

The 38th Annual Meeting of the
Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature

The Cultural Heritage of the Midwest: A Symposium
The Midwest Poetry Festival
The 4th Annual Midwestern Film Festival

May 8-10, 2008
Michigan State University Union, East Lansing, MI

Thursday, May 8, 2007

Registration 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Session A

12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.

Poetry Lake Ontario Room

African American Midwest Poetry

Moderator: Heather Buchanan (University of Michigan, Dearborn, Lansing Community College)
Karen Williams (Michigan State University) "Writing Through and Beyond the Periphery: Poetry
of a Woman from a Predominantly Black Small Town"

Felecia Studstill (Aquarius Press) "Writing about What You Know: Distinguishing Fact from
Truth"

Heather Buchanan (University of Michigan, Dearborn, Lansing Community College) "African
Americans Writing the Midwest: *African American Midwest Literature & North: An Epic
of the Great Migration*"

Creative Nonfiction Parlor A

Moderator: Jo Anne Isbey (University of Detroit Mercy)

Kelli Rex (Central Michigan University) "Scenes from a County Fair"

Patrick S. McGinnity (Central Michigan University) "The Brotherhood of Idiots"

Criticism Parlor B

Perspectives on Chicago I

Moderator:

Joseph J. Wydeven (Bellevue University emeritus) "Looking High and Low for Work in Chicago:
Theodore Dreiser and Frank Lloyd Wright"

Jennifer Miller (Northern Arizona University) "The Haunting of Joe Ditto"

Arvid Sponberg (Valparaiso University) "Professional Playwriting in Chicago, 1970-2008"

Fiction Parlor C

Moderator: Nancy McKinney (Illinois State University)

John Davidson (Central Michigan University) "Elephant Scene from 'Circurse,' Chapter 2 of
Tragoedia, IN"

Rachel A. Baker (Defiance College) "The Ballet Shoes"

Pamela Smiley (Carthage College) "Mark's Death"

Session B

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Film Festival Lake Ontario Room

Moderator: Ronald Primeau (Central Michigan University)

Ryan Trauman (University of Louisville) "Ironing"

David Schock (Grand Haven, MI) "Progress Report on a Film about Herbert W. Martin"

Creative Nonfiction Parlor A

Moderator: Lylanne Musselman (University of Indianapolis)

Mary Minock (Madonna University) From *The Tenants: A Memoir of Southwest Detroit*

Kasey Coder (Defiance College) "Deflowered"

Signe Jorgenson (University of Alaska, Anchorage) From "Swinging By"

Criticism

Parlor B

Moderator: Sara Kosiba (Merrimack College)

Jayne Waterman (Ashland University) "Writing About Home: Dawn Powell's Ohio"

Edward Dauterich (Kent State University) "Beyond Regionalism: Marxist Influence in Dawn Powell's *The Story of a Country Boy*"

Sara Kosiba (Merrimack College) "Dawn Powell in the 21st Century"

Poetry

Parlor C

Moderator: Roy Seeger (Western Michigan University)

Martha Vertreace-Doody (Kennedy-King College) "The Further Adventures of Elizabeth Caldwell Smith Duncan"

Rhonda Pettit (University of Cincinnati, Blue Ash) "'The Floating Words' and Other Poems"

Curtis Crisler (Indiana University Purdue University, Fort Wayne) "The Melodious Pondering of Place"

Session C

4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Film Festival

Lake Ontario Room

Moderator: Ronald Primeau (Central Michigan University)

David Schock (Grand Haven, MI) Screening of "Distinct and Midwestern: Dave Anderson Talks about the History of the SSML"

Criticism

Parlor A

Moderator: Sandra Johnson (Zayed University)

Jo Anne Isbey (University of Detroit Mercy) "James Boggs' 1963 *American Revolution: Then and Now*"

Susan Schiller (Central Michigan University) "Exquisiteness and Hope in Cather's *A Lost Lady*"

M. Ellen Dupree (University of Nevada, Reno) "Working-class Resistance to the Muckrakers' Chicago in Onoto Watanna's *Me*"

