

The Cultural Heritage of the Midwest

A Symposium

June 1-3, 2023



Thursday, June 1

Friday, June 2

Friday, June 2

Saturday, June 3

About SSML

51st Annual Meeting
Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature
Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI



THURSDAY, JUNE 1

11:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Registration, Plus Coffee & Tea

South Lobby

Book Display

104

Belt Publishing, Cornerstone Press, Everybody Reads (Michigan Ave., Lansing), Hastings College Press, Michigan State University Press, Urban Farmhouse Press, and Wayne State University Press

SESSION A

12:30–1:45 PM

Poetry

101

Moderator: Janet Heller

Linda Nemeč Foster, “Bone Country—Fragments from the World Before Covid”

Janet Heller, “Music Lessons and Other Poems”

Mary Minock, “About Time”

SESSION B

2:15–3:45 PM

Criticism

101

Moderator: Scott Emmert

Scott Emmert, “William Dean Howells, ‘Editha’ and The Great Modern American Stories”

John Rohrkemper, “Poets, Polemicists, Linguists, Librarians: Words in Celeste Ng’s *Our Missing Hearts*”

Garrett Stack, “Journal Publishing 101: So You Want to Start a Lit Mag?”

SESSION C **4:00–5:30 PM**

Criticism **103**

Moderator: Patricia Oman

Rachael Price, “Republishing *Homespun Heroines and Other Women of Distinction*: Exploring the Midwestern Roots of Intersectional Feminism”

Patricia Oman, “Reading Lost Authors Through Genealogical Research: Clara Ann, Priscilla Jane, and Aaron Belford Thompson”

Janet Heller, “Humor and Satire of Higher Education in James Thurber’s ‘University Days’”

Poetry **105**

Moderator: John Beall

John Beall, “New Poems”

Esther Huescas, “Readings from ‘What We Call Love’”

Edward Morin, “Poems from ‘The Bold News Birdcalls’”

Angela Williamson Emmert, “Ghostwork—Stories about Stories: Published and Unpublished Poems”

EVENING **5:45 PM**

Dinner **South Lobby**

If you would like to join others for dinner, please come to the Registration table to meet up.

Editorial Committee Meeting **State Room**

Marcia Noe, chair	Marilyn Atlas	William Barillas
Robert Beasecker	Roger Bresnahan	Bob Dunne
Scott Emmert	Philip Greasley	Nancy McKinney
Patricia Oman	Rachael Price	Steven Trout
Mary DeJong Obuchowski		

CONVIVIUM **8:30 PM**

Cash Bar and Hospitality **State Room**

FRIDAY, JUNE 2

8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Registration, Plus Coffee & Tea

South Lobby

Book Display

104

Belt Publishing, Cornerstone Press, Everybody Reads (Michigan Ave., Lansing), Hastings College Press, Michigan State University Press, Urban Farmhouse Press, and Wayne State University Press

SESSION D

8:30–10:00 AM

Criticism and Pedagogy

101

No Trauma, No Drama: Reimagining the Iowa Workshop Model to Increase Creativity and Move Midwestern Writers and Literature in a Forward Direction

Moderator: Jane L. Carman

Jane L. Carman, “Against Silence: Revising the Toxic Traditional Workshop to Let Students Be(come) Their True Midwestern Selves”

Amy L. Eggert, “Writing Myself Out of the Story: Coping with Trauma in/ and the Introductory Creative Writing Workshop”

Creative Writing (Prose)

105

Moderator: Ed Demerly

Sheng-mei Ma, “Ontariorizing and Taiwanizing the Rust Belt: Flight or Fall”

Ed Demerly, “Readings from the ‘Memoir Living in the Ulu: Letters from a Peace Corps Volunteer in Malaysia, 1967–68’”

Liliana Lule, “Family Matters”

SESSION E**10:15–11:45 AM****Criticism****105**

Davenport-Area Authors Shine in Davenport, Chicago, and Beyond

Moderator: Marcia Noe

Marcia Noe, “Introduction; Nine Davenport-Area Authors Hit the Bigtime”

Guy Szuberla, “Babel, Bummers, and the Better Element: Chicago Fiction and Politics, 1880–1910”

Meg Gillette, “‘What It Is All About’: Midlife Selfhood in the Poetry of Marjorie Allen Seiffert”

