



South Central Newsletter

Issue No. 56

Summer 2011



Hot Springs, Arkansas

Hot Springs Convention News

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This year marks the 68th annual meeting of the South Central MLA. Approximately 400 members will convene at the stunning example of early twentieth-century architecture, the **Arlington Resort Hotel and Spa** in **Hot Springs, Arkansas** (www.arlingtonhotel.com/). We would like to thank our local sponsor, the **Department of English** at the **University of Arkansas Fayetteville**, chaired by **Joseph Candido**. We are pleased that **Erin Finzer**, Assistant Professor of Spanish at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, will serve as local arrangements chair.

Those unfamiliar with central Arkansas will enjoy the scenic topography, abundant fall colors, and the beauty of the natural environment. Hot Springs claims the title of the first resort destination in the United States, much beloved in the 1930s by famous gangsters the likes of Al Capone and Bugs Moran (who, incidentally, stayed at our conference hotel). Home to one of the leading documentary film festivals in the nation, today Hot

Springs is known as the City of the Arts. Hot Springs is nestled in the Diamond Lakes region of the Ouchita Mountains and offers a wide variety of activities for visitors. Please see www.hotsprings.org for a list of attractions, as well as information on restaurants, nightlife, antiquing, and more.

Many of our 101 regular, allied, and special sessions will address the aquatic conference theme "Sources of Inspiration." The natural springs beneath us, which emerge from the earth at a cozy 140 degrees, will provide an appropriate grounding for presentations on the politics of water, rivers and border issues, cleansing rituals, the metaphoric permutations of tears, and water as a symbol of destruction. Look for a tentative program on our website by July 1 (www.southcentralmla.org).

An update regarding new sessions: in Hot Springs we will inaugurate five of the six new regular sessions that were created to bring our program in synch with the regular sessions of the MLA. We are happy to announce sessions on African-American Literature (formerly combined with African Literature), Arabic Literature, East Asian Literature, Luso-Brazilian Literature, and Gay and Lesbian Studies in Language and Literature. I would like to thank the session organizers who stepped in to manage two of the panels, **Ping Zhu** (East Asian Literature) and **Thomas Hefter** (Arabic Literature), assistant professors at the University of

Oklahoma. Papers address such intriguing topics as memoirs of the civil rights movement; the search for the true self in African-American theater; transvestite imperialism in Japanese romanticism; a feminist critique of the representation of sexual minorities in Lebanon; a re-visitation of motherhood in Chinese literature; the creation of a "New Gay Ethic"; and the sexualization of passivity. Please note that we are still seeking an organizer for the panel on African Literature. Anyone interested in organizing this panel for 2012 please contact Nancy LaGreca (lagreca@ou.edu).

Other conference highlights this year include keynote and plenary addresses as well as an optional excursion. **Jonathan De Vierville**, a Jungian psychoanalyst who specializes in spa therapy, will deliver the keynote address on Thursday, October 27th at 6pm. The title of his talk is "Spa Cultures: The Waters, Sacred Sleeps, and Dream Times." Our plenary speaker is the award-winning poet, art critic, and photographic historian **John Wood**. His illustrated lecture and reading "The Sacred Spring: At the Source of Poetry" will take place on Friday, October 28 at 5:45pm. The optional excursion will begin at 1:30pm on Saturday, October 29. We will take a scenic bus ride through the region with a stop at the University of Arkansas's gorgeous Garvan Woodland Gardens (www.garvangardens.com/). After Garvan Gardens we have arranged a tasting

at The Winery of Hot Springs, located a few blocks from the Arlington Hotel. The cost for transportation and admissions is \$38. See registration materials for details.

