

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Registration 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

SESSION A 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.

THIRD ANNUAL SSML FESTIVAL OF FILMS Lake Ontario Room

Introduction: Ronald R. Primeau (Central Michigan University)

Moderator: David M. Phelps (Compass Film Academy)

Aaron B. Smith (Dusk Films), “Michigan Sky” and “Hunting,” a screening and discussion
David M. Phelps (Compass Film Academy), “Fianchetto” and “War Prayer,” a screening and discussion

FICTION Parlor A

Moderator: Marcia Noe (University of Tennessee, Chattanooga)

Darrin Doyle (Miami University of Ohio), “The Odds”
Mabel Benson DuPriest (Carthage College), “Christina’s Story”
Matthew Roberson (Central Michigan University), “Ortho Tri-Cyclen Lo”

CRITICISM Parlor B

Moderator: Joseph Wydeven (Bellevue University)

Mary DeJong Obuchowski (Central Michigan University Emerita), “Field o’ My Dreams?:
Gene Stratton-Porter’s Poetry”
Lyanne Musselman (Ivy Tech Community College, Indianapolis), “Indiana Literature: A
State of Sarcasm”
Janet Ruth Heller (Western Michigan University), “Letters Home from a Map-Maker for
General Patton”

POETRY Parlor C

Moderator: Leonora Smith (Michigan State University)

Mark Yakich (Central Michigan University), “September 12th”
David Breeden (Meadville Theological School), “1927”
Roy Seeger (Western Michigan University), “Poetry of Place”

SESSION B 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

FILM FESTIVAL Lake Ontario Room

Screening and Discussion of New Midwestern Films

Moderator: David M. Phelps (Compass Film Academy)

Ryan Trauman (University of Louisville), *Questions for Lydia*
Diane Glancy (Macalaster College), *The Dome of Heaven*, based on Diane Glancy’s *Flutie*

CREATIVE NONFICTION Parlor A

Moderator: Darrin Doyle (Miami University of Ohio)

Kevin Burke (Michigan State University), “Foundings”
Nicholas Kowalczyk (University of Iowa), “Murder in Rust-Belt City: A Return to Lorain,
Ohio”
Holly Winwood (University of Cincinnati), “Mapping Community: An Organic Intellectual
Voicing the Local”

CRITICISM

Parlor B

Moderator: Sara Kosiba (Kent State University)

Hillery Glasby (MidMichigan Community College), “Characters and the City: The Parallelism of Detroit and Cal, of Jeffrey Eugenides’ *Middlesex*, and Debby, of Mary Gaitskill’s *Secretary*”

Susan Schiller (Central Michigan University), “Cather’s Anodyne of Hope: Cecile Dispenses and Receives”

James Seaton (Michigan State University), “Willa Cather Today”

POETRY

Parlor C

Moderator: Jayne Marek (Franklin College)

Ellen Arl (University of South Carolina, Sumter), “By Design: An Architecture Poem”

Susanna Childress (Florida State University), Selected Poems from *Jagged with Love* and “The Hyssop Tub”

Martha Vertrease-Doody (Kennedy-King College), Selected Poems

SESSION C

4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

FILM FESTIVAL

Lake Ontario Room

Moderator: David M. Phelps (Compass Film Academy)

David B. Schock (penULTIMATE, Ltd.), Screening of *Distinct and Midwestern: Dave Anderson Talks about the History of the SSML*

POETRY

Parlor C

Moderator: Martha Vertrease-Doody (Kennedy-King College)

Jayne Marek (Franklin College), “Nothing Is Given”

Janet Ruth Heller (Western Michigan University), “Rummage Sale”

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Dinner Break

Editorial Committee Meeting

Parlor B

Marcia Noe, David Anderson, Marilyn Atlas, Ned Watts, Ronald Primeau, Robert Beasecker, Roger Bresnahan, Mary Obuchowski, Nancy McKinney

7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Open Mic

Parlor C

Join us for informal reading short of work-in-progress, vignettes, or humorous pieces in a revived and expanded version of Dick Thomas’ informal Amusing Muse series. This is an opportunity for those of us interested in creative writing to get together and share our work. Bring your work to read (each piece no longer than five minutes long)—or just come to listen.

