

The 41st Annual Meeting
of the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature

The Cultural Heritage of the Midwest: A Symposium

May 12–14, 2011
Michigan State University Union, East Lansing, MI

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Registration 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Session A 12:00 noon – 1:30 PM

Fiction Parlor A
Moderator: Kenneth B. Grant (Emeritus, University of Wisconsin—Baraboo/Sauk)
Marcia Noe (University of Tennessee—Chattanooga) "Places in the Midwestern Literary Imagination"
Dawn Comer (Defiance College) "Letter from the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo"
Joe Wydeven (Emeritus, Bellevue University) "Portraits from My Midwestern Cancer Museum"

Criticism Parlor B
Moderator: Frances Auld (University of Wisconsin—Baraboo)
Christian Knoeller (Purdue University) "Sand County Revisited: The Conservationist Manifesto of Scott Russell Sanders"
Dennis Rohatyn (University of San Diego) "Jerry Dennis: Midwest Mariner, Sailing Home on the Verbal Sea"
Vince Locke (Central Michigan University) "No Place You'd Want to Go to: Place-Memory and Mythology in Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon*"

Poetry Parlor C
Moderator: Elizabeth Weber (University of Indianapolis)
Morgan Rae Glazier (Central Michigan University) "Cedarbrook"
Lylanne Musselman (Terra Community College) Selections from "Winged Graffiti and New Poems"
Jane L. Carman (Illinois State University) From "Tangled in Motion"
Elizabeth Weber (University of Indianapolis) "A Scattering of Fields"

Session B 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Fiction Parlor A
Moderator: Marcia Noe (University of Tennessee—Chattanooga)
Wendell Mayo (Bowling Green State University) "Commie Christmas"
David B. Schock (Grand Haven, MI) "A Bride of the Great War"
William J. Palmer (Purdue University) "Railway Lines"

Criticism: Honoring Rane Arroyo Parlor B
Moderator: Lylanne Musselman (Terra Community College)
Lylanne Musselman (Terra Community College) "Imagery and Place in Rane Arroyo's Poetry: The Midwest Cannot Always Be Perceived as Dull and Flat"
Dan Nowak (University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee) "Definitions Through Glass: Reflecting on Toledo, Ohio Through Rane Arroyo's Poetry"
Dusty Miller (University of Toledo) "The Role of the Body in Arroyo's *Hurricane*: The Emotion of Motion"
Teneice Delgado (Dayton, Ohio) "Musings on Rane Arroyo's Poetry Collection: *White As Silver*"

Poetry Parlor C
Moderator: Jane L. Carman (Illinois State University)
Margaret Rozga (University of Wisconsin—Waukesha) Selections from "Though I Haven't Been to Baghdad"
Geromina Ferrara Courtney (Defiance College) "Sabbath Seasons"

Session C 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Creative Nonfiction Parlor A
Moderator: Marie Lannen (Central Michigan University)
Leonora Smith (Michigan State University) "War Between the States"
Nancy Bunge (Michigan State University) "The Mississippi"
Jane Holwerda (Dodge City Community College) "Travels with My Uncle"
Brian Gilmore (Michigan State University) "The Birth of Detroit Red: Malcolm X and the Meaning of Lansing, Michigan"

Criticism Parlor B
Moderator: Scott Emmert (University of Wisconsin—Fox Valley)
Guy Szuberla (University of Toledo) "Craig Rice's Chicago, and the Amazing Mr. Malone"
Arvid F. Sponberg (Valparaiso University) "Siblings Under the Skin: Bruce Norris' *Clybourn Park* and Lorraine Hansbury's *A Raisin in the Sun*"
Glenn Sheldon (University of Toledo) "Thomas James: An Introduction to *Letters to a Stranger*"

Poetry Parlor C
Moderator: Margaret Rozga (University of Wisconsin—Waukesha)
Monica Switzer (Defiance College) "Perspectives of Life"
Martha Vertreace-Doody (Kennedy-King College) "Not a Word about Elizabeth, I Promise"
Edward Morin (Center for Creative Studies) "Housing for Wrens' and Other Poems"

Criticism Green Room
Moderator: Joseph Wydeven (Emeritus, Bellevue University)
Mary C. Obuchowski (Central Michigan University) "Religious Diversity in Midwestern Literature"
Jeffrey C. Swenson (Hiram College) "Sullied Independence: Jim Tully's *Ladies in the Parlor* and the Young Woman's Journey to the City"