Law and Literature

Parlor B

Moderator and Commentator: James Seaton (Michigan State University)

Mae Kuykendall (Michigan State University College of Law) "Midwestern Writers on Business, Boredom, and Law"

Renee Newman Knake (Michigan State University College of Law) "Professional Responsibility: Understanding Legal Ethics through the Fiction of Scott Turow"

Nancy Bunge (Michigan State University) "Logic and Literature: Scott Turow's Writings on the Death Penalty"

Philip A. Greasley (University of Kentucky) "John Donaldson Voelker: Idealism, Irony, Film, and Fish"

Creative Nonfiction

Parlor C

Using the Knowledge of Place

Moderator: Joseph Wydeven (Bellevue University emeritus)

Zachary Jack (North Central College) "Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall, All You Got to Do Is Call: A Living History of Iowa Letters"

Nels Christensen (Albion College) "What the Whitehouse Nature Center Can Tell Us About Learning and the Land"

Lylanne Musselman (University of Indianapolis) "Eaton, Indiana: My Hoosier Hometown"

Dinner Break

5:30 p.m.

Editorial Committee Meeting

Parlor B

Marcia Noe, chair

Robert Beasecker

Nancy McKinney

David Anderson

Philip Greasley

James Seaton

Marilyn Atlas

Roger Bresnahan

Ronald Primeau

Mary Obuchowski

Session D**7:30 – 9:00 p.m.**

Law, Literature, and Film Lake Ontario Room
 Moderator: James Seaton (Michigan State University)
 Film: *The Anatomy of a Murder*

Friday, May 9, 2007

Registration 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Session E**8:30 – 10:00 a.m.**

Creative Nonfiction Parlor A
 Moderator: Susan Schiller (Central Michigan University)
 Ryan Trauman (University of Louisville) "Resurrection Man"
 Sue Webb (Michigan State University) "Charms and Chasms"

Criticism Parlor B
 The Midwest as Seen by Non-Midwestern Writers
 Moderator: Jayne Waterman (Ashland University)
 Christian Knoeller (Purdue University) "Writing in the Wake of History: Audubon's Journey on the Missouri"
 Jeffrey Hotz (East Stroudsburg University) "Imagining the New West, a Midwest, in Caroline Kirkland's *A New Home: Who'll Follow?*"
 Marilyn Atlas (Ohio University) "The Midwest as Place and Symbol: Margaret Fuller's *Summer on the Lakes, in 1843*"
 Marc Seals (University of Wisconsin, Baraboo/Sauk Center) "An Englishman in Wisconsin: Neil Gaiman as Midwestern Author"

Poetry Parlor C
 Moderator: Philip A Greasley (University of Kentucky)
 Kevin McKelvey (Purdue University) "Two Ecosystems: Eco-poetry from Isle Royale National Park in Michigan and Charles C. Deam Wilderness Area in Indiana"
 Ed Morin (College for Creative Studies) Selected Poems

Theodore Roethke Centennial I Gold Room A
 Moderator: Annie Ransford (Director of Roethke House)
 Friends of Theodore Roethke: A History of a Historic House in Theodore Roethke's Centennial Year, 2008
 Gayle Jocks (Delta College emerita)
 Connie Baird (Hemlock, MI)
 Kay Harley (Saginaw Valley State University)
 Annie Ransford (Director of Roethke House)

Session F**10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

Creative Nonfiction Parlor A
 Place and Loss
 Moderator: Linda Peterson (Central Michigan University)
 Amy Nolan (Wartburg College) "Trailing a Legacy"
 Rosemary Davis (Hamline University) "Tanners Lake: Vessel and Requiem"
 Laura Julier (Michigan State University) "Off Izaak Walton Road"

Criticism Parlor B
 Perspectives on Chicago II
 Moderator: Kenneth Grant (University of Wisconsin, Baraboo)
 Richmond B. Adams (Southern Illinois University) "Sectarian Express: The Good Company of Gas-House McGinty"

Guy Szuberla (University of Toledo emeritus) "Steven Tesich's *Breaking Away* and *Summer Crossing*"
JoAnne Ruvoli (University of Illinois, Chicago) "The Social Worker and the Cleaning Woman: Elia Peattie's *The Precipice* and Marie Hall Ets' *Rosa: The Life of an Italian Immigrant*"

