

-The 47th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature
June 1-3, 2017

The Cultural Heritage of the Midwest A Symposium

Thursday, June 1, 2017

Registration 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM 105A
Book Display 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM 105A

Including a SILENT AUCTION of two copies of the *Dictionary of Midwestern Literature, Vol. 2*.
Bidding opens at \$25. Other Indiana University Press books for sale.

Session A 12:30 – 2:00 PM

Criticism Willy
Moderator: Phil Greasley

Michele Willman (University of North Dakota), "Fracking in Friendly North Dakota"
Michelle Campbell (Purdue University), "Teaching Sex Radicalism: The Didactic Free Love Novels of
Florence Finch Kelly"
Marc Seals (University of Wisconsin Colleges), "Meeting in the Middle: Jennifer Morales' *Meet Me
Halfway* and the Undergraduate Classroom"

Fiction Heritage
Moderator: Jane L. Carman

Kayla Feldpausch (Central Michigan University), "Red Jacket"
Dedria H. Barker (Lansing Community College), "Getting Schooled"
Jane Holwerda (Dodge City Community College), "Prisoner"

Session B 2:15 PM – 3:45 PM

Criticism: The Great War and Midwestern Literature Willy
Moderator: Scott Emmert

Scott Emmert (University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley), "Jack Keefe Plays for Uncle Sam: Ring Lardner's
Comic War"
Jennifer Haytock (The College at Brockport, SUNY), "The Great War in Black and White: Hemingway and
Larsen"
Steven Trout (University of South Alabama), "Fiery Particles: Thomas Boyd's *Points of Honor*"

Literary / Creative Nonfiction
Moderator: Edward Morin

105B

Marie Lannen (Central Michigan University), "Thoughts on Haiti, Mothers, and Mortality"
Sarah Schomisch (Aquinas College), "Turbulence"
Dawn Burns (Ivy Tech and Manchester University), "Picking Persimmons: Creative Interpretations of a Moment in Time"
Becky Miller (Toledo, OH), "Picking Persimmons: Creative Interpretations of a Moment in Time"

Session C

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Criticism
Moderator: Aaron Babcock

Willy

Jane Holwerda (Dodge City Community College), "Kent Haruf's *Plainsong* Trilogy"
Ken Grant (University of Wisconsin, Baraboo/Sauk), "Losing the Farm Again: Jane Hamilton's *The Excellent Lombards*"
Megan Cannella (University of Nevada, Reno), "Personal, Regional, and Universal Dualities of 21st Century Identity in Rainbow Rowell's *Eleanor & Park* and *Attachments*"

Fiction
Moderator: Delores Rauscher

Heritage

Kathleen Miller (Illinois State University), "Fragmented Text: Dismantling, Disrupting, Dislocating"
K.M. Zahrt (Michigan State University), Excerpt from *The Nature of Plots*
D. F. Byrum (Michigan State University), "Discord in New Harmony: A Reading from *The Death of a Wildflower*"

Creative Prose & Poetry
Moderator: Mary Catherine Harper

105B

Joanna White (Central Michigan University), "Awakening Silenced Neural Networks: Poems and Creative Nonfiction on Retraining the Brain (from a Michigan musician with focal dystonia)"
Dawn Burns (Ivy Tech and Manchester University), "Evangelina Spoons with Russel"; "Evangelina Considers a Kiss"
Stephanie Amada (Michigan State University), "Let Cancer Have Its Way with You"

Editorial Committee Dinner Meeting

5:30 PM

State Room

Marcia Noe, chair
Robert Beasecker
Nancy McKinney
Bob Dunne

Marilyn Atlas
Philip Greasley
Sara Kosiba
Jeff Swenson

Tricia Oman
Roger Bresnahan
Andy Oler
Scott Emmert

Mary DeJong Obuchowski
William Barillas

Friday June 2, 2017

Registration 8:00 AM – 9:00 PM
Book Display 8:00 AM – 9:00 PM

105A

105A

Including a SILENT AUCTION of two copies of the *Dictionary of Midwestern Literature, Vol. 2*. Bidding opens at \$25. Other Indiana University Press books for sale.

