

The 44th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature

The Cultural Heritage of the Midwest: A Symposium

May 8–10, 2014

Kellogg Conference Center
219 South Harrison Road, East Lansing, MI

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Registration 11:00 AM–4:00 PM South Lobby
Kellogg Conference Center has a lactation room: inquire at the hotel desk for more information.

Coffee & tea 11:00 AM–2:00 PM Willy Room

Session A 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Criticism Room 102
Moderator: Mary Obuchowski

Albert Battistelli (Kent State University) "The Soldier and His Environment: Nature and Psychology in Thomas Boyd's *Through the Wheat*"
David Alan Rennie (University of Aberdeen) "The Changing Naturalism of Thomas Boyd: An Exposition of 'Through the Wheat' and 'In Time of Peace'"
Christian Knoeller (Purdue University) "Paul Gruchow's Narratives of Environmental History: Islands of Time"

Creative Nonfiction Heritage Room
Moderator: Dawn Comer

Brian Gilmore (Michigan State University) "It's Fun to Stay at the Y.M.C.A."
Regan Schaeffer (Central Michigan University) "The Mouse Patrol"
Martha Vertreace-Doody (Kennedy King College) "'Let Us Then Be Up and Doing': Elizabeth Caldwell Duncan and Slavery"
Joyce Meier (Michigan State University) "A Michigan Winter Morphs into Spring"

Poetry Room 106
Moderator: Roger Bresnahan

Glenn Sheldon (University of Toledo) "Spin the Globe"
Phillip Howerton (Missouri State University-West Plains) "Bloodroot: Poems from Missouri"
C.J. Opperthausen (Cincinnati State Technical and Community College) "Boomtown: Poems"
Mary Minock (Madonna University) "The Wild Flowers of Detroit: Poems"

Session B 2:15 PM – 3:45 PM

Criticism Room 102
Moderator: Marc Seals

Brianne Jaquette (University of Missouri) "Bill Nye and Place-based Identity: Parsing Provinciality in the *Pittsburgh Dispatch*"
John Beck (School of Human Resources and Labor Relations) "Struggle and Tragedy: Recent Fiction and the 1913–14 Michigan Copper Strike"
Michelle Campbell (Purdue University) "Popular Politics and Personal Ties: Identity Politics and Liberation in *Iola Leroy*"
James Boehnlein (University of Dayton) "Charles Edward Russell: Mere Muckraker?"

Fiction Heritage Room
Moderator: Margaret Rozga

Dawn Comer (Defiance College) "Evangelina Contemplates 'Prime Space'"
Keith Tookey (Eureka College) "Story Discussion Exercise: A Plan of Action"
Eric Tucker (Hastings College) "The Spider"

Creative Nonfiction
Moderator: Laura Julier

Room 106

Leonora Smith (Michigan State University) "Blood Sick"
Ana Holguin (Michigan State University) "All Made-up"
Rebecca Rohde (Michigan State University) "Gut Instincts"
Stephanie Amada (Michigan State University) TBA

Session C 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Criticism Willy Room
Moderator: Marc Seals

Glenn Sheldon (University of Toledo) "Shortest, Last Breaths of Thomas McGrath's *Death Song*"
Janet Heller (Michigan College English Association) "The Obsessions of Joe Dale Bigg, Medicine Ed Salter,
and Rudy 'Two-Tie' Samuels in Jaimy Gordon's *Lord of Misrule*."
Philip Greasley (University of Kentucky) "Carl Sandburg's Oral and Imagist Poetics."

Creative Nonfiction Heritage Room
Moderator: Mary Catherine Harper

Eva English (University of Toledo) "Uncommon Blood"
Kelly Dopp (Defiance College) "White Dress"
Joseph Bales (Defiance College) "Legacy"
Mary Minock (Madonna University) "The Music: A Memoir"

Roundtable: Reconsidering the Midwestern "Revolt Against the Village" Room 102

Moderator: Jon Lauck
Sara Kosiba (Troy University)
Marcia Noe (University of Tennessee-Chattanooga)
Ken Grant (University of Wisconsin-Baraboo/Sauk County)
Andy Oler (Indiana University)
Rachael Price (University of Arkansas)

Dinner Break 5:30 PM

Editorial Committee Meeting State Room (private dining room)

Marcia Noe, chair	Marilyn Atlas	Ron Primeau	Scott Emmert
Robert Beasecker	Philip Greasley	Roger Bresnahan	Mary Obuchowski
Nancy McKinney	James Seaton	Sara Kosiba	Bill Barillas
Robert Dunne	Jeff Swenson		

Celebration 7:30 PM

A Celebration of the Work of Naomi Long Madgett Auditorium

Viewing of David Schock's film *Star By Star: Naomi Long Madgett, Poet & Publisher*, followed by informal discussion with 2014 Mark Twain Award winner Naomi Long Madgett and filmmaker David Schock.

