish literature as epitomized in Joyce’s “The Dead.” We welcome papers that explore this tension, Irish cityscapes, countrysides, or any Irish topic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair: Bill Lancaster, Texas A&amp;M – Commerce. <a href="mailto:blancer99@gmail.com">blancer99@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary: Anna Stone, University of Kentucky. <a href="mailto:anna.stone@uky.edu">anna.stone@uky.edu</a></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITALIAN STUDIES I: MEDIEVAL THROUGH RENAISSANCE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chair: Silvia Tiboni-Craft, Wake Forest University. <a href="mailto:tibonis@wfu.edu">tibonis@wfu.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary: Niki Krieg, Columbia University. <a href="mailto:nak2127@columbia.edu">nak2127@columbia.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>ITALIAN STUDIES II: OPEN TOPIC</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<th>ITALIAN STUDIES III: PEDAGOGY</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<th>LITERATURE AND POLITICS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chair: Marina Trninic, Prairie View A&amp;M University. <a href="mailto:matrninic@pavamu.edu">matrninic@pavamu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary: Courtney Simpkins, Radford University. <a href="mailto:csimpkins9@outlook.com">csimpkins9@outlook.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>LITERATURE AND PSYCHOLOGY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chair: Alexander Menriský, University of Kentucky. <a href="mailto:amenrisky@gmail.com">amenrisky@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary: James Kelley, Mississippi State University – Meridian. <a href="mailto:jkelley@meridian.msstate.edu">jkelley@meridian.msstate.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>LITERARY CRITICISM AND THEORY: Glamour, Decadence, and Celebrity in Literature and Culture</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chair: Moira DiMauro-Jackson, Texas State University. <a href="mailto:md11@txstate.edu">md11@txstate.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>LITERATURE AND THE DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chair: Michael Minden, East Tennessee State University. <a href="mailto:mminden@etsu.edu">mminden@etsu.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>MODERN DRAMA</th>
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<tr>
<td>Submit abstracts on any area of late 19th – 21st century drama; preference given to topics that address spectacle, decadence, or celebrity.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chair: Rita D. Costello, McNeese State University. <a href="mailto:rcostello@mcneese.edu">rcostello@mcneese.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary: Julia Ann Ward, University of Oklahoma. <a href="mailto:wardjulie@ou.edu">wardjulie@ou.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>NATIVE AMERICAN LITERATURE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chair: Michael Cody, East Tennessee State University. <a href="mailto:codym@etsu.edu">codym@etsu.edu</a></td>
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<td>Secretary:</td>
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<tr>
<th>RUSSIAN LANGUAGE AND METHODOLOGY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chair: Marina Potoplyak, University of Texas – Austin. <a href="mailto:martina.potoplyak@utexas.edu">martina.potoplyak@utexas.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary: Yekaterina Cotev, University of Texas – Austin. <a href="mailto:ycotev@utexas.edu">ycotev@utexas.edu</a></td>
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<th>RUSSIAN LITERATURE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chair: Lonny Harrison, University of Texas – Arlington. <a href="mailto:lonnyharrison@uta.edu">lonnyharrison@uta.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary: Kelly Harren, Liberty University. <a href="mailto:klhicks@liberty.edu">klhicks@liberty.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY LITERATURE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chair: Joe R. Christopher, Tarleton State University. <a href="mailto:jchristopher@tarleton.edu">jchristopher@tarleton.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary: Sarah Shelton, University of Texas – Arlington. <a href="mailto:sshelton@uta.edu">sshelton@uta.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>SHORT FICTION</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chair: Julie Chappell, Tarleton State University. <a href="mailto:chappell@tarleton.edu">chappell@tarleton.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary: Ken Hada, East Central University. <a href="mailto:khada@ecok.edu">khada@ecok.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>SLAVIC AND EASTERN EUROPEAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chair: Danuta Hinc, University of Maryland. <a href="mailto:dhinc@umd.edu">dhinc@umd.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary: Jill Martiniuk, University of Virginia. <a href="mailto:jimm9hw@virginia.edu">jimm9hw@virginia.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>SOUTHWESTERN AMERICAN LITERATURE</th>
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<tr>
<td>This session centers on creative and critical works from the American Southwest.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chair: Kellie L. Motherly, Texas Woman’s University. <a href="mailto:motherlyk@grayson.edu">motherlyk@grayson.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary: Angela Pettit, Tarrant County College. <a href="mailto:angela.pettit@tccd.edu">angela.pettit@tccd.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>SPANISH I: PENINSULAR LITERATURE BEFORE 1700</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chair: Paul Larson, Baylor University. <a href="mailto:paul_larson@baylor.edu">paul_larson@baylor.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary: Antón García-Fernández, University of Tennessee–Martin. <a href="mailto:agarciaf@utm.edu">agarciaf@utm.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>SPANISH II: PENINSULAR LITERATURE 1700-1898</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chair: Bruce A. Boggs, University of Oklahoma. <a href="mailto:baboggs@ou.edu">baboggs@ou.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary: Debra D. Andrist, Sam Houston State University. <a href="mailto:andrist@shsu.edu">andrist@shsu.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>SPANISH III: 20TH AND 21ST CENTURY PENINSULAR LITERATURE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chair: Frieda Blackwell, Baylor University. <a href="mailto:frieda_blackwell@baylor.edu">frieda_blackwell@baylor.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary: Ivelisse Urbán, Tarleton State University. <a href="mailto:ubran@tarleton.edu">ubran@tarleton.edu</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
SPANISH IV: COLONIAL LITERATURE THROUGH MODERNISMO
Chair: Edma Delgado-Solorzano, University of Arkansas – Little Rock.
edelgado.ou.edu
Secretary: Rocio del Aguila, Wichita State University. rociodelaguila@gmail.com

