

The 45th Annual Meeting
of the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature

The Cultural Heritage of the Midwest A Symposium

May 31–June 2, 2015
Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center
Michigan State University
219 South Harrison Road, East Lansing, MI 48824

Sunday, May 31, 2015

Registration 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

South Lobby

Session A

12:30 – 2:00 PM

Criticism: Midwestern Writers and the First World War

106

Moderator: David A. Rennie (University of Aberdeen)

“That Delayed Teutonic Migration”: WWI in Midwestern Literature

David A. Rennie (University of Aberdeen)

“Playing Indian in the Backyard”: American Masculinity, Modern Warfare, and Thomas Boyd's

Through the Wheat

Steven Trout (University of South Alabama)

Larsen's Brian Redfield: The African American War Veteran in *Passing*

Jennifer Haytock (The College at Brockport, SUNY)

Memoir

Heritage

Moderator: Rachel Karlake (Central Michigan University)

Kylee

Rachel Karlake (Central Michigan University)

Haunted: Life, Death, Memory, and the Fear In-Between

Anna Williams (Central Michigan University)

Green-Eyed Monster

Samantha Dine (Central Michigan University)

Fiction

105B

Moderator: Mary Obuchowski (Central Michigan University)

“Damn You, Steve Jobs,” new fiction forthcoming from *Sobotka Literary Magazine*

K.M. Zahrt (The Fly Came Near It, Flint, Michigan)

Little Sinner of the Kitchen

Curtis VanDonkelaar (Michigan State University)

Leather and Wool

Douglas Sheldon (University of Illinois at Chicago)

Session B

2:15 PM – 3:45 PM

Criticism: Toni Morrison and August Wilson

106

Moderator: Sara Kosiba (Troy University)

Take Refuge in How: Shifting Textual Personae in Toni Morrison's Forewords to *The Bluest Eye*

Ross K. Tangedal (Kent State University)

The Midwestern Morrison: Between the Cultural and Natural
Albert Battistelli (Kent State University)

Dialects of Liminality: Toni Morrison's *Sula* and Linguistic Stigma
Douglas Sheldon (University of Illinois at Chicago)

Siren Song: Toni Morrison's *Jazz*, August Wilson's *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, and the Allure and Perils of the Great Migration
John Rohrkemper (Elizabethtown College)

Roundtable: David D. Anderson and Studies of the Midwest
Moderator: Robert Dunne (Central Connecticut State University) Heritage

Old Fashioned
Robert Dunne (Central Connecticut State University)

Inventing the Midwest with David D. Anderson
Marcia Noe (The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga)

Dave Anderson Remembered
Philip A. Greasley (University of Kentucky)

Dave and Pat's Big Adventure
Roger J. Bresnahan (Michigan State University)

Memoir/Creative Nonfiction 105B
Moderator: Dawn M. Comer (Defiance College)

Happy on the Fringe: A Memoir of the Theater
Mary Minock (Madonna University)

Stalker
Jane Holwerda (Dodge City Community College)

Finding His Way Back to Literacy
Joyce Meier (Michigan State University)

Session C 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Criticism: Willa Cather and Bharati Mukherjee 106
Moderator: Marcia Noe (University of Tennessee at Chattanooga)

Hope for Survival in Willa Cather's *Sapphira and the Slave Girl*
Susan A. Schiller (Central Michigan University)

The Case for Socialism in *My Ántonia*: "You got many, Shimerdas no got"
Allan N. Benn (East Stroudsburg University)

From Rural Punjab to Rural Iowa: A Reading of Bharati Mukherjee's *Jasmine*
Aparna Zambare (Central Michigan University)

Criticism: Ohio and Indiana Heritage
Moderator: Philip A. Greasley (University of Kentucky)

"I believe in the paint": Commodification of Belief in *The Rise of Silas Lapham*
Kristin M. Distel (Ohio University)

Animals and Other People: Narrative Animal Centrism of Louis Bromfield's Late Career Farm Writing
Hannah M. Biggs (Rice University)

Finding Meaning with Existentialism in John Green's *The Fault in Our Stars*
Ashley O'Donnell (Central Michigan University)

Poetry 105B
Moderator: Mary Obuchowski (Central Michigan University)

Justice Freedom Herbs and Other New Poems
Margaret Rozga (University of Wisconsin-Waukesha)

In This Glad Hour, biographical poetry about Elizabeth Caldwell Duncan
Martha M. Vertreace-Doody (Kennedy-King College)

Stories to Misremember
Mary Catherine Harper (Defiance College)

