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If you would like to submit a scholarly essay to be considered for publication in *MidAmerica*, please send a hard copy of your essay to Marcia Noe, 535 Hickman Street, Clarksville, TN 37045. If your essay has been selected for publication, you will then send your manuscript by electronic attachment to [marcia.noe@msu.edu](mailto:marcia.noe@msu.edu) after making any required and/or desired changes.

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# MidAmerica XXXIV

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

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The Midwestern Press  
The Center for the Study of  
Midwestern Literature and Culture  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, Michigan 48824-1033

2007

In Honor of  
David Diamond

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Midwestern Literature  
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*MidAmerica* (ISSN: 0190-2911) is a peer-reviewed journal of the Society for the Study of  
Midwestern Literature.

This journal is a member of the Council of Editors of Learned Journals



## PREFACE

On May 10, 2007, members of the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature gathered in East Lansing for the thirty-seventh annual meeting of the Society. Highlights included several special panels on creative nonfiction, the third annual SSML Festival of Films, and an open mike session where participants shared their creative writing.

At the awards banquet on Friday night, James Seaton received the Jill Barnum Midwestern Heritage Prize for Literary Criticism for his article, "William Dean Howells and Humanistic Criticism." The David Diamond Student Writing Prize went to Michael Merva for "An Illusion of Understanding: Listeners and Tellers in Sherwood Anderson's *Winesburg, Ohio* and Carson McCullers's *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*." Ellen Arl received the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Prize for her poem, "March Afternoon Tea." David Diamond received the MidAmerica Award and the Mark Twain Award went to Stuart Dybek.

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