SPANISH V: 20TH CENTURY LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE
Chair: Susana Perea-Fox, Oklahoma State University. susana.perea-fox@okstate.edu
Secretary: Nelson Ramirez, Arkansas Tech University. nramirez@atu.edu

SPANISH VI: 21ST CENTURY LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE
Chair: Miriam Romero, University of Oklahoma. mromero@ou.edu
Secretary: José Enrique Navarro, Wichita State University. enrique.navarro@wichita.edu

SPANISH VII: LINGUISTICS
Chair: Lucia Llorente, Berry College. lllorente@berry.edu
Secretary: Deborah Arteaga, University of Nevada Las Vegas. deborah.arteaga@unlv.edu

TECHNICAL WRITING
Chair: Anne-Marie Womack, Tulane University. awomack1@tulane.edu
Secretary: Mickey Wadia, Austin Peay State University. wadiam@apsu.edu

TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM
Chair: Rochelle Bradley, Blinn College. rochelle.bradley@blinn.edu
Secretary: Jennifer Falcon, University of Texas at El Paso. jfalcon3@utep.edu

WAR, LITERATURE & THE ARTS
Chair: Matthew Perry, Del Mar College. mapperry@delmar.edu
Secretary:

WOMEN OF COLOR
Chair: Christina Boyles, University of Iowa. christina.boyles@uiowa.edu
Secretary: Jennifer Hayes, Tennessee State University. jhayes17@tnstate.edu

WOMEN'S CAUCUS OF THE SCMLA
Chair: Erin Garcia-Fernandez, University of Tennessee – Martin. egarcia@utm.edu
Secretary: Margaret Johnson, Middle Tennessee State University. maj4c@mtmail.mtsu.edu

SPECIAL SESSIONS
Below are Calls for Special Sessions. If you are interested in presenting on any of these topics, please submit your abstract to the proposer before February 28, 2016, unless otherwise noted.

The Spectacular City: Glamour Decadence, and Celebrity in Italian Literature, Culture and Cinema
Proposer: Niki Krieg, Columbia University. nak2127@columbia.edu

Women in Utopias/Dystopias
This panel seeks papers on women in utopias or dystopias from all period or categories of literature (Young Adult included) and from a variety of critical perspectives
Proposer: Lexey Barlett, Fort Hayes State University. labartlett@fhsu.edu
Due Date: February 15, 2016

Book Arts and Literary Objects
Call for papers that discuss the aspects of printing, binding, and publishing books that advance, innovate, or complicate notions of books as material objects.
Proposer: Jeffrey Sartain, University of Houston – Victoria. sartainj@uhv.edu
Due Date: February 1, 2016

Hip Hop Social Criticism and The City
This panel will explore the manner in which hip hop artists, mainstream or otherwise (NAS, Wu-Tang Clan, Fugees and so forth), evoke, celebrate and/or denounce urban life with their music.
Proposer: Stephen B. Armstrong, Dixie State University. armstrong@dixie.edu
Due Date: February 15, 2016

Tales after Tolkien: Unconventional Medievalisms
The medieval appears in historical, fantastic, and speculative fiction—and other places seldom investigated. The less-investigated is the focus of the proposed panel. More information appears at talesaftertolkien.blogspot.com and talesaftertolkien.org.
Proposer: Geoffrey B. Elliott, Oklahoma State University. geoffrey.b.elliott@gmail.com