Friday, May 9, 2014

Registration 8:00 AM–4:00 PM South Lobby
Kellogg Conference Center has a lactation room: inquire at the hotel desk for more information.

Coffee & tea 8:00 AM–10:00 AM Willy Room

Session D 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Criticism Room 102
Moderator: Mary Obuchowski

Doug Sheldon (College of DuPage) "Ohio from a Distance: Sherwood Anderson and the Language of Lament"
Ken Grant (University of Wisconsin-Baraboo/Sauk County) "August Derleth's Honeymoon in Hollywood"
Russell Brickey (Youngstown State Univ.) "Paul Zimmer's Quiet Cold War: Reintroducing *Earthbound Zimmer*"

Panel: New Poems and Prose from Agroindustrial Indiana
Moderator: Kevin McKelvey

Room 106

Ryan Plummer (University of Indianapolis) "Regolith, Indiana"
Carl Corder (University of Montana) "Oil Baby"
Kimberly Hunter (University of Indianapolis) "Today's Rural"
Kevin McKelvey (University of Indianapolis) "Suburban Transplants"

The Presidential Panel: The Future of Midwestern Literature
Moderator/Respondent: Sara Kosiba, Troy University, 2013-2014 SSML president

Heritage Room

Patricia Oman (Hastings College) "Theorizing the Midwest"
Jayne Waterman (Ashland University) "Good Roots and New Shoots: Some Thoughts on the Future of
Midwestern Literature/Studies"
Jon Lauck (Midwestern History Working Group) "Reviving Midwestern History"

Session E 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM

Criticism

Willy Room

Moderator: Scott Emmert

Jeffrey Hotz (East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania) "Ted Kooser, Prose Writer and Memoirist"
Phillip Howerton (Missouri State University-West Plains) "From Imagining to Experiencing: Ted Kooser's
Unpredictable Sense of Place"
Jennifer Holly Wells (Drew University) "The Language of Community in Louise Erdrich's Fiction"
Russell Brickley (Youngstown State University) "Philip Levine Is an Extreme Visionary: 'Fist' and 'Coming
Home, Detroit, 1968'"

Criticism: The MidAmerica Award Panel
Moderator: Robert Dunne, 2014 MidAmerica Award Winner

Heritage Room

Marc Seals (University of Wisconsin-Baraboo/Sauk County) "'I'm Staying Right Here in Hell': The Coen
Brothers, Post-Noir Auteurs"
William Palmer (Purdue University) "Midwestern Film: The Best and Why"

Poetry
Moderator: Martha Vertreace-Doody

Room 106

Sarah Warren-Riley (Baker College) "Seasonal Discordance"
Skaidrite Stelzer (University of Toledo) "An Architecture of Dreams"
Ed Morin (College for Creative Studies) "'Junco's Reunion' and Other Poems"
Christian Knoeller (Purdue University) "The Same River"

Roundtable
The Future of Midwestern History and Literature (co-sponsored by the Midwestern History Working Group)

Room 102

Moderator: Jon Lauck
James Seaton (Michigan State University)
Keith Taylor (University of Michigan)
Ted McClelland (Chicago)

Awards Luncheon 12:00 NOON – 1:30 PM

Red Cedar B

2014 Mark Twain Award presented to . . . Naomi Long Madgett

2014 MidAmerica Award presented to . . . Robert Dunne

2013 Writing Prizes presented to . . . Patricia Oman, Mary Catherine Harper, Rachael Price

Session F**1:45 PM – 3:15 PM**

Panel: The Films of Alexander Payne
 Moderator: Ross Tangedal

Heritage Room

Jon Lauck (Sioux Falls, SD / Washington, DC) "Assessing the Midwest in Film"