Session D**8:30 AM – 10:00 AM**

Criticism: Home and the Midwest I
 Moderator: Ross Tangedal

Heritage

Doug Sheldon (DePaul University), "A Birthplace as Reckoning: Deligitimization in Marilynne Robinson's *Home*"
 Joshua Murray (University of Akron, Wayne College), "Lost in Transition: Transnational Dissatisfaction in Ernest Hemingway's 'Soldier's Home' and Langston Hughes's 'Home'"
 Andy Oler (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University), "Evacuating Midwestern Homeplaces"

Literary/Creative Nonfiction: The Critical and Personal Midwest
 Moderator: James Gorman

105B

Christian Knoeller (Purdue University), "Reimagining Environmental History"
 Ryan Schnurr (Purdue University), "Losing the Farm"
 Michelle M. Campbell (Purdue University), "A Brotherhood of Sisters"

Criticism
 Moderator: Kristin Distel

Willy

Kathleen Miller (Illinois State University), "From Reader to Architekt: Experimental Texts Transform"
 Nancy Down (Bowling Green State University), "Roberta Gellis and the Question of Authenticity in the Historical Romance"
 Suzanne Brown (Central Michigan University), "Composing Women: Writing, Female Identity, and the Frontier Life in the 19th and 21st Centuries"

Session E**10:15 - 11:45**

Criticism: Home and the Midwest II
 Moderator: Andy Oler

Heritage

Ross Tangedal (University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point), "To See Life: No Home in Ring Lardner's *The Big Town*"
 Hannah Biggs (Rice University), "'Cabbages is Beautiful': Edna Ferber's *Homebody*, *Homespun*, and *Homemade Farm Novel*, *So Big*"
 Mark Athitakis (independent scholar), "The Latest Migrants: Transformed Assimilation Narratives in Recent Midwestern Fiction"

Poetry: Poetry of Relationships
 Moderator: Mary Minock

105B

Bill Yarrow (Joliet Junior College), Excerpts from *The Vig of Love*
 Edward Morin (College for Creative Studies), Excerpts from *Housing for Wrens*

Fiction
 Moderator: Joanna White

Willy

Michele Willman (University of North Dakota), "Drowning"
 Jane Carman (Festival of Language/Lit Fest Press), Excerpt from *Wandering*
 Jan Maher (SUNY Plattsburgh), "Earth As It Is"

Awards Luncheon**12:00 NOON – 1:30 PM**

Red Cedar Rm.

2017 Mark Twain Award presented to . . . Gloria Whelan

2017 Mid-America Award presented to . . . Steven Trout

2016 Writing Prizes presented by Marilyn Atlas

Session F**1:45 PM – 3:15 PM**A Conversation with Gloria Whelan, recipient of the 2017 Mark Twain Award
Moderator: Mary DeJong Obuchowski

105B

Book signing to follow

Criticism: Bob Dylan
Moderator: William Barillas

Heritage

William Barillas (University of Wisconsin-La Crosse), "The News of Dylan's Nobel Prize"
Marilyn Atlas (Ohio University), "Bringing One's Own Eraser and Making Something New Out of an
Absurd World: Identity and Experimental Form in Bob Dylan's First and Only Novel, *Tarantula*"
John Rohrkemper (Elizabethtown College) "The Whitmanesque Bob Dylan"Law & Literature: Building a Camphill Community in Michigan
Moderator: Marie Lannen

Willy

Qiana Towns (Washtenaw Community College), "Lead Poisoning of Flint Youth"
Karyn Walters (Grand Valley State University), "Parenting a Child with Down Syndrome: A Look Towards
Adulthood"
Marie Lannen (Central Michigan University), "Cornhuskers"
Joseph Barberi (Barberi Law Firm, Mt. Pleasant, MI), "The Lack of Hard Signs in Concussion and Brain
Trauma Can Leave Many Sufferers Without Resources, Including Adequate Housing"**Session G****3:30 PM – 5:00 PM**Criticism
Moderator: Jennifer Holly Wells

Willy

Jeffrey Hotz (East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania), "Singer of the Unsung: Ted Kooser's Voice in
Sure Signs: New and Selected Poems 1980"
Carly Psenicka (Youngstown State University), "How the Psychedelic Revolution Popularized Kurt
Vonnegut's *The Sirens of Titan*"
Phil Greasley (University of Kentucky), "Philip Levine's Poetic Vision"Criticism
Moderator: James Gorman

Heritage

Guy Szuberla (University of Toledo), "George Ade's 'Fable of the Film-Fed Family' and Chicago's Essanay
Films"
Patricia Oman (Hastings College), "Belle Maniates' David Dunne: Romance or Political Commentary?"