Adoption in Film and Television
Papers sought that explore how adoption is portrayed in films and television dramas in the US and Internationally
Proposer: Marcy L. Tanter, Tarleton State University. tanter@tarleton.edu
Due Date: February 15, 2016

All the Lonely People: One(s) Among the Many
Beneath the surface of the stereotypical urban space as literary symbol of the ultimate social connections, alienated individuals wander among the crowds of characters, psychologically, if not physically, alone.
Proposer: Debra D. Andrist, Sam Houston State University. andrist@shsu.edu

Creative Writing Pedagogy
This session will focus on teaching strategies for the creative writing classroom. University and college teachers of creative writing are invited to share the ways in which they help their students find their creative voice in any genre.
Proposer: Julie Chappell, Tarleton State University. chappell@tarleton.edu
Due Date: February 19, 2016

Creative Writing – Playwriting
Dramatists are invited to read samples from their work. Plays related to the city are encouraged, but not necessary.
Proposer: David J. Eshelman, Arkansas Tech University, deshelman@atu.edu

Adoption in Film and Television
Papers sought that explore how adoption is portrayed in films and television dramas in the US and Internationally
Proposer: Marcy L. Tanter, Tarleton State University. tanter@tarleton.edu
Due Date: February 15, 2016

Graphic Texts and Visual Rhetoric: The Visual Spectacle
Papers on graphic novels/essays/non-fiction and other forms of visual rhetoric (propaganda, posters, advertising, memes, etc.) addressing elements of the conference theme (spectacle/spectacular, city, decadence, glamour, and celebrity.
Proposer: Rita D. Costello, McNeese State University. rcostello@mcneese.edu
Due Date: January 5, 2016

WAR, LITERATURE & THE ARTS
Chair: Matthew Perry, Del Mar College. mapperry@delmar.edu
Secretary:

Tales after Tolkien: Unconventional Medievalisms
The medieval appears in historical, fantastic, and speculative fiction—and other places seldom investigated. The less-investigated is the focus of the proposed panel. More information appears at talesaftertolkien.blogspot.com and talesaftertolkien.org.
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Proposer: Rita D. Costello, McNeese State University. rcostello@mcneese.edu
Due Date: January 5, 2016

SOUTH CENTRAL NEWSLETTER
Special Sessions Continued...

**El Romancero épico**
This panel will explore the persistence of Iberian epics in oral and printed traditions, the ways in which they change along the centuries and the social practices driving these transformations.

**Proposer:** Julio F. Hernando, Indiana University– South Bend. juhlerna@iusb.edu

**Mark Twain: The Gilded Age Exposed**
Mark Twain’s The Gilded Age reveals the corruption beneath the spectacular glitter of the period. Please submit papers focused on Twain’s writing that expose the reality of that period.

**Proposer:** Carolyn Leutzinger Richey and Dr. Delwin E. Richey, Tarleton State University. richey@tarleton.edu or drichey@tarleton.edu

**DF Espectacular: The Precarious Extravagance of Mexico City**
We explore cultural representations of the precarity of Mexico City, an urb built on drained lakes, volcanoes, and seismic faults, and its positions as promised land in the national imaginary.

**Proposer:** Julie Ann Ward, University of Oklahoma. wardjulie@ou.edu

**Due Date:** February 12, 2016

**Women Writers and Nation in Interwar Europe**
This panel seeks papers that analyze women writers’ perspectives on national projects, war, communism, fascism, mass culture, and new ideals of gender in Europe in the 1920’s and 1930’s.

**Proposer:** Dorota Heneghan, Louisiana State University. dheneg1@lsu.edu

**Due Date:** February 15, 2016

**Urban Ekphrasis**
This panel will explore the interaction between verbal and visual in urban spaces. Papers focusing on interart exchange between the literary and visual arts in and/or about the city are invited.

**Proposer:** Anne Keefe, University of North Texas. anne.keefe@unt.edu

**Due Date:** February 15, 2016

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**Celebrating Ceremonial Rhetoric: New Trends in Epideictic Rhetoric**
Epideictic rhetoric is among the oldest formally recognized categories of oratory. New interest in epideictic rhetoric, evidenced, in part, by Laurent Pernot’s recent book on the subject, invigorates and modernizes classical discussions of epideictic. Papers in this session will address new directions in contemporary research in epideictic rhetoric.

**Proposer:** Brian Fehler, Texas Woman’s University. bfehler@twu.edu

**Due Date:** February 1, 2016

**Ruins in the City**
Abstracts requested on ruins in an urban context. Papers of interdisciplinary nature are encouraged.

**Proposer:** Miriam Rowntree, University of Texas at Arlington. miriam.rowntree@mavs.uta.edu

**Due Date:** February 1, 2016

**Screenwriting in the Classroom: Creativity in Pedagogy**
This panel will focus on screenwriting techniques and/or screenwriting pedagogy in literature and creative writing courses from both student and faculty perspectives.