Douglas Sheldon (College of DuPage) "The Language of Inheritance: Alcoholism and the Search in
Nebraska"

Laura Beadling (Youngstown State University) "Not Just Grandmothers: Alexander Payne's Depictions of
 Older Women in *About Schmidt* and *Nebraska*"

Criticism

Room 102

Moderator: Ken Grant

Shane Winterhalter (Northern Illinois University) "'No Place for a Jew': The Midwestern Outsider in Charles
 Baxter's *Saul and Patsy*"

Tracy Collins (Central Michigan University) "Oscar Wilde, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Chicago Book Publishers"

Don Evans (Chicago Literary Hall of Fame) "Why They're Remembered"

Marilyn Atlas (Ohio University) "'She Said She Wouldn't Go Back to Chicago if She Was Dragged by a Train':
 Traffic Circles and the 'Sagamore Flyover' as Metaphors in Peter Orner's *Last Car Over the
 Sagamore Bridge*."

Poetry

Room 106

Moderator: Phillip Howerton

Janet Heller (Michigan College English Association) "Poems from *Exodus*"

Martha Vertreace-Doody (Kennedy King College) "From Chicago to Portland"

Mary Catherine Harper (Defiance College) "Selections from the *Forever Collection*"

Lylanne Musselman (Terra State Community College) "The Art of Seeing Value: New Poems"

Creative Prose and Poetry: Readings from Aquarius Press

Willy Room

Moderator: Heather Buchanan-Gueringer

Brian Gilmore (Michigan State University)

Qiana Towns (Davenport University)

Heather Buchanan-Gueringer (Aquarius Press)

Session G**3:30 PM – 5:00 PM**

Drama: "Black for Dinner"

Willy Room

One-act play by Sandra Seaton, adapted from a short story by Cyrus Colter

Audience discussion will follow performance

Moderator: Sandra Seaton

Cast: George Shirley, Mardra Thomas, and Keith Williams

Creative Nonfiction

Room 106

Moderator: Jeffrey Hotz

Lawrence Moe (Metropolitan State University) "Lives"

Michelle Menting (University of Nebraska-Lincoln) "Selected Readings from *Upland: Brief Nonfictions*"

Samantha Heyne (Carthage College) "The Baobab Diocese"

Kari Smith (Urban Neighborhood Initiatives) "Detroit: A Re-introduction to a Misunderstood City on the Rise"

Criticism: Theodore Roethke's Michigan

Room 102

Moderator: Ron Primeau

Aparna Zambare (Central Michigan University) "A Theodore Roethke Digital Humanities Project"

Christian Knoeller (Purdue University) "Ancestral Landscapes: Ecological Memory in Roethke's Poetry"

William Barillas (University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse) "Meter in Theodore Roethke's 'My Papa's Waltz'"

Mentoring Café**5:15 PM**

An informal discussion of how to launch a successful academic career
 Heritage Room
 Facilitators: Christian Knoeller, Sara Kosiba, John Rohrkemper, Lawrence Moe, and Jayne Waterman

6:00 PM

Executive Advisory Committee
 State Room

Roger Bresnahan, secretary-treasurer
 Philip Greasley, recording secretary
 Robert Beasecker, bibliographer
 Marc Van Wormer, conference planner
 Laura Julier, website manager
 Marilyn Atlas, awards coordinator
 Marcia Noe, editorial committees chair
 Mary Obuchowski, corporate board
 Margaret Rozga, program & scholarship chair
 Sara Kosiba, president
 Scott Emmert, president-elect
 Christian Knoeller, past president

Executive Council:
 Lylanne Musselman, 2011–2014
 Marc Seals, 2011–2014
 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

Saturday, May 10, 2014

Registration 8:00 AM–4:00 PM
 South Lobby
 Kellogg Conference Center has a lactation room: inquire at the hotel desk for more information.
 Coffee & tea 7:30 AM–9:00 AM
 Room 106

Annual Business Meeting**8:00 AM – 9:00 AM**

Room 106

All are invited. A continental breakfast will be served.