Dinner Break

5:30 PM

Editorial Committee Dinner Meeting

Marcia Noe, chair
Robert Beasecker
Nancy McKinney
Rob Dunne

Mary Obuchowski
Philip Greasley
James Seaton
Jeff Swenson

Marilyn Atlas
Roger Bresnahan
Sara Kosiba
Scott Emmert

Location TBA

Ronald Primeau
Bill Barillas
Andy Oler

7:30 PM

Film Presentation 105B
American Road
Introduced by the filmmaker: Kurt Jacobsen

Monday June 1, 2015

Registration 8:00 AM – 9:00 PM South Lobby

Session D

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Teaching the Midwest Heritage
Moderator: Andy Oler (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University)

From Main Street to the Swamp: Teaching the Region in First-Year Writing
Andy Oler (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University)

Pop-Midwest: Adventures in Interdisciplinary Teaching
Patricia Oman (Hastings College)

Teaching Wisconsin Literature
Marc Seals (University of Wisconsin Colleges)
Ken Grant (Emeritus, University of Wisconsin, Baraboo/Sauk County)

Midwest Literature and the Second Language Writing Student
Douglas Sheldon (DePaul University, University of Illinois at Chicago)

Fiction: 102
Moderator: Mary Catherine Harper (Defiance College)

Paris, 1927
Elizabeth Daniel (Defiance College)

Bitter As Black Coffee
Kailin Regutti (Defiance College)

Evangelina Sits by the Side of the Road, from *Evangelina Everyday*
Dawn M. Comer (Defiance College)

Poetry: 105B
Moderator: Mary Obuchowski (Central Michigan University)

Poems of Detroit
Mary Minock (Madonna University)

Telling Their Stories and Other New Poetry
Nancy Genevieve (Perkins) Kohl (University of Massachusetts-Lowell)

Session E 10:15- 11: 45

Criticism: Wisconsin and Chicago Heritage
Moderator: John Rohrkemper (Elizabethtown College)

The Shape of August Derleth's Sac Prairie Saga
Ken Grant (Emeritus, University of Wisconsin—Baraboo/Sauk County)

Derleth's Detectives: Solar Pons and Judge Peck
Marc Seals (University of Wisconsin Colleges)

The Chicagoan in the 1920s: or, What's So Funny about Crime and Corruption?
Guy Szuberla (University of Toledo)

Picturing Pilsen: The Narrative of the Streets in a Chicago Latino Neighborhood
Gary Cialdella (Western Michigan University)

Poetry and Memoir: "Reading the Midwest: Finding One's Place in the World" 102
Moderator: Christian Knoeller (Purdue University)

What the River Says
Christian Knoeller (Purdue University)

Middle West
Lauren Mallett (Purdue University)

Building the World Again: Diary of a Misplaced Girl
Chea Parton (Purdue University)

Criticism: Poetry, Rural and Urban 105B
Moderator: Margaret Rozga (University of Wisconsin-Waukesha)

Ted Kooser's Journal Writing and the Poetic Arts: Models of Introspection and Instruction
Jeffrey Hotz (East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania)

Singing the Song of Detroit: Contemporary Poets Illuminating the Lives and Landscape of the Motor City
Christina Triezenberg (Grand Valley State University)

An Appreciation of Narrative Passion in the Poetry of Philip Levine
Jim Gorman (Otterbein University)

Bob Dylan's Midwestern Roots
Jim Lewin (Shepherd University)

Roundtable: The Revival of Midwestern Writing 106
Moderator: Jon Lauck (University of South Dakota and *Middle West Review*)

Brandon James Anderson (*Old Northwest Review*)
 Jason Lee Brown (*New Stories from The Midwest*)
 Tony Battaglia (*Flyover Country Review*)
 Jeff Pfaller (*Midwestern Gothic*)
 Jason Drake (*Great Lakes Review*)

12:00 NOON – 1: 30 PM

Awards Luncheon

Big Ten C

2015 Mark Twain Award presented to Philip Levine
 2015 Mid-America Award presented to Nancy Bunge
 2014 Writing Awards

Session F

1:45 PM – 3:15 PM

Fiction, Poetry, Memoir 102
 Moderator: Mary Catherine Harper (Defiance College)

Post-Modern Tales from Heliotrope University
 Loren Logsdon (Eureka College)

Crisis In Colorado
 Keith Tookey (Eureka College)

Odysseys of Desire: A Multiverse of Homeric Personae
 J. J. McKenna (University of Nebraska Omaha)

Adding "Sexual Orientation" to Eureka College's Non-Discrimination Statement
 Nancy Genevieve (Perkins) Kohl (University of MA Lowell)