Friday, May 11, 2007

Registration 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

SESSION D

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

CREATIVE NONFICTION

Parlor A

Moderator: Mabel Benson DuPriest (Carthage College)

Lawrence Moe (Metropolitan State University), “Sam”

Ryan Trauman (University of Louisville), “Something about the Horizon. The Future. Words. Magic”

CRITICISM

Parlor B

Midwestern Short Fiction

Moderator: Sheena Denney (University of Tennessee, Chattanooga)

Jennifer Baughman (University of Tennessee, Chattanooga), “To Laugh or Not To Laugh”

Jennifer Cathey, (University of Tennessee, Chattanooga), “Using Kenneth Burke’s ‘A Grammar of Motives’ To Explicate Willa Cather’s ‘Coming, Aphrodite!’”

Sheena Denney (University of Tennessee, Chattanooga), “Romanticizing Rhinestones: The Reversal of Fantasy in F. Scott Fitzgerald’s ‘The Diamond as Big as the Ritz’”

POETRY

Parlor C

Moderator: Ellen Arl (University of South Carolina, Sumter)

Todd Davis (Pennsylvania State University, Altoona), “Some Heaven and Other Poems”

Jeff Stumpo (Texas A & M), “Politics of a Subtle Landscape”

Leonora Smith (Michigan State University), “New Poems”

CRITICISM

Gold Room

Moderator: Scott Emmert (University of Wisconsin, Fox Valley)

Matthew Low (University of Iowa), “Rereading Hamlin Garland’s *The Book of the American Indian: An Indigenous Literary Critical Approach*”

Kenneth Grant (University of Wisconsin, Baraboo), “August Derleth’s Juvenilia”

SESSION E

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

DRAMA

Parlor A

Writing the Midwestern Play

Moderator: John Rohrkemper (Elizabethtown College)

David Radavich (Eastern Illinois University), “Writing *The Life and Times of Jumpin’ Joe Skinner*”

Sandra Seaton (Central Michigan University Emerita), Writing *Martha Stewart Slept Here*

John Rohrkemper (Elizabethtown College), “Writing *In Harm’s Way*”

CRITICISM

Parlor B

The Works of Herbert Woodward Martin

Moderator: Ronald Primeau (Central Michigan University)

Maureen Eke (Central Michigan University), “Re(membering) the Middle Passage: Robert Hayden, Nicolas Guillen, and Herbert Woodward Martin”

David Shevin (Central State University, Wilberforce, Ohio), Editing with Herbert Woodward Martin: *The BottomDog Books*”

Ronald Primeau (Central Michigan University), “New, Used, and Repossessed: Back Then and Right Now in *Inscribing My Name* (2007)”

POETRY

Parlor C

Moderator: Pablo Peschiera (University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point)

Christian Knoeller (Purdue University), “Perfect Shadows”

Mary Minock (Madonna University), “Poems, Prose and Pictures: Detroit in Story”

Edward Morin (College for Creative Studies, Detroit), “Poems and Co-Translations”

CRITICISM

Gold Room

Moderator: Marilyn Atlas (Ohio University)

Nancy Down (Bowling Green State University), “To Stay or Flee: Midwestern Writers’ Response to Life in the Small Town”

Jayne Waterman (Ashland University), “Bursting the ‘Bubble’: The Grotesque of Steven Soderbergh’s Small Midwestern Town”

David D. Anderson (Michigan State University Emeritus), “The Midwesternness of Midwestern Fiction”

12:00 Noon

Lunch Break

Officers’ Working Luncheon

Green Room

David Anderson, Executive Secretary
James Seaton, President
Roger Bresnahan, Secretary-Treasurer
Joanne Isbey, Past President
Philip Greasley, Recording Secretary and *DML* Editor
Nancy McKinney, Vice-President, President-Elect
Mary DeJong Obuchowski, Program Chair, Scholarship Chair
Robert Beasecker, Bibliographer
Marc Van Wormer, Conference Planner
Marilyn Atlas, Awards Coordinator
Marcia Noe, Editorial Board Convener
Ned Watts, Book Prize Coordinator

Linda Peterson, Executive Council 2004-2007
Kenneth P. Grant, Executive Council 2004-2007
Melody Zajdel, Executive Council 2005-2008
James Boehnlein, Executive Council 2005-2008
Laura Julier, Executive Council 2006-2009
Lawrence Moe, Executive Council 2006-2009
Jayne Waterman, Executive Council 2007-2010
Christian Knoeller, Executive Council 2007-2010