Marilyn Atlas, “‘I’d Rather Be the Steam Rising from Manure Than Be a Thing Called Beautiful’: Loneliness, Female Creativity, and Implosion in Susan Glaspell’s 1922 Experimental Drama, *The Verge*”**Creative Writing (Poetry and Prose)****101**

Flint in Poetry and Fiction

Moderator: William Barillas

Sarah Carson, “How to Baptize a Child in Flint, Michigan”

Kelsey Ronan, “Chevy in the Hole”

Creative Writing (Poetry)**103**

Midwestern Landscapes from the Poets of Urban Farmhouse Press

Moderator: D.A. Lockhart

Mark Luebbers, Selections of Environmental Poetry from Cincinnati

Benjamin Goluboff, Selections of Chicago Street Life Poetry

D.A. Lockhart, Poems from the Rivers Series in *Go Down Odawa Way***LUNCHEON****NOON–1:30 PM****Awards****Red Cedar**

2023 The Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Prize presented to Jane L. Carman

2023 The Paul Somers Prize for Creative Prose presented to Jane L. Carman

2023 David D. Anderson Award presented to Crystal Rudds

2023 Mid-America Award presented to Jon K. Lauck

2023 Mark Twain Award presented to Sandra Cisneros

Reading**Red Cedar**

Sandra Cisneros

Friday, June 2

FRIDAY, JUNE 2 (CONT.)

SESSION F

1:45–3:15 PM

David D. Anderson Plenary Presentation

105

The annual David D. Anderson award is a prize for the best article or essay on Midwestern literature published this year. All members of SSML are encouraged to nominate essays, and a panel of judges scores nominated essays to determine the winner.

Moderator: William Barillas

Crystal Rudds, “On Perspective and Value: Black Urbanism, Black Interiors, and Public Housing Fiction.” *American Literature: A Journal of Literary History, Criticism, and Bibliography*, September 2022, vol. 94, no. 3, pp. 527–549.

SESSION G

3:30–5:00 PM

Criticism

101

Radical Print Culture in the Midwest

Moderator: Marc Blanc

Marc Blanc, “Abolition’s Afterlives: Peter H. Clark, the Cincinnati Emancipator, and Editing Race in the Early Socialist Press”

Ryan Prewitt, “Midwest Manifestos: Print as a Medium for Rust Belt Rage”

Criticism

103

“Write the truest sentence you know.” —Ernest Hemingway

Moderator: Justin Costello-Stebelton

Katherine Palmer, “One True Sentence from ‘The End of Something’”

John Beall, “One True Sentence from ‘Big Two-Hearted River’”

Donald A. Daiker, “One True Sentence from *The Sun Also Rises*”

Michael Kim Roos, “One True Sentence from *A Farewell to Arms*”

Criticism**105**

Moderator: Philip Greasley

Michael Steiner, “Richard Wright, the Warmth of Other Suns, and Chicago’s Impact on a Southern Migrant to the Black Metropolis, 1927–1937”

Pilar Melero, “Madnesses as an Ontological Space of Resistance to Ana Castillo’s *So Far from God*”

Philip Greasley, “Assorted Fire Events: David Means, the Midwest, and America’s Promise Despoiled”

DINNER BREAK**5:00–7:15 PM****Executive Advisory Council****5:30 PM****104**

This is a meeting to provide the corporate board with advice on current or near-future matters. Anyone interested in SSML governance is welcome to attend. Delegates are elected each year for a three-year term, to begin their terms at the following year’s meeting.

Patricia Oman, president

Rachael Price, vice-president/president elect

Charles Cunningham, delegate, 2023–2026

Linda Nemec Foster, delegate, 2023–2026

Marilyn Atlas, prize coordinator & MLA/MMLA Conference Liaison

William Barillas, David D. Anderson Award organizer

Robert Beasecker, bibliographer

Emily Boyle, conference planner

Roger Bresnahan, secretary-treasurer

Mary DeJong Obuchowski, corporate board

Scott Emmert, corporate board

Jeffrey Hotz, conference planner

Philip Greasley, recording secretary

Mary Minock, past president

Marcia Noe, editorial committee chair

PERFORMANCE AND CONVERSATION**7:30 PM****An Evening of Hemingway Themed Music and Other Songs****105**

Michael Kim Roos

Friday, June 2

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

8:00–NOON

Registration, Plus Coffee & Tea

South Lobby

Book Display

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Belt Publishing, Cornerstone Press, Everybody Reads (Michigan Ave., Lansing), Hastings College Press, Michigan State University Press, Urban Farmhouse Press, and Wayne State University Press

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

8:00–9:00 AM

Breakfast and Annual Business Meeting

103

All are invited. A continental breakfast will be served.