Criticism: 106
 Reading the Midwest: The Congruence of Louise Erdrich, Elizabeth Dodd, and Lucy Parsons
 Moderator: Christian Knoeller (Purdue University)

Time's Horizon: Environmental History in the Writings of Elizabeth Dodd
 Christian Knoeller (Purdue University)

Constructions of the Past: Places, Histories, and Identities in Louise Erdrich's *The Plague of Doves*
 Rachel Bonini (Purdue University)

Lucy Parsons: A Midwestern Anarchist Writer
 Michelle Campbell (Purdue University)

Poetry: Dramatic Monologues in Midwestern Poetry 105B
 Moderator: Janet Ruth Heller (Michigan College English Association)

Janet Ruth Heller (Michigan College English Association)
 Andrea England (Western Michigan University)
 Miriam Bat-Ami (Western Michigan University)

Criticism: Minnesota Heritage
 Moderator: Ross K. Tangedal (Kent State University)

"A Hope Chest of Books": Augsburg Publishing House and the Production of (Ethnic) Culture and
 Citizenship
 Kristin A. Risley (University of Wisconsin-Stout)

The Unworldly Cosmopolitanism of J.F. Powers' *Morte D'Urban*
 Jeffrey Swenson (Hiram College)

Staggerford: A Postmodern Small Town?

Rachael Price (University of Arkansas)

Session G	3:30 PM – 5:00 PM	
Criticism: Michigan		106
Moderator: Andy Oler (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University)		
Hemingway's Michigan Stories: Doctor Adams, Nick Adams, and the Indians		
Donald A. Daiker (Miami University)		
John Herrmann's Michigan Stories		
Sara Kosiba (Troy University)		
Annie Oakley & Sitting Bull: Western Motifs in Bonnie Jo Campbell's Rural Midwestern Gothic, <i>Once upon a River</i>		
Katie Setzer (University of Wisconsin-La Crosse)		
Midwestern Law and Literature: Nexus: Poverty and Motor Vehicle Accidents		102
Moderator: Marie Lannen (The Gail Allen Lanphear 2013-2015 Writer-in-Residence)		
Marie Lannen, M.A (Lake Isabella, Michigan)		
Annette Flood, BSN, JD (Lansing, Michigan)		
Joseph T. Barberi, JD (Mount Pleasant, Michigan)		
Joseph Harrison, JD (Saginaw, Michigan)		
Five Midwestern Poets on <i>Local Ground(s): Midwest Poetics</i>		105B
Moderator: Margaret Rozga (University of Wisconsin Waukesha)		
A Paradox in Nostalgic Midwestern Poetry?		
Mary Catherine Harper (Defiance College)		
"The Present Only Is Ours": Finding Elizabeth Caldwell Duncan		
Martha Vertreace Doody (Kennedy-King College)		
Ted Kooser and the Purposes of a Public Poet		
Jeffrey Hotz (East Stroudsburg University)		
I'm Far From Native: Poetics of a Midwestern MFA Program		
Lauren Mallett (Purdue University)		
Waking To the World		
Christian Knoeller (Purdue University)		
Fiction		Heritage
Moderator: Scott Emmert (University of Wisconsin – Fox Valley)		
The Skirmish at Sioux River		
James Marlow (UMassD)		
Plummeting Space Junk		
Eric R. Tucker (Hastings College)		
In the Land of Nod		
Jeanne Dutton (Hiram College)		
Only a Weed (excerpts)		
Nancy Genevieve (Perkins) Kohl (University of MA Lowell)		
5:15 PM		105B

Mentoring Café, an informal discussion of how to launch a successful academic career facilitated by Christian Knoeller, Sara Kosiba, John Rohrkemper, and Jayne Waterman

6:00 PM

Executive Advisory Committee

Location TBA

Roger Bresnahan, secretary-treasurer
Philip Greasley, recording secretary
Robert Beasecker, bibliographer
Marc Van Wormer, conference planner
Marilyn Atlas, awards coordinator
Marcia Noe, editorial committees chair
Mary Obuchowski, corporate board
Scott Emmert, president and program & scholarship chair
Dawn Comer, president-elect
Sara Kosiba, past president

Executive Council:
Dawn Comer, 2012-2015
Jeffrey Swenson, 2012-2015
Mary Catherine Harper, 2013-2016
James Marlow, 2013-2016
Jeffrey Hotz, 2014-2017
Jennifer Holly Wells, 2014-2017
Andy Oler, 2015-2018
Mary Minock, 2015-2018

7:30 PM

Tribute to 2015 Mark Twain Award Winner Philip Levine
Moderator: Philip A. Greasley (University of Kentucky)

105B

Reading from Philip Levine's work and offering personal tributes:
M. L. Liebler (Wayne State University)
Herbert Woodward Martin (University of Dayton)

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

8:00 – 9:00 AM

Annual Business Meeting

105A

All are invited. A continental breakfast will be served.