As announced in the winter newsletter, in Hot Springs we will vote on a new dues structure. In 2010 the Executive Committee agreed to propose a sliding scale structure based on income, rather than rank, for membership dues. **In accordance with the Constitution, the new dues schedule will be put to a vote by the membership at the Business Luncheon in Hot Springs on Friday, October 28 from 12:30-2:00.** Currently dues are determined by rank (graduate students \$25; instructor, lecturer, retired \$25; assistant professor \$40; associate professor \$45; full professor \$50). The proposed sliding scale based on income is:

Graduate students:	\$25/year
Salary of less than \$30,000:	\$30/year
Salary of \$31-50,000:	\$50/year
Salary of \$51-70,000:	\$55/year
Salary of \$71,000 and up:	\$65/year
Joint membership:	\$75/year

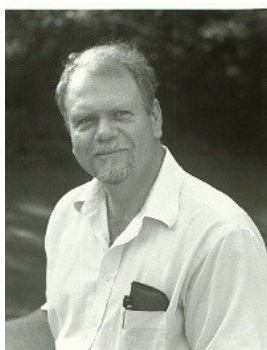
Those not attending the luncheon may vote "yes" (in favor of the new structure) or "no" (against the new structure) by email to scmla@ou.edu no later than October 30, 2011.

Registration packets have been mailed and all of the materials to register, pay for breakfasts and the luncheon, and vote for candidates to serve on the Executive Committee are also available on our website at www.southcentralmla.org ("Annual Conference"). **Please note that membership dues and registration fees must be paid by September 1 in order to be included in the program.** To get the group rates, hotel reservations must be made by phone at 800-643-1502 with the reservation code "South Central Modern Language Association" by **September 26**.

Authors: be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to have your book exhibited through Scholar's Choice by having a representative from your press contact Debby Pitts by email at djpitts@scholarschoice.com (see details in the registration cover letter in your packet or on the "Annual Conference" page on our website).

If you have any questions about the convention or registration process please contact Diana Hodges at 405-325-6011 or scmla@ou.edu.

2011 Hot Springs Conference Speakers



Our Plenary Speaker for Hot Springs will be **John Wood**. He is an award-winning poet, art critic, and photographic historian. *The Southern Review* called him "the most lucid and engaging of the post-modern Southern poets." And the *Hudson Review* wrote, "Wood's rhapsodic verse rises in lyrical, prophetic periods where the visionary harmonizes with the homely and the erotic." Join us in Hot Springs, where poet and creative writing professor Wood will present an illustrated lecture/reading entitled "The Sacred Spring: At the Source of Poetry."

Jonathan De Vierville will be our Keynote Speaker. He has written an extensive history of American spas, is an expert on the healing properties of water and is a Jungian psychoanalyst who incorporates diverse modes of therapy in his practice. He has taught in the US, Germany and Austria. His interdisciplinary approach will highlight water as a source of inspiration in his address, "Spa Cultures: The Waters, Sacred Sleeps & Dream Times."



Convention Opportunities

Breakfasts

The South Central College English Association (SCCEA) and the Women's Caucus will hold professional breakfasts on Friday and Saturday mornings. The **Women's Caucus will meet Friday morning** and the **SCCEA will meet Saturday morning**. Please pre-register online or on your convention registration form to participate.

Mock Job Interviews

The workshop for academic job seekers offers informal advising and mock interviews will be **Saturday morning, October 29, 2011**. The workshop is sponsored by the **South Central Association of Departments of Foreign Languages and Departments of English**. If you are interested in scheduling a mock interview, contact Nancy LaGreca, SCMLA Executive Director, at lagreca@ou.edu no later than October 1, 2011. Interviews will be scheduled on a first come, first served basis.

Message from the Executive Director: Member Surveys, New Sessions, and Future SCMLA Conferences



Greetings, members, and thank you for your support!

2011 has brought an increase in membership, conference sessions,

individual contributions, and donation-level memberships (Friends of the SCMLA, whom we are proud to name in this issue). These improvements, along with budget cuts, are leading our association to financial recovery. Our future priorities will be to reinstate research grants and plan for growth. Please continue to spread the word to colleagues regarding the benefits of becoming a member, renewing at the Friends level, and attending the annual conference.

We want to you know what you think. This fall Assistant Program Director Diana Hodges and I will develop electronic surveys to find out where to focus our efforts and how to best meet

members' needs. **When you receive a request to fill out a survey via email, please take a few minutes to respond so that we can continue to improve the association.** Your time is valuable and we thank you in advance for sharing it.