Poetry Parlor C
Moderator: Martha Vertreace-Doodly (Kennedy-King College)
Lylanne Musselman (University of Indianapolis) Selected Poems
Christian Knoeller (Purdue University) "Dancing in Another World"
Todd Ide (Michigan State University) "Fatherly Love" and Other Poems

Theodore Roethke Centennial II Gold Room A
Moderator: Ronald Primeau (Central Michigan University)
Diana Hoover (Central Michigan University) "Roethke's Poetic Women"
Clint Burhans (Central Michigan University) "Roethke and Blake: Deceptive Simplicity"
Annie Ransford (Director of Roethke House) "Roethke and Hemingway"
Mellisa Klamer (Central Michigan University) "A State of Partial Completeness: The Afterlife of Theodore Roethke"

Lunch break 12:00 Noon

Officers' Working Luncheon David Anderson, executive secretary Roger Bresnahan, secretary-treasurer Philip Greasley, recording secretary and DML editor Robert Beasecker, bibliographer Marc Van Wormer, conference planner Marilyn Atlas, awards coordinator Mary DeJong Obuchowski, program chair, scholarship chair	Green Room Marcia Noe, chair, Editorial Committee Nancy McKinney, president James Seaton, past president Kenneth Grant, vice-president, president-elect 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
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Session G 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Fiction & Creative Nonfiction Parlor A
Moderator: Ryan Trauman (University of Louisville)
Dawn Comer (Defiance College) "Raised in a Corn Palace"
Jane Holwerda (Dodge City Community College) "Guitar"
Todd Ide (Michigan State University) A Selection from "Loss: A Father's Story of Miscarriage"
Carolyn Walker (Wayne State University) From *Circling Jennifer*

Criticism Parlor B
Moderator: Bob Mellin (Purdue North Central)
John Rohrkemper (Elizabethtown College) "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Black Man: Milkman's Quest in *Song of Solomon*"
Matthew Low (University of Iowa) "John Neihardt Writes: Textual Appropriations of Indigenous Oral Storytelling"
Kayleen Schumacher (Central Michigan University) "Where Are You From: Analyzing Regionalism"

Fiction Parlor C
Moderator: Marilyn Atlas (Ohio University)
Stephanie Carpenter (University of Missouri, Columbia) From *Doctor and Patient*, a novel-in-progress
Matthew L. M. Fletcher (Michigan State University College of Law) From "Parker Roberts"
Jim Gorman (Otterbine College) "William's Story: A Journey South, No Up"

Poetry Gold Room A
Moderator: Jo Anne Isbey (University of Detroit Mercy)
Teneice Durrant Delgado (University of Toledo) From *The Goldilocks Complex*

Glenn Sheldon (University of Toledo) Poems from *Bird Scarer*
Margo LaGattuta (Oakland University) *Muse in the Night*

Session H 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Creative Nonfiction Parlor A
The Stories of Place
Moderator: Laura Julier (Michigan State University)
Glenn Sheldon (University of Toledo) "A Side Trip to Sheldon, ND"
Andrew Hatcher (Northern Illinois University) "A History of Shadows: A Tale of Two Schools in One Midwestern City"
Stephen Adams (Westfield State College) "One Last Retreat: The Bush Family Cabin"

Criticism Parlor B
Moderator: Marcia Noe (University of Tennessee, Chattanooga)
Kenneth Grant (University of Wisconsin, Baraboo) "August Derleth and the Little Magazines"
Scott Emmert (University of Wisconsin, Fox Valley,) "Our True Hope: Temperance, Literature, and Moral Character in a 19th Century Wisconsin Periodical"
Jim Boehnlein (University of Dayton) "A Treatment of Visual Thematics in *Blankets* by Craig Thompson"
Mark Buechsel (Palm Beach Atlantic University) "Music and the Spirit of Tragedy in Hamlin Garland's 'Up the Coolly': The Nietzschean Subtext of *Main-Travelled Roads*"

