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# MidAmerica XXXII

*The Yearbook of the Society  
for the Study of Midwestern Literature*

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In Honor of  
Mary DeJong Obuchowski

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## PREFACE

On May 12, 2005, members of the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature gathered in East Lansing for the thirty-fifth annual meeting of the Society. This year's conference hosted the first annual Midwestern Film Festival, in addition to the Cultural Heritage of the Midwest Symposium and the Midwest Poetry Festival.

At the awards banquet on Friday night, prizes were given for best poem, story, and essay read at the 2004 conference. Patricia Clark (Grand Valley State University) received the Gwendolyn Brooks Award for her poem "Astrid, Siggy, and Bert," and Michael Kula (Carroll College) received the Paul Somers Award for his short story, "Shag Carpet." The Midwest Heritage Prize for Best Essay went to Luchen Li (Kettering University) for "A Heart Enshrouded in the Landscape: An Impressionistic Reading of 'Big Two-Hearted River.'"

Margo LaGattuta (University of Michigan-Flint) won the Mark Twain Award for distinguished contributions to Midwestern literature, and Mary DeJong Obuchowski (Central Michigan University) won the MidAmerica Award for distinguished contributions to the study of Midwestern literature.

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