Future conferences: In the next few years we will visit some of the most storied and culturally rich cities in the country. In 2012 we will return to the beautiful and historic Riverwalk of **San Antonio, TX**; in 2013 we will celebrate SCMLA's 70th annual conference with a gala event in the heart of the French Quarter in **New Orleans, LA**; and in 2014 we plan to be in **Austin, TX**, the live music capital of the world! All of the venues will be close to great restaurants, live music, theater, art museums, and galleries, so be sure to mark your calendars. Calls for papers appear in the winter newsletters in December, and deadlines for regular and allied sessions will be in late March.

SCMLA on Facebook and Twitter: Do you have trouble

keeping track of dates and deadlines? If you have a Facebook account search for "South Central Modern Language Association" and click "Like" to receive updates. You can follow us on Twitter by searching "South Central MLA."

As always, please feel free to write to me with suggestions and feedback at [la-greca@ou.edu](mailto:lagreca@ou.edu). I wish you a productive summer and fall semester and look forward to seeing many of you in October.

Best wishes,



Nancy LaGreca
Executive Director of the South
Central MLA

2011 Sustaining Departmental Members

SCMLA is proud to announce its Sustaining Departmental Members for 2011. If your university is not listed here, please contact SCMLA@ou.edu inquire about membership.

St. Mary's University
Graduate School
Xavier University of Louisiana
Department of English
McNeese U
English Department
U of Oklahoma
College of Arts and Sciences
U of Oklahoma
Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics
Arkansas Tech U
Department of English and World Languages
Texas Christian U
Department of English
Texas A&M U-Kingsville
Department of Language and Literature
Texas A&M U
Department of Hispanic Studies
U of Texas-Austin
Department of Germanic Studies

SCMLA Deadlines 2011-2012

SEPTEMBER 2011

01 Registration must be paid

05 Deadline for SCMLA office receipt of **2011 Conference Paper Prize** submissions.

26 Deadline for **2011 convention hotel reservations** at the Arlington Hotel

26 Deadline for SCMLA office receipt of **2011 convention pre-registration and ballots.**

NOVEMBER 2011

18 Deadline for SCMLA office receipt of **items to be included in the Winter Newsletter**, including Regular/Allied and Special Session Calls for Papers for 2012.

18 Deadline for SCMLA office receipt of **Fort Worth post-convention reports**

JANUARY 2012

20 Nominations/Self nominations for SCMLA officers and representatives are due by today to Gwendolyn Diaz, St. Mary's U, gwendiaz@sbcglobal.net

FEBRUARY 2012

17 Deadline for receipt of **Graduate Student Grant** applications to the SCMLA office.

17 Deadline for SCMLA office receipt of **Final Proposals for Special Sessions**, San Antonio.

MARCH 2012

23 Proposers of approved Special Sessions will be notified.

25 Deadline for receipt of **Book Prize** nominations.

23 Deadline for submission of **Papers/Abstracts for San Antonio** to Regular/Allied Session Chairs.

APRIL 2012

06 Deadline for SCMLA office receipt of **Final Program copy** for all 2012 sessions.

06 Deadline for requesting **audio-visual equipment** for San Antonio

MAY 2012

18 Deadline for **2012 Special Session** Calls for Papers for inclusion in the **Summer Newsletter**.

18 Deadline for SCMLA office receipt of items to be included in the **Summer Newsletter**.

18 Deadline for 2012 convention participants to **become members of SCMLA**.

Executive Committee Elections 2011

The Fall Convention Packet includes a ballot and information on the candidates for Executive Committee Officers. Ballots must be received by September 26, 2011, in order to be counted.

Executive Committee 2012 Nominations

Vice President

Elizabeth Coscio

St. Thomas University-Houston

Genaro Perez

Texas Tech University

English

Julie Chappell

Tarleton University

John Hodgson

Cameron University

Russian and Less Commonly Taught Languages

Eva Paulino Bueno

St. Mary's U

Ping Zhu

University of Oklahoma

Spanish

Paul Larson

Baylor University

Samuel Manickam

University of North Texas

Members are invited to submit nominations and self-nominations for the 2012 election of the German Representative, an At-Large Representative, and the Vice President. Candidates for these positions should be ready to serve three-year terms and to convene twice a year, via electronic meeting in the spring (in February or March) and on the first day of the fall convention. Executive Committee members are required to serve on various subcommittees. Expenses for the fall meeting must be paid for by the member or the member's institution. Nominations/self-nominations should be accompanied by a brief curriculum vitae (max. 4 pages). Send by January 20, 2012 to Deborah Arteaga, U of Nevada-Las Vegas, deborah.arteaaga@inlv.edu

Future Conventions

2012

San Antonio Texas

November 08 - 10

Sheraton Gunter Hotel

2013

New Orleans, Louisiana

October 3-5

Hotel Monteleone

Thank you to the 2011 Friends of the South Central MLA!