Editorial Committee Meeting 5:45 PM

Marcia Noe, chair
Robert Beasecker
Nancy McKinney
Rob Dunne
Jeff Swenson

David Anderson
Philip Greasley
James Seaton

Green Room

Marilyn Atlas
Roger Bresnahan
Joseph Wydeven
Ronald Primeau
Mary Obuchowski
Bill Barillas

Friday, May 13, 2010

Registration 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Session D 8:00 – 9:30 AM

Creative Nonfiction Green Room
Inventive Gestures
Moderator: Leonora Smith (Michigan State University)
Sue Webb (Michigan State University) "Living with David Foster Wallace"
Paul A. Crutcher (Michigan State University) "Overcoming Fear of Math While in the Desert"
Sarah Lindsay (Michigan State University) "Dear Diary"
Allena Rose Tapia (Michigan State University) TBA
Katie Liming (Michigan State University) "Four by Six"
Hayley Roberts (Michigan State University) "I'm Hardly a Professional"

Criticism Parlor A
Moderator: Lawrence Moe (Metropolitan State University)
Ed Dauterich (Kent State University) "Grand Republic: Sundown Town"
Douglas Sheldon (Kent State University) "The Split Identity of the Midwestern Character: Front as Reaction to Perceived Threat, Fear of Rejection, and Desire for Acceptance as Seen in the Writing of Sinclair Lewis"
Jessica Lyn Van Slooten (University of Wisconsin—Manitowoc) "Sneezing Cows and Scennie Voices: Teaching Michael Perry's Memoir *Truck* in First-Year Composition"

Criticism Parlor B
Young Adult Chicago Literature
Moderator: Ron Primeau (Central Michigan University)
Sarah Stephens (Central Michigan University) "Chicago and Detroit YA Lit.: A Comparison of Identity"
Taylor Hills (Central Michigan University) "Chicago YA South Side/North Side: A Comparison of Topics, Themes and Style"
Samantha Fisher (Central Michigan University) "Selected Midwestern Young Adult and Adult Literature: Themes, Topics, Styles, Views"
Johanna Slusser (Central Michigan University) "Chicago Young Adult Novel/Adult Novel: A Comparison"

Criticism Green Room
Moderator: Gabriel Downs (University of Iowa)
William Barillas (University of Wisconsin—LaCrosse) "Teaching a General Education Course on Midwestern Literature"
Andy Oler (Indiana University) "The Problem of Placelessness in Theodore Dreiser's *An American Tragedy*"

Session E 10:00 – 11:30 AM

Criticism: Gene Stratton-Porter Parlor A
Moderator: Mary DeJong Obuchowski (Central Michigan University)
Cheryl Birkelo (University of Colorado—Colorado Springs) "*The Harvester* and the Natural Bounty of Gene Stratton-Porter"
Susan A. Schiller (Central Michigan University) "Nature Writing and Popular Culture in Gene Stratton-Porter's *The Keeper of the Bees*"
Robert Mellin (Purdue University—North Central Campus) "The Pastoral Economy: Gene Stratton-Porter's *The Harvester* and the Construction of Eco-Thoreau"

Criticism Parlor B
Moderator: Dong Li Isbister (The Ohio State University)
Dominic Ording (Millersville University of Pennsylvania) "Of the Various Michigans in Eugenides's *Middlesex*"
David Settle (Grand Rapids Community College) "Nothing New Under the Sun—Permanence in Russell Kirk's *The Conservative Mind*: Is a Traditional Approach Relevant within our Contemporary Society?"
Glenn Sheldon (University of Toledo) "Fake Mammy to God's Mistakes: Robert Hayden's 'Aunt Jemima of the Ocean Waves'"
Marilyn J. Atlas (Ohio University) "'One Man's Ceiling is Another Man's Floor:' Tracy Letts's *Superior Donuts*' Shortened Visit to Broadway"

Poetry Parlor C
Moderator: Elizabeth Weber (University of Indianapolis)
Margo LaGattuta (University of Michigan—Flint) "A Thing Moving"
Polly Opsahl (Rochester Hills, MI) "Having a Great Time, Wish You Were Here"

Creative Nonfiction Green Room
Moderator: Nancy Bunge (Michigan State University)
Marie Lannen (Central Michigan University) "Michigan as the New Alabama, Teen Grief and Viet Nam"
James E. Marlow (University of Massachusetts—Dartmouth) "West of Eden"