SESSION H

9:00–10:30 AM

Poetry

101

Moderator: Jane L. Carman

Pau Nava, “A Non-Binary Violent Femme Response to Sandra Cisneros’ ‘Guadalupe the Sex Goddess’”

Carla Barger, “Readings from *Two Dead Thrushes: Elegy for Birdsong*”

Jane L. Carman, “The Goat’s Horn,” “One More,” and “Other Bits about Lucy and the Pig”

Amy L. Eggert, “Before the Drop: Suicide Stories”

Criticism

105

Moderator: Rachael Price

Benjamin Klug, “The Planetary Supersessions of Illinois: Planetary Colonization and the Midwest in Bradbury and Wolfe’s Science Fiction”

Liliana Lule, “Wherever I Go I Carry Home on My Back: Notions of Belonging in Ana Castillo’s *Sapogonia*”

Charles Cunningham, “Reactionary White Guys in Fiction of Bonnie Jo Campbell”

SESSION I

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM

Creative Prose

101

Moderator: Ed Morin

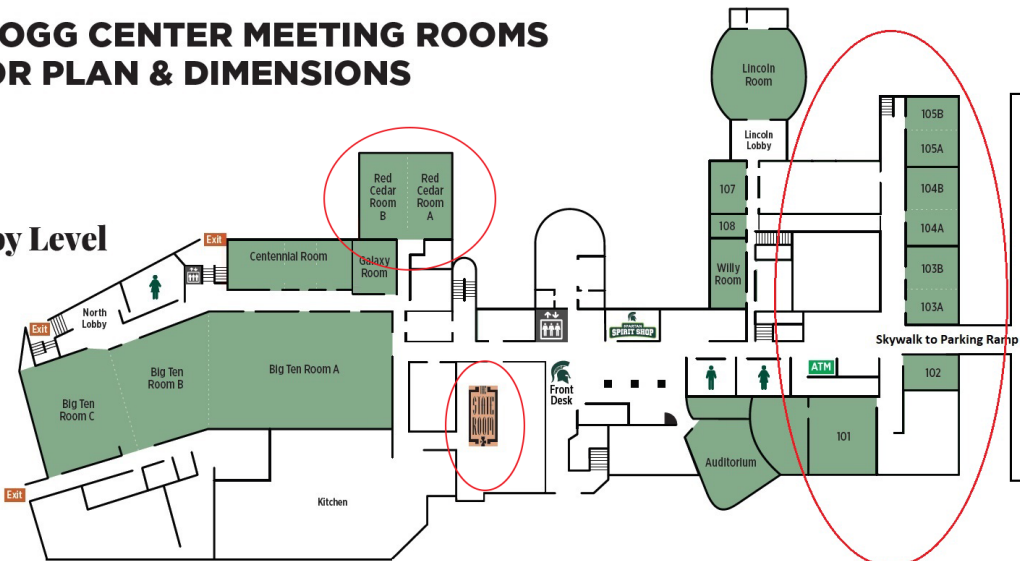
Edward Morin, “The Apple Orchard”

Jane L. Carman, “Chasing Death”

John Rohrkemper, “Adrift”

KELLOGG CENTER MEETING ROOMS FLOOR PLAN & DIMENSIONS

Lobby Level



Saturday, June 3

ABOUT SSML

The Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature was founded in 1971 by David D. Anderson, Bernard Duffey, Merton Babcock, Russel B. Nye, William B. Thomas, William McCann, and Robert Hubach. The Society exists to support the study and dissemination of work in Midwestern literature, art, film, and scholarly study.

SSML encourages the study of Midwestern literature and culture in whatever directions the insight, imagination, and curiosity of its members may lead.

ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

An annual symposium takes place each May on the campus of Michigan State University, offering a venue for the work of contemporary creative artists: students, scholars, creative writers, and filmmakers come together to celebrate the tradition and cultural heritage of the Midwest.