Session H**9:00 AM – 10:30 AM**

Panel: Literature and Law I
 Room 102
 Moderator: James Seaton

Philip Greasley (University of Kentucky) "Judge Voelker and the Nudists"
 James Seaton (Michigan State University) "Equality before the Law in Literature"

Criticism: Fiction and Fashion in the Midwest
 Heritage Room
 Moderator: Marcia Noe

Guy Szuberla (Univ. of Toledo) "W.R. Burnett's 'Dressing Up,'" or "Blue Wore Lavender Silk Underwear"
 John Rohrkemper (Elizabethtown College) "Mark the Clothes: Mark Twain and Clothing as Social Signifier"
 Scott Emmert (University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley) "'Uniformed for Work': Clothes and Wartime Sacrifice in Edna Ferber's Final Emma McChesney Story"
 William Brevda (Central Michigan University) "The Straw Hat in Dreiser's *An American Tragedy*"

Roundtable: Secrets of Successful Drama Collaboration in the Midwest
 Room 106
 Co-moderators and Discussants:
 Arnold Johnston (Western Michigan University)
 Deborah Ann Percy (Kalamazoo Public Schools)

Criticism
 Willy Room
 Moderator: Jennifer Holly Wells

Nancy Bunge (Michigan State University) "Carl Jung and Clarence Major"
 Patricia Oman (Hastings College) "E.B. White and Middle America"
 Amanda Walsh (Northern Illinois University) "The Midwest and Home in Lorrie Moore's *Birds of America*"
 Susan Schiller (Central Michigan University) "Willa Cather's *Alexander's Bridge*: When Hope Disconnects"

Session I**10:45 AM – 12:15 PM**

Creative Prose Fiction and Nonfiction
Moderator: Eric Tucker

Room 106

Nancy Bunge (Michigan State University) "Jeff"
Dong Isbister (University of Wisconsin-Platteville) "Economy Class Syndrome"
Kate Carey (Otterbein University) "What Dorothy Wants"

Panel: The Law and Literature II

Room 102

The History of Child Protection in the Midwest: A Heartfelt, Historical Narrative
Moderator: Marie Lannen

Marie Lannen (Central Michigan University) "True Vignettes of Children in Care: A Historical Overview"
Kevin Chamberlain (Former Tribal Chief, Saginaw Chippewa) "200 Known Skeletons in the Ground at the Mt. Pleasant Indian Boarding School"
Gail Allen Lanphear (Michigan State University) "A View Back at the 'Child Guidance Model,' Following Three-plus Decades in Social Work"
Michael Hyde (Thomas Cooley Law School) "Current Models of Child Protection: A Guardian ad Litem's Perspective"

Criticism

Heritage Room

Moderator: Sara Kosiba

Lawrence Moe (Metropolitan State University) "The Norwegian-American Identity of Knud Wefald"
Ross Tangedal (Kent State University) "Designed to Amuse: *The Torrents of Spring* and Hemingway's Paratextual Comedy"
Rachel Karlake (Central Michigan University) "Alice as the Female Ideal in Hemingway's "The Light of the World": An Exploration of Obesity and Beauty"
Carolyn Durham (The College of Wooster) "A Memoir of the Midwest: *Flyover Lives* by Diane Johnson"

Poetry In the Valley of the Shadow of the North: Year Five

Willy Room

Moderator: Matthew L.M. Fletcher

Gordon Henry (Michigan State University) TBA
Matthew L.M. Fletcher (Michigan State University) "Leonard and the Senator"
Paul Stebleton (Lake Ann, Michigan) "Bigfoot Pie"

Editorial Board Meeting**2:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

Dictionary of Midwestern Literature Vol. 2

Heritage Room

The Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature encourages you to submit your work for publication in one of its journals. Details are available at www.ssml.org/publications under the *MidAmerica* link.

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 by June 15, 2014.

(Contestants for the David D. Anderson Prize for Literary Criticism should be aware that unlike previous years, only the winning paper will be forwarded to Marcia Noe for publication in *MidAmerica*.)

2014 SSML Annual Writing Prizes

Eligibility and Requirements Entries must have been presented at the 2014 SSML annual symposium, never been published or committed for publication, 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 2014 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:

The David Anderson Prize for Literary Criticism

The David Diamond Student Writing Prize

The Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Prize (up to 3 poems, but no more than 20 pages)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

The Paul Somers Prize for Creative Prose (short story, memoir, or creative nonfiction)

Deadline: June 15, 2014 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.