Awards Luncheon**11:45 AM****Gold A & B**

Presiding: Lawrence Moe, President

Session F**1:30 – 3:00 PM**

Criticism: Louise Erdrich Parlor B

Moderators: Christian Knoeller (Purdue University) and Sara Kosiba (Troy University)

Jennifer Holly Wells (Drew University) "Before It Was the Frontier, It Was Home: Louise Erdrich's Historical Midwestern Landscapes"

Wilma Shires (Southeastern Oklahoma State University) "Traveling by Rail: Louise Erdrich's Use of Railroad in Fiction and Poetry"

Christian Knoeller (Purdue University) "Reading a Deeper Map: Erdrich's Books and Islands in Ojibwe Country"

Poetry Parlor C

: Rhymes with Orange: II

Moderator: Jo Anne Isbey (University of Detroit-Mercy)

Allison Bohn (University of Detroit-Mercy)

Deonte Osayande (University of Detroit-Mercy)

Alex Jones (University of Detroit-Mercy)

Video Green Room

Midwest Law and Literature

Moderator: Philip A. Greasley (University of Kentucky)

*Anatomy 59: The Making of a Classic Motion Picture***Session G****3:30 – 5:00 PM**

Fiction Parlor A

In the Valley of the Shadow of the North: Year Two

Moderator: Matthew L. M. Fletcher (Michigan State University)

Gordon Henry (Michigan State University) "Minogeeshig Recollections: Abstracts, Short Tales and Long Winded Speakers"

Matthew L. M. Fletcher (Michigan State University) "Apocalypse Dreams"

Paul Stebleton (Lake Ann, MI) "Born with Plastic Spoons in Our Mouths"

Criticism Parlor B

Moderator: Jessica Van Slooten (University of Wisconsin—Manitowoc)

Margaret Rozga (University of Wisconsin—Waukesha) "Bit Parts and Bones: Urban

Possibilities for the Ojibwe in Winona LaDuke's *Last Standing Woman*"

Mary Catherine Harper (Defiance College) "'Dear Pope: Did You GET My Letters? Signed, Father Damian'; or, How Louise Erdrich Character Writes Back to Empire"

Gabriel Downs (University of Iowa) "'Indian' Impressions: Zitkala-Ša as Author of the Midwest"

David Anderson (Michigan State University) "The Way It Was: Jessamyn West, *The Witch Diggers*"

Midwest Law and Literature Green Room

Sandra Seaton's *Music History*

Moderator: James Seaton Commentator: Sandra Seaton

Tama Hamilton-Wray (Michigan State University) and Jeff Wray (Michigan State University) "Upward Mobility, Intra-racial Class Struggles and Identity Issues: *Music History* and *Raisin in the Sun*"

Ron Primeau (Central Michigan University)

Renee Knake (Michigan State University)

Mae Kuykendall (Michigan State University)

Criticism Gold A

Moderator: Marilyn J. Atlas (Ohio University)

Mary R. Ryder (South Dakota State University) "J. Hyatt Downing's *A Prayer for Tomorrow: Cather's A Lost Lady, Dakota Style*"Nancy Bunge (Michigan State University) "Jim Harrison on Higher Education: *The English Major*"

Patricia Oman (University of Oregon) "Stories by Heart in Field(s) of Dreams: Finding the Midwest in the 21st Century"
 Dong Li Isbister (The Ohio State University) "Fox Smell': Exoticized and Eroticized Stigma of Gendered Disease in Wang Ping's Short Stories"

Mentoring Café 5:00 PM Parlor A

Executive Advisory Council 5:30 PM Parlor B

David Anderson, executive secretary	Executive Council:
Roger Bresnahan, secretary-treasurer	Martha Vertreace-Doody, 2008-2011
Philip Greasley, recording secretary	Joseph Wydeven, 2008-2011
Robert Beasecker, bibliographer	Sara Kosiba, 2009-2012
Laura Julier, website manager	Michael Kula, 2009-2012
Marc Van Wormer, conference planner	Scott Emmert, 2010-2013
Marilyn Atlas, awards coordinator	Sandra Seaton, 2010-2013
Ken Grant, program and scholarship chair	Lylanne Musselman, 2011-2014
Marcia Noe, editorial committees chair	Marc Seals, 2011-2014
Mary Obuchowski, corporate board	
Lawrence Moe, president	
Nancy Bunge, president-elect	
Margaret Rozga, past president	