Session H

9 AM – 10:30 AM

MidAmerica Award Winner Panel: Philip Levine's Progressivism
Moderator: Nancy Bunge (Michigan State University)

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Philip Levine as Midwestern Progressive
Nancy Bunge (Michigan State University)

Knowing What Work Is: Labor and the Workplace in the Poetry of Philip Levine
John P. Beck (Michigan State University)

The Bread of Time: Toward an Autobiography (1994), *The Norton Anthology of Jewish American Literature* (2001), and the Not So Simple Art of the Jewish, Progressive Post- Post-Modern Poet, Philip Levine
Marilyn J. Atlas (Ohio University)

Fiction: In The Valley of the Shadow of the North: Year Six—Short Stories
Moderator: Dawn M. Comer (Defiance College)

105B

Untitled
Gordon Henry (Michigan State University)

Frightening Weather Outside (A You Tube Video)
Brian Gilmore (Michigan State University)

Battle Creek Roll
Paul Stebleton (Michigan State University)

Session I**10:45 AM -12:15 PM**

Roundtable: Russell Kirk as Midwestern Writer
Moderator: Jon Lauck (University of South Dakota)

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Jon Lauck (University of South Dakota)
Bradley J. Birzer (Hillsdale College, University of Colorado-Boulder)
James E. Person Jr. (editor, *The Letters of Russell Kirk*)
James Seaton (Michigan State University)
Gleaves Whitney (Grand Valley State University)

Criticism: Breaking the Mold: Gender, Sexuality, and Archetypes in American Literature
Moderator: Scott Emmert (University of Wisconsin – Fox Valley)

105B

F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night*
Bethany M. Kanter (Carthage College)

Sherwood Anderson's *Winesburg, Ohio*
A.J. Davis (Carthage College)

John Steinbeck's *East of Eden*
Dana Ehrmann (Carthage College)

Creative Writing/Mixed Genre: Performing the Midwest: Here at the End of the MythHeritage
Moderator: Mary Catherine Harper (Defiance College)

Evangelina Stays at the Blake Hotel
Dawn Comer (Defiance College)

Faith Healer
Jane Holwerda (Dodge City Community College)

Poems from the End of the World
Andrea England (Western Michigan University)

Breathing New Life into the Largest Urban Ruin in North America, the Former Packard Motor Car
Company, Detroit, MI
Kari Smith (Arte Express Detroit, LLC)

If you wish to submit your paper to *MidAmerica* . . .

If you wish to submit your conference paper to be considered by the peer reviewers for publication in *MidAmerica*, please send an electronic copy to marcia-noe@utc.edu.

Deadline: June 15, 2015

Contestants for the Literary Criticism (best scholarly paper) Prize should be aware that the Prizes Chair will no longer be forwarding the scholarly papers of contestants who did not win to Marcia to be considered for *MidAmerica* and should send Marcia a copy of their scholarly paper in addition to submitting to Marilyn Atlas <atlas@ohio.edu> for prize consideration.

To submit your work to be considered for the SSML Annual Writing Prizes . . .

Entries must have been presented at the SSML Annual Symposium in East Lansing, never been published or committed for publication, must be original, and must have a demonstrable Midwestern character (e.g., topic, theme, tone, imagery, etc., as appropriate to genre). Winning entries will be published in the 2015 volume of *MidAmerica*. For each entry, 4 blind copies should be provided (i.e., your name should not appear on the title page or on page headers).

Name _____

University affiliation (if any): _____

Degree program (if student): _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please list the title(s) of work you wish to be considered for prizes:

- For the David D. Anderson Midwestern Heritage Prize for Literary Criticism:

- For the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Prize (up to 3 poems, but no more than 14 pages):
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

- For the Paul Somers Prize for Creative Prose (short story, memoir, or creative nonfiction):

- For the David Diamond Student Writing Prize:

Deadline: August 1, 2015. This form, together with the requested number of copies, may be turned in at the conference registration table or mailed to Marilyn J. Atlas, SSML Prize Coordinator, 230 North Roosevelt Avenue, Bexley Ohio 43209. For questions please contact Marilyn at <atlas@ohio.edu>