SESSION F**1:30 – 3:00 p.m.**

CREATIVE NONFICTION

Parlor A

Place and Geography: Essays from the Midwest

Moderators: Laura Julier (Michigan State University) and Linda Peterson (Central Michigan University)

- Dedria Humphries Barker (Lansing Community College), “Finding Buck Creek”
 Stephen Adams (Westfield State College), “Doling Park and the Terrain of Childhood”
 Shari Zeck (Illinois State University), “My Mother’s Farm”

CRITICISM

Parlor B

The Midwest without Borders

Moderator: Nancy McKinney (Taylorville, IL)

- Roy Seeger (Western Michigan University), “Tell Me Over and Over Again: The Gendering of the Vietnam War and the Cycles of Trauma in Tim O’Brien’s *In the Lake in the Woods*”
 Marilyn Atlas (Ohio University), “Ethnicity, Geography, and Humor in Adam Langer’s *Crossing California* and *The Washington Story*”
 Bob Mellin (Purdue North Central), “Limberlost Girl, Meet Dune Boy; Dune Boy, Limberlost Girl: Gender, Class, and Place in Early 20th Century Northern Indiana”

POETRY

Parlor C

Moderator: Todd Davis (Pennsylvania State University, Altoona)

- Margo LaGattuta (University of Michigan, Flint), selected poems
 Carolyn Walker (Wayne State University), from *Song from Antarctica*
 Pablo Peschiera (University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point), “The Suitcase in the Trees”

CRITICISM

Gold Room

Moderator: Philip A. Greasley (University of Kentucky)

- Christian Knoeller (Purdue University), “Native on Native: Place in the Correspondence of James Wright and Leslie Silko”
 Jonathan Ivry (University of Wisconsin, Whitewater), “‘Sworn to Water’: Lorine Niedecker’s Poetics of the River”
 Kenneth Grant (University of Wisconsin, Baraboo), “August Derleth’s Juvenilia”

SESSION G**3:30 – 5:00 p.m.**

FICTION

Parlor A

Moderator: David Radavich (Eastern Illinois University)

- Diane Glancy (Macalaster College), From *The Dance Partner*
 Carolyn Walker (Wayne State University), From *Solomon’s Rock*

CRITICISM

Parlor B

Moderator: Linda Bearss (Arthur Hill High School)

- Linda Bearss (Arthur Hill High School), “Theodore Roethke: Beyond the Greenhouse”
 Ann Ransford (Saginaw Valley State University), “Theodore Roethke in his Saginaw Context”
 Alexandra Noppe (Saginaw Valley State University)

Matthew Falk (Saginaw Valley State University), “‘Sound and Silence’: Theodore Roethke’s North American Mysticism”

CREATIVE NONFICTION

Parlor C

Place and Memory: Essays from the Midwest

Moderators: Linda Peterson (Central Michigan University) and Laura Julier (Michigan State University)

Martha Demerly (Bloomfield Hills, MI), “South Dakota Sanctuary”

Mabel Benson DuPriest (Carthage College), “The Green Packard”

Suzanne Kosanke (University of Hawaii), “Fieldstones”

Janet Ruth Heller (Western Michigan University), “Returning to Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin”

CRITICISM

Gold Room

Moderator: Nancy Down (Bowling Green State University)

Philip A. Greasley (University of Kentucky), “Paul Laurence Dunbar and Mark Twain: Humor, Dialect, and Message”

Guy Szuberla (University of Toledo, Emeritus), “The Midwesterner as Out-of-Towner”

6:30 p.m.	Cash Bar and Awards Banquet	Marriott Hotel
------------------	------------------------------------	-----------------------

MidAmerica Award:

David Diamond

Mark Twain Award:

Stuart Dybek

The Jill Barnum Midwestern Heritage Prize for Literary Criticism 2006:

James Seaton for “William Dean Howells and Humanistic Criticism”

The David Diamond Student Writing Prize 2006:

Michael Merva for “An Illusion of Understanding: Listeners and Tellers in Sherwood Anderson’s *Winesburg, Ohio* and Carson McCuller’s *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*”

The Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Prize 2006:

Ellen Arl for “March Afternoon Tea”

Saturday, May 12, 2007

Annual Business Meeting 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Gold Room A

Continental breakfast; election of officers; feedback on website; new initiatives for the coming year.