PUBLICATIONS

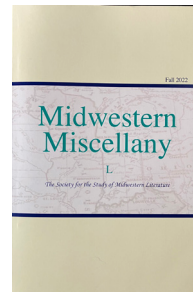


MidAmerica

MidAmerica is the annual peer-reviewed yearbook of SSML. We welcome submissions of scholarly essays from our members on any aspect of Midwestern literature and culture. Except for winners of our annual poetry and prose contests, we do not publish poems, short stories, or fiction.

Deadline: July 1

See ssml.org/publications/midamerica for submission and style guidelines.



Midwestern Miscellany

Midwestern Miscellany is published twice a year by SSML. Typically, a guest editor selects a theme, topic, or author and issues a call for the issue. Often those whose essays are selected for the special issue present them on panels organized by the guest editor at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature, or at the Society's panels at MMLA, MLA, PCA, and/or ALA. Members who would like to be a guest editor for an issue of *Midwestern Miscellany* should contact Marcia-Noe@utc.edu.

SSML ANNUAL WRITING PRIZE FORM

Please use this form if you wish to submit your work to be considered for one of the prizes listed below. Winning entries will be published in the next issue of *MidAmerica*.

Eligibility and Requirements

To be considered for a prize, entries must meet the following requirements:

1. Must have been presented at the SSML annual conference
2. Must never have been published or committed for publication (exception if submitted simultaneously to *MidAmerica*)
3. Must be original
4. Must include a demonstrable Midwestern character (e.g., topic, theme, tone, imagery, etc., as appropriate to genre)

Submission

Entries must include this form and four (4) blind copies and may be submitted to Marilyn Atlas via one of the following options:

1. Email (Word doc): atlas@ohio.edu
2. Drop off physical copies at the registration table.
3. Mail physical copies to the following address:

Marilyn J. Atlas, SSML Prize Coordinator
230 North Roosevelt Avenue
Bexley, OH 43209

Deadline: August 1

Name	Mailing Address
University Affiliation (if any)	Phone
Degree Program (if student)	E-mail
Title(s) of Entry	

Select one of the following prize contests:

- Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Prize (\$250). You may enter up to 3 poems, but no more than 14 pages.
- Paul Somers Prize for Creative Prose (\$250). Genre: _____
- David Diamond Student Writing Prize (\$1,000). Genre: _____
- James Seaton Midwestern Heritage Prize for Literary Criticism (\$1,000)

Note: Literary criticism may be submitted simultaneously for consideration to *MidAmerica*.

PROVISIONAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This document, composed by the American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program at MSU is considered a living document. It has been redacted to accommodate space considerations.

We acknowledge that Michigan State University occupies the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary Lands of the Anishinaabeg—the Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples. The University resides on Land ceded in the 1819 Treaty of Saginaw. We recognize that settler and Indigenous signatories understood the terms of treaties in starkly different terms. According to a map within the University archive, Anishinaabeg maintained an ‘Indian Encampment’ south of the Red Cedar River when classes were first held at the University (then known as Michigan Agricultural College) on May 13, 1857.

We recognize, support, and advocate for the sovereignty of Michigan’s twelve federally-recognized Indian nations (Bay Mills Indian Community, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Hannahville Indian Community, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Little

Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Match-e-be-nash-she-wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians), as well as other Indigenous people and historic tribes in Michigan (Burt Lake Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians, Mackinac Band of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians, and Swan Creek Black River Confederated Ojibwa Tribes), across Turtle Island, and throughout the Fourth World.

We collectively understand that offering Land Acknowledgements or Land Recognitions do not absolve settler-colonial privilege or diminish colonial structures of violence, at either the individual or institutional level. We recognize that Land Acknowledgements must be preceded and followed with ongoing and unwavering commitments to American Indian and Indigenous communities. We affirm Indigenous sovereignty and hold Michigan State University accountable to the needs of American Indian and Indigenous peoples.

Inquiries can be sent to Prof. Kristin Arola, Interim-Director of the American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program (arola@aiis.msu.edu).

SSML STATEMENT ON THE MSU SHOOTINGS

At this fifty-first annual gathering, the members of the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature hold in our hearts the three students killed and five students injured during the terrible campus shootings on February 13, 2023, at Michigan State University. The society remembers and

honors the victims of this tragedy, cherishing these students’ families, friends, and loved ones. The society stands in solidarity with the Michigan State University community, the first responders, and all those who have worked to bring healing, strength, and hope in the aftermath of this tragedy.