Creative Writing Parlor C
Moderators: Michael Kula (Carroll College) and B. J. Best (Carroll College)
B. J. Best (Carroll College) Selected Poems
Gigi Said (Carroll College) Selected Poems
Nick Ostdick (Carroll College) "Wake Up, Wake Up"
Michael Kula (Carroll College) "The Cattle Specialist"

Poetry Gold Room A
Moderator: Todd Ide (Michigan State University)
Alice Wydeven (Papillion, NE)
Roy Seeger (Western Michigan University)
Margaret Rozga (University of Wisconsin, Waukesha) From *March on Milwaukee: A Memoir of the Open Housing Protests*

Session I 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Mentoring Café Location TBA

Awards Banquet 6:30 p.m. MSU Union

MidAmerica Award:	James Seaton
Mark Twain Award:	Jonis Agee
Jill Barnum Midwestern Heritage Prize for Literary Criticism:	Christian Knoeller for "Native on Native"
Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Prize Award Poem:	Todd E. Davis for "Tree of Heaven"
Paul Somers Prize for Creative Prose:	Maria Bruno for "At the Foot of Mt. Etna"
David Diamond Student Writing Prize:	Nicholas Kowalczyk for "Murder in Rustbelt City"

Saturday, May 10, 2007

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Gold Room A

Annual Business Meeting: Continental breakfast; election of officers; new initiatives for the coming year.

Session J 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Fiction Gold Room A
Moderator: Nancy McKinney (Illinois State University)
James Marlow (University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth) "Burying Crazy Horse"
Pamela Priest Naeve (Portola Valley, CA) "Leaving Ohio"

Criticism Gold Room B
Moderator: Joseph Wydeven (Bellevue University emeritus)
Lawrence Moe (Metropolitan State University) "The Prairie Poetry of Paul Southworth Bliss"
Jennifer Holly Wells (Drew University) "Watching the Weather and the Citizenry: How Carol Kennicott and Fleur Pillager Survive the Snowstorm"
Curtis Burdette (Central Michigan University) "An Indiana Farmer in Klondike's Cold: The 1898 Wile Letters Chronicling Wile's Journey and His Family's Response"
Sandra Johnson (Zayed University) "Facade and Faux: Philosophy from the Midwest and Middle East"

Creative Nonfiction Green Room
The Wisdom of Place
Moderator: Laura Julier (Michigan State University)
Tracy Seeley (University of San Francisco) "Matfield Green"
Linda Peterson (Central Michigan University) "Walking With Morgan"
Nicholas Kowalczyk (University of Iowa) "The Prodigal Son of Lorain"

Session K 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Creative Nonfiction Gold Room A
Moderator: Stephen Adams (Westfield State College)
Lawrence Moe (Metropolitan State University) "Stella"
Marc Van Wormer (Lansing, MI) "Irony"
Mary Jean Port (The Loft Literary Center, Minneapolis) From *The Dark River Runs Clear*
Andre Perry (University of Iowa) "Better than Others"

Law and Literature Gold Room B
Moderator: James Seaton (Michigan State University)
Fred Baker, Jr. (Michigan Supreme Court Commissioner and Secretary/Treasurer of the John D. Voelker Foundation) "An Anatomy of *Anatomy of a Murder*"

Criticism Green Room
Moderator: Matthew Low (University of Iowa)
David Settle (Grand Valley State University) "'St. Clair Flats' and the American Dream"
Bob Mellin (Purdue North Central) "The Lay of the Dunes: Rethinking Kolodny in Thomas Rogers' *At the Shores*"
Janet Ruth Heller (Western Michigan University) "Psychological Images in the Poetry of Hart Crane"
David D. Anderson (Michigan State University emeritus) "The Midwest and the Continuity of American Prose Fiction"

Editorial Board Meeting 1:00 – 10:00 p.m.
Dictionary of Midwestern Literature Green Room

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

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, 2008 to Marcia Noe, 535 Elinor Street, Chattanooga, TN 37405. Go to www.ssml.org/publications and click on the *MidAmerica* link for details.

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: _____

Phone: _____ 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**.