**Proposer:** Brett Riley, College of Southern Nevada. brett.riley@csn.edu

**Due Date:** February 1, 2016

**The vision of death in the contemporary French novel**
How is death depicted, and where are we, in the contemporary French novel, with the traditional rituals that surrounded death? What do novelists say about dying in hospitals? What about euthanasia? (Presentations in French or English)

**Proposer:** Gilles Viennot, University of Arkansas. gviennot@uark.edu

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**SPECIAL SESSION FINAL PROPOSAL FORM DEADLINE**

The priority deadline for the SCMLA office receipt of Special Session proposals is February 28, 2016. Download the form from our website [here](#).
Irene

ponders the abuse
she suffered as a child.
The nights were long,

bereft of a single star.
Mother Desert, far away,
awaited her arrival,

much more magical
than fairy tales of wolves,
witches, deceit, murder:

a place where darkness
sparkled with the light
of five thousand stars

and animals, with nothing
but will, breath, and clay,
pulsed their soft survival.

Larry Thomas

SPOOK HOUSE

The first I heard of Dante was at the county fair when I was ten, Dante’s Inferno slashed in red on a black trailer at the bottom of the hill where they showed the livestock. It was surrounded by little lights like the blinking eyes of the damned and booths with stacks of old-fashioned milk bottles: two dollars for three throws and you could win a mirror painted with the rebel flag or with a half-naked lady, or with a naked lady half-wrapped in the rebel flag. I wanted to go on the Ferris Wheel, for the way it turned above the noise and the smell of manure and funnel cakes, how it reminded me of a queen I saw in a movie once, raising her head to meet the eye of the executioner.

My friends wanted the thrill of Dante’s trailer, where shrieks and groans from a cone speaker mixed with bleats drifting down from sheep on the hill.

This was the summer Nick O’Hare’s cousin killed himself after graduation, and a drought set in that left the earth cracked and flaked like old paint. But there wasn’t a war then.

I stood in line looking out over cars parked on dead grass, their jagged rows like gravestones, two big crows perched on the utility pole at the center.

Years later, there is a copy of La Commedia on my desk while I write this, and two more editions on the shelf, but I’m thinking of how we entered the Inferno two at a time in little cars on a greasy track, how a bar lowered across our laps and two black doors swung open as we watched our friends before us disappear around a dark curve.

Benjamin Myers

Benjamin Myers is the 2015-2016 Poet Laureate of the State of Oklahoma and the author of two books of poetry: Lapse Americana (New York Quarterly Books, 2013) and Elegy for Trains (Village Books Press, 2010). His poems may be read in The Yale Review, The New York Quarterly, 32 Poems, The Christian Century, Nimrod, Redivider and other journals. He has been honored with an Oklahoma Book Award from the Oklahoma Center for the Book and with a Tennessee Williams Scholarship from the Sewanee Writers’ Conference. Myers is the Crouch-Mathis Professor of Literature at Oklahoma Baptist University. Reprinted by permission of the author.
Poems from the 2015 South Central Poets’ Corner Poets

War Photograph

A naked child is running
along the path toward us,
hers arms stretched out,
hers mouth open,
the world turned to trash
behind her.

She is running from the smoke
and the soldiers, from the bodies
of her mother and little sister
thrown down into a ditch,
from the blown-up bamboo hut
from the melted pots and pans.
And she is also running from the gods
who have changed the sky to fire
and puddled the earth with skin and
blood.
She is running—my god—to us,
10,000 miles away,
reading the caption
beneath her picture

in a weekly magazine.
All over the country
we’re feeling sorry for her
and being appalled at the war
being fought in the other world.
She keeps on running, you know,
after the shutter of the camera
clicks. She’s running to us.
For how can she know,
her feet beating a path
on another continent?
How can she know
what we really are?
From the distance, we look
so terribly human.

Kate Daniels

Kate Daniels is the author of four volumes of poems, including The Niobe Poems (Pittsburgh University Press, 1988) where “War Photograph” originally appeared. She is the Director of Creative Writing at Vanderbilt University, a recent Guggenheim Fellow in Poetry, and a new member of the Fellowship of Southern Writers. Reprinted with permission from University of Pittsburgh Press.
CONFERENCE HOTEL INFORMATION

Our 73rd annual conference will be held at the
Sheraton Dallas Hotel
400 North Olive Street
Dallas, Texas 75201
November 3—5, 2016
(Thursday—Saturday)

SCMLA rate:
$119 single/double plus tax

Reservations:
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