Platinum

Joe Cash

Lydia Cone Cash

Frieda H. Blackwell

Gold

Richard S. Pressman

Grady C. Wray

Silver

Pamela Genova and

David Hambright

Nancy LaGreca

Gwendolyn Diaz

Melissa Bailar

Dr. Louis Charles Stagg

Aracely Esparza

Charles Wukasch

Lynn M. Alexander

Awards

•SCMLA Book Award

•Kirby Award

Please check the website at www.southcentralmla.org for more information on these awards.

Paper Prizes:

- *Historical Literary and/or Cultural Studies*
- *Bill L. and Gerre D. Andrist Prize in Hispanic Gender Studies*

All SCMLA Conference Paper Prize submissions are due on **September 5, 2011**. For more information please visit www.southcentralmla.org

Please email a copy to Diana Hodges, Assistant Program Director at scmla@ou.edu

Nominations for Life & Honorary Members

If you would like to nominate someone for an SCMLA Life or Honorary Membership, please contact:

*Pamela Genova, University of Oklahoma Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics
genova@ou.edu*

Online Registration for Hot Springs and 2011 Membership

Registration must be received by September 1, 2011

SAVE TIME, REGISTER FOR HOT SPRINGS AND PAY 2011 DUES ONLINE

Register for the Hot Springs convention and pay your 2011 membership dues online via www.southcentralmla.org/68th-annual-conference

Hot Springs 2011

Conference registration

Conference meals including the Friday business luncheon, the Women's Caucus breakfast and the SCCEA breakfast

2011 Membership Dues

Online, you may register for Hot Springs 2011, pay 2011 dues, and vote for new executive committee members.

If you would like to pay by check, you still have the option of registering for Hot Springs and paying 2011 dues by sending a check to the SCMLA offices at the U of Oklahoma. Hard copies of the conference registration form have been sent to members and are also available online at www.southcentralmla.org/68th-annual-conference.

Registration must be paid no later than September 1, 2011.

To pay by credit card go to: www.southcentralmla.org

To pay by check send registration forms to:

Diana L. Hodges
South Central Modern Language Association
University of Oklahoma
332 Cate Center Drive, Room 455
Norman, OK 73019-6410

Hot Springs Information

FLYING INTO LITTLE ROCK WITH GROUND TRANSPORTATION TO HOT SPRINGS

1. Airport shuttle service Little Rock-Arlington Resort Hotel and Spa:
800/643-1505 (one way):

Individual: \$50 per person
Group of 3 or more: \$40 per person

2. Little Rock Airport Car Rental Companies:

Avis-501/396-9151
Budget-501/375-5521
National-501/376-7221
Sears-501/375-5503
Thrifty-501/376-2277
Hertz-501/375-7307

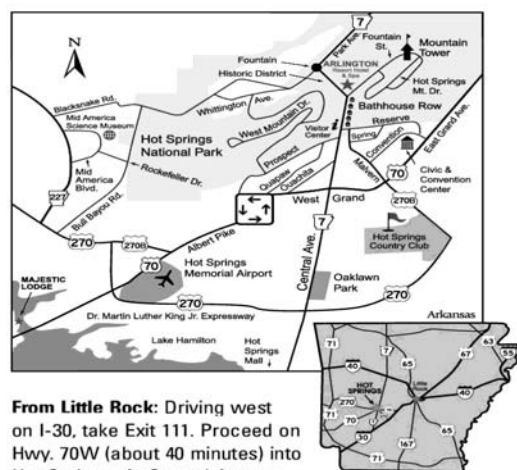
FLYING INTO HOT SPRINGS FROM MEMPHIS

Only one airline serves Hot Springs with service between Memphis, TN and Hot Springs. Seaport Air 888/573-2767. www.seaportair.com