Poetry 105B
Moderator: Mary Catherine Harper

Sarah Green (Hamline University), "Chances Are, Lafayette, Indiana"
Charles Peck (Purdue University), "Butterweed & Brick: Midwest Poems"
John Beall (Collegiate School), "Sixty Dances"

Mentoring Café 5:15 PM 105B

An informal discussion: How to launch a successful academic career
Facilitated by Ross Tangedal and Christian Knoeller

Executive Advisory Committee 6:00 PM TBA

Roger Bresnahan, secretary-treasurer	Jeffrey Hotz, 2014–2017
Philip Greasley, recording secretary	Jennifer Holly Wells, 2014–2017
Robert Beasecker, bibliographer	Andy Oler, 2015–2018
Marc Van Wormer, conference planner	Mary Minock, 2015–2018
Laura Julier, conference chair & website manager	Jane Holwerda, 2017–2020
Marilyn Atlas, awards coordinator	Patricia Oman, 2016–2019
Marcia Noe, editorial committee chair	Douglas Sheldon, 2016–2019
Mary DeJong Obuchowski, corporate board	Edward Morin, 2017–2020
Jeffrey Swenson, president	
Mary Catherine Harper, vice-president/president-elect	
Dawn Burns, past president	

Saturday, June 3, 2017

Registration 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM 105A
Book Display 8:00 AM–2:00 PM 105A

SILENT AUCTION for *A Dictionary of Midwestern Literature, Vol. 2* ends at 7:59 AM.

Annual Business Meeting 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM 105B

All are invited. A continental breakfast will be served.

Session H 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Criticism: Rememory and Place in the Novels of Toni Morrison Heritage
Moderators: Aaron Babcock and Kristin Distel

Kristin Distel (Ohio University), "Nothing Ever Dies': Rememory, Trauma, and Place in *Beloved* and *Paradise*"
Aaron Babcock (Ohio University), "I Only Remembered the Horses': Memory, Place, and Nostalgia in Toni Morrison's *Home*"
Josh Davis (Ohio University), "'We All Had a Taste': *Sula* and Women Artists of the Harlem Renaissance"

Creative Nonfiction
Moderator: Ryan Schnurr

Willy

James Gorman (Otterbein Univ.), "A Midwesterner's Reflections on Walking Journeys in 1810 & 2016"
Kari Smith (Detroit, MI), "Authenticating a Detroit Tiger"
Edward Morin (College for Creative Studies), "Other Roads Taken"

Session I

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM

Criticism

Heritage

Jeffrey Swenson (Hiram College), "Defending the Revolt from the Village: Reinforcing Sinclair Lewis in the Age of Trump"

Respondants: Jon K. Lauck, Marcia Noe

Criticism

Willy

Hemingway: Science, Faith, Geography, and the 'Lost Generation'
Moderator: Katherine Palmer

Michael Kim Roos (University of Cincinnati Blue Ash College), "Faith and Science in Hemingway's 'The Doctor and the Doctor's Wife.'"

John Beall (Collegiate School), "Paris and Hemingway: 'Big Two-Hearted River' and 'Now I Lay Me'"
Donald Daiker (Miami University), "Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*: A Lost Generation?"

Poetry

105B

Moderator: Dawn Burns

Skaidrite Stelzer (University of Toledo), "Distorted Gardens"
Mary Minock (Madonna University), New Poems of Fixed Form
Mary Catherine Harper (Defiance College), Poems from *Spelunking for Persephone*

Session J

12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

The Festival of Language: A Reading eXperiment

105B

-NOTE: Audience participation is encouraged but not required

Jane L. Carman (Festival of Language/Lit Fest Press)(Moderator)

Lucy Logsdon (Festival of Language)

Bill Yarrow (Joliet Junior College)

Kathleen Miller (Illinois State University)

Mary Catherine Harper (Defiance College)

Dawn Burns (Peabody Public Library, Columbia City, IN)

SSML Annual Writing Prize Nominations and Publication

Please use this form if you wish to submit your work to be considered for one of the prizes below.

Eligibility and Requirements: Entries must have been presented at the SSML Annual East Lansing Conference, must 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 next volume of *MidAmerica*.

Four (4) blind copies of each entry should be provided (i.e., your name should not appear on the title page or on page-headers).

Deadline: August 1, 2017. This form, together with the 4 copies, may be turned in at the conference registration table or mailed to Marilyn J. Atlas, SSML Prize Coordinator, 230 North Roosevelt Avenue, Bexley, OH 43209. For questions please contact Marilyn at atlas@ohio.edu.

Name: _____

University affiliation (if any): _____

Degree program (if student): _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Prize (\$250)

You may enter up to 3 poems, but no more than 14 pages. Please list titles:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Paul Somers Prize for Creative Prose (\$250)

Please indicate the genre of your entry—fiction, memoir, or creative nonfiction—and list the title:

David Diamond Student Writing Prize (\$1,000)

Please indicate the genre of your entry—poetry, fiction, or creative nonfiction—and list the title:

David D. Anderson Midwestern Heritage Prize for Literary Criticism (\$250)

Please list the title of your essay:

Note: If you are submitting your conference paper for the Prize for Literary Criticism Prize, you may also want to submit it to be considered by the peer reviewers for publication in *MidAmerica*. If so, you should send an electronic copy of your paper separately to marcia-noe@utc.edu by July 1, 2017.