Drama 8:00 PM Parlor C

John Rohrkemper (Elizabethtown College) *God Bless the Shadows*
 A drama in sixteen scenes and a requiem about the last days of Mark Twain's daughter, Susy Clemens
 A staged reading directed by jeff croff

Saturday, May 14, 2010

Annual Business Meeting 8:00 – 9:00 AM Gold Room B

Session H 9:00 – 10:30 AM

Criticism Parlor A
 Moderator: Andy Oler (Indiana University)
 Scott Emmert (University of Wisconsin—Fox Valley) "Objection Over Here: World War I Fiction in *The Midland*"
 John C. Rohrkemper (Elizabethtown College) "Unplanned Obsolescence: Social and Economic Change in Mark Twain's *Roughing It*"
 Kristin A. Risley (University of Wisconsin—Stout) "On the Way to the Melting Potty: Ethnicity and Assimilation in Waldemar Ager's Immigrant Novel"
 Lawrence Moe (Metropolitan State University) "The Narrative of the Tiny Welshman"

Fiction Parlor B
 Moderator: Patricia Oman (University of Oregon)
 Daniel A. Hoyt (Kansas State University) "Girl X"
 Christine Wilson (Wright State University—Lake Campus) From "Do Little"
 Johnathan Barefield (Central Michigan University) "Styx"

Poetry Parlor C
 Moderator: Martha Vertreace-Doody (Kennedy-King College)
 Christian Knoeller (Purdue University) "Taking the Waters"
 Glenn Sheldon (University of Toledo) From *Biography of the Boy who Prays to the God of Foreheads*"

Criticism Gold A
 Moderator: Marc Seals (University of Wisconsin—Baraboo/Sauk County)
 Philip A. Greasley (University of Kentucky) "The Dictionary of Midwestern Literature, Volume Two: Contents and Contributions"

Norman Chaney (Otterbein University) "Harland Hubbard and Wendell Berry: Kindred Spirits on Old Time"
 Janet LaBrie (University of Wisconsin—Waukesha) "Reclaiming the Entrepreneurial Spirit: Doing Traditional Indian Business in the Novels of Louise Erdrich"
 Joseph Wydeven (Emeritus, Bellevue University) "Robert Vivian's Tall Grass Trilogy: A Critical Introduction"

Session I 10:45 AM – 12:15 PM

Fiction Parlor A

Vehicle City Writers

Moderator: Stephanie Carpenter (University of Michigan—Flint)
 Scott Atkinson (University of Michigan—Flint) from "Old Blue Hat"
 Katie Curnow (University of Michigan—Flint) from "A Temporary Residence"
 Bill Lapham (University of Michigan—Flint) from "One Bullet"

Criticism Parlor B

Midwest Fantastic: Magic, Marvels, and Mayhem in the Midlands
 Moderator: Mary Catherine Harper (Defiance College)
 Marc Seals (University of Wisconsin—Baraboo/Sauk) "Clifford Simak and Wisconsin Science Fiction, or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Offer the Invading Alien a Beer"
 Frances Auld (University of Wisconsin—Baraboo/Sauk) "Liminal Bodies and Interstitial Ethnicities in the Works of Neil Gaiman"
 Sara Kosiba (Troy University) "Through the Eyes of the Ordinary: August Derleth's Strange and Fantastic Midwest"

Creative Nonfiction Parlor C

Moderator: Daniel A. Hoyt (Kansas State University)
 Emily Arnold (Defiance College) "Make for the Door"
 Lawrence Moe (Metropolitan State University) "The Passage of Time"
 Mary Minock (Madonna University) "Mama in Wonderland"
 Kari Smith (Loyola University, New Orleans) "Detroit: Upward Mobility in the Motor City," and "The Garden District Nun and the Michigan Monster Truck"

Editorial Board Meeting 1:00 – 6:00 PM Green Room

Dictionary of Midwestern Literature editorial board:

David Anderson	Phil Greasley, editor	Robert Beasecker	Robert Dunne
Mary Obuchowski	Marilyn Atlas	Sara Kosiba	Guy Szuberla
William Barillas	Nancy McKinney	Marcia Noe	Joseph Wydeven

Sunday, May 15, 2011

Editorial Board Meeting 9:00 AM - noon Green Room

Dictionary of Midwestern Literature editorial board (see above)

The Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature encourages you to revise your conference paper as a publishable essay and submit one hard copy by September 1, 2011, to Marcia Noe, 535 Elinor Street, Chattanooga, TN 37405. Find details at www.ssml.org/publications (click on the *MidAmerica* link).