SESSION H	9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
------------------	--------------------------

FICTION

Gold Room A

Moderator: Margo Lagattuta (University of Michigan, Flint)

Carolyn Walker (Wayne State University), from “Solomon’s Rock”

Todd Ide (Western Michigan University), “The Lame Walk and the Dead Raised”

CRITICISM

Gold Room B

Moderator: Jayne Waterman (Ashland University),
Sandra Humble Johnson (Zayed University), “Nancy Drew and the Desert: A Mystery of
Landscape in the Midwest and Middle East”
Susan Larkin (Central Michigan University), “Life Writing/Writing a Culture: Laura Ingalls
Wilder”
Joseph Wydeven, (Bellevue University), “Is There Such a Thing as *Midwestern*
Autobiography?”

CREATIVE NONFICTION

Green Room

Growing Up Midwest: Memoirs
Moderators: Laura Julier (Michigan State University) and Linda Peterson (Central Michigan
University)
Maria Bruno (Michigan State University), “At the Foot of Mt. Etna”
David Diamond (Black Hills State University), “The Printer’s Devil”

SESSION I **10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

CREATIVE NONFICTION

Gold Room A

Moderator: Janet Ruth Heller (Western Michigan University)
Marc Van Wormer (Lansing, MI)
Margo Lagattuta (University of Michigan, Flint)

CRITICISM

Gold Room B

Moderator: Kenneth Grant (University of Wisconsin, Baraboo)
Philip Christman, Jr. (Marquette University, Milwaukee), “Midwestern Religion in the Novels
of David Rhodes”
Scott Emmert (University of Wisconsin, Fox Valley), “Hidden in Plain Sight: Sports,
Religion, and Midwestern Deviance in Darren DeFrain’s *The Salt Palace*”

CRITICISM

Green Room

Moderator: Marcia Noe (University of Tennessee, Chattanooga)
David Radavich (Eastern Illinois University), “Dramatizing the Midwest”
Lawrence Moe (Metropolitan State University), “Knud Wefald’s Hjemkomst”
Sara Kosiba (Kent State University), “Not a Silent Minority: Why Midwestern Writers Matter
in the Modernist Era”

Editorial Committee **1:00 p.m.** **Green Room**

Meeting of the *Dictionary of Midwestern Literature* Editorial Committee
David Anderson, Bob Dunne, Mary Obuchowski, Phil Greasley (editor), Nancy McKinney, Guy Szuberla, Bill
Barillas, David Newquist, Joe Wydeven, Robert Beasecker, Marcia Noe, Marilyn Atlas

* * *

If you would like to submit your conference essay for consideration for *MidAmerica 2007*, please
send it by September 1, 2007, to Marcia Noe, 535 Elinor Street, Chattanooga, TN 37405.

SSML Annual Writing Prize Nominations

The Jill Barnum Midwestern Heritage Prize for Literary Criticism

The Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Prize (up to 3 poems, but no more than 14 pages)

The Paul Somers Award for Creative Prose

The David Diamond Student Writing Prize (creative or scholarly work; please also indicate your degree program)

Name: _____

University affiliation (if any): _____

Mailing address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail _____

Prize for which you wish to be considered: _____

Title of work: _____

Eligibility: Entries must have been presented at the SSML Annual Symposium in East Lansing, must never have been published or committed for publication, must be original, and must have a demonstrable Midwestern character (e.g., topic, theme, tone, imagery, as appropriate to genre). Winning entries and honorable mentions will be published in the appropriate volume of *MidAmerica*.

Submissions: For each entry, 4 blind copies should be provided (*i.e.*, your name should not appear on the title page or on page headers). 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, OH 43209

Permissions: If you agree, non-winning critical entries will be forwarded to the *MidAmerica* and *Midwestern Miscellany* editorial committee and will be considered for publication.

_____ Yes, I agree. Please forward my essay to the editorial board.

_____ No, if I am not an award winner please do not consider my essay for publication in *MidAmerica* or *Midwestern Miscellany*.

Inquiries: E-mail atlas@ohio.edu or telephone 614-237-8925.

Deadline: Must be received by **June 15, 2007**.