TRAVELING BY CAR

Arlington Resort Hotel and Spa Parking: Valet: \$15.00/night
Self-park: Free

Map & Directions



Convention Hotel Information
ARLINGTON RESORT HOTEL AND SPA
239 CENTRAL AVENUE
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS



South Central MLA has arranged the following per night group rate at the Arlington Resort Hotel and Spa:

Historic Room	\$79.00 single
	\$89.00 double
Standard Room	\$98.00 single
	\$108.00 double

To reserve a room for the South Central MLA conference, use the reservation code "South Central Modern Language Association." Please call **501/623-7771** or toll-free **800/643-1502** to make a reservation. To receive our conference rate, make reservations by September 26, 2011.
All rooms must be reserved by phone.

Call for Papers: CCTE

Annual Meeting, March 1-3, 2012, Ft. Worth

The annual meeting of the Conference of College Teachers of English (CCTE) welcomes scholarly papers, creative writing, and panels in all areas of literature and language, including linguistics and language studies, as well as the teaching of these areas. Papers and panel proposals in teaching writing, ESL, developmental writing, and the virtual classroom are also welcome. CCTE accepts only submissions that have not been read or published elsewhere.

All submissions are due October 1, 2011.

Please follow these guidelines for all conference submissions:

- E-mail submissions only to the appropriate session chair (see list below)
- Timed presentations only: 7-9 double-spaced pages (15-18 minute reading time)
- **Paper submissions:** Full versions of conference papers are preferred but 500-word abstracts are accepted for initial consideration.
- **Creative submissions:** Works in poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction must be complete when submitted.
- **Panel proposals:** These must include a full abstract or paper from each panel member. Each abstract or paper will be accepted or rejected individually.
- **Blind judging:** All abstracts, papers, creative pieces, and panel proposals **MUST** be submitted with *two cover pages*: one cover page with the presenter's name, academic affiliation (or independent scholar), mailing address, telephone, and email address; and a second cover page with only the title of the presentation. The actual abstract, paper, creative writing, or panel proposal must be titled but bear **NO** writer identification of any kind on any of its pages.

If your paper is accepted, take steps to keep your slot on the program. **By February 1, 2012**, presenters are required to have (1) paid dues, (2) registered for the conference, and (3) submitted full papers with release forms. (Release forms are sent out with acceptance letters.) If presenters have not met all three requirements by February 1, they will be removed from the conference program.

Chairs for the 2012 CCTE Convention Program:

Literature, Film, Popular Culture: Emma Hawkins at ebhawkins@my.lamar.edu

Rhetoric, Composition, Technical Writing, Language Studies: Coretta Pittman at Coretta_Pittman@baylor.edu

Creative Writing, Poetry, Fiction, Creative Non-Fiction: Steve Remolino at sremolino@com.edu

OPTIONAL SATURDAY EXCURSION: GARVAN GARDENS AND WINE TASTING

Join us for an enjoyable afternoon of sightseeing and wine tasting. Transportation by motor coach will be provided. The motor coach will begin loading at 1:30pm, Saturday, October 29 to go to the famed Garvan Gardens, an independent department of the University of Arkansas's School of Architecture. Please visit the Garvan Gardens' website www.garvangardens.org: "From the dynamic architectural structures to the majestic botanical landscapes, Garvan Woodland Gardens offers breathtaking sights (and fantastic photo opportunities!) at every turn." The Gardens' fiery fall foliage will be on display. The new Children's Garden offers a natural setting for exploring, with a boardwalk, a cave and waterfalls. Garvan Gardens offers outdoor dining at The Chipmunk Café. After our self-guided tour through the Gardens, we will be off to the Hot Springs Winery for a tour of the Arkansas Historic Wine Museum, followed by a tasting of Arkansas wines. SPACE IS LIMITED.



TOTAL COST for transportation, admission, and wine tasting (lunch not included): \$38

(Children 5 and under who can ride on parent's lap-free)

THE SOUTH CENTRAL MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION

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southcentralmla.org](http://www.southcentralmla.org) **]**