

The 39th Annual Meeting of
the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature

*The Cultural Heritage of the Midwest:
A Symposium*

May 7–9, 2009
Michigan State University Union, East Lansing, MI

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Registration 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Session A

12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.

Criticism

Parlor B

Moderator: Richmond Adams (Southern Illinois University, Carbondale)

Arvid Sponberg (Valparaiso University) "*August: Osage County*: Tracy Letts's Midwestern Archaeology of the Dysfunctional Stage Family"

Kayleen Schumacher (Central Michigan University) "A Divided Landscape: Unifying the Urban and Rural Midwest"

Adara J. Nielson (Western Michigan University) "The Women's Case: An Examination of the Subjugation of Women in Susan Glaspell's *Trifles*"

Poetry

Parlor C

Moderator: Marcia Noe (University of Tennessee, Chattanooga)

Margaret Rozga (University of Wisconsin, Waukesha) From *Two Hundred Nights and One Day*

Teneice Durrant Delgado (University of Toledo) From "Glass Corset"

Kristina Yesley (Central Michigan University) Selected Poems

Criticism

Green Room

Moderator: Marc Seals (University of Wisconsin, Baraboo/Sauk County)

Dominic Ording (Northern Michigan University) "Perception, Emotion, Intuition: The Religious Impulse in Jim Harrison's *True North*"

Clinton S. Burhans III (Central Michigan University) "Jim Harrison's *The English Major*: On the Road Home"

Bill Knight (Western Illinois University) "Buried Gold: Unearthing Miner/Author Tom Tippet"

Curtis Burdette (Central Michigan University) "Stories of Riches and Danger: How Media Coverage of the Klondike Gold Rush Inspired Thousands to Trek from the Midwest to the Last Great Frontier"

Session B

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Criticism: Minnesota Writers

Parlor B

Moderator: John Davidson (Central Michigan University)

Jennifer Holly Wells (Drew University) "Louise Erdrich and the Rise of Regionalism in the 1980s"

Christian Knoeller (Purdue University) "Language & Landscape in Erdrich's Books and Islands of Ojibwe Country"

Scott Emmert (University of Wisconsin, Fox Valley) "Sports, Losing, and Minnesota Character in Jon Hassler's *The Love Hunter*"

Fiction

Parlor C

Moderator: James Marlow (University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth)

Patrick S. McGinnity (Central Michigan University) "Hard Winter"

Kirk Curnutt (Troy University, Montgomery) From *Breathing Out the Ghost*

Stephanie Carpenter (University of Missouri) "The Last Deer"

Criticism Parlor B
Moderator: Arvid Sponberg (Valparaiso University)
Ronald Primeau (Central Michigan University) "South Siders: The Existential Imagination of Cyrus Colter"
Richmond P. Adams (Southern Illinois University, Carbondale) "'Holy Moses!': *The Pit*, Curtis Jadwin, and the Documentary Hypothesis"
Susan Schiller (Central Michigan University) "Despair, Melancholy, and Hope in Cather's *My Antonia*"
Mary DeJong Obuchowski (Central Michigan University) "Transformed by the Flood: Mary Swander's *The Girls on the Roof*"

Creative Nonfiction Parlor C
Moderator: Philip A. Greasley (University of Kentucky)
David D. Anderson (Michigan State University Emeritus) "Lake Erie and I"
Lawrence Moe (Metropolitan State University) "The Reminder"
Mary Minock (Madonna University) From *The Art of Losing, A Memoir of Southwest Detroit in the 1950s*

Criticism Gold Room A
Moderator: Robert Mellin (Purdue North Central)
Janet Ruth Heller (Western Michigan University) "Psychological Images in the Poetry of Hart Crane"
David Settle (Grand Rapids Community College) "'Dear Jim': Poetry, Perspective, and Personalization"
Glenn Sheldon (The University of Toledo) "Thomas McGrath's 'Charms': His Shortest Poems"
Kevin McKelvey (University of Indianapolis) "Forest Fragments: Ecocritical Perspectives of Midwestern Poetry"

Criticism Green Room
Moderator: Nancy McKinney (Illinois State University)
Guy Szuberla (University of Toledo Emeritus) "Dad Cadillac, Ma Des Moines, Chris Columbus, and Other Cartoon Icons"
John Rohrkemper (Elizabethtown College) "Mark Twain, Susy Clemens, and Joan of Arc"
M. Ellen Dupree (University of Nevada, Reno) "Returning from 'the world so wide': Sinclair Lewis's Second Thoughts about *Dodsworth*"
Marilyn J. Atlas (Ohio University) "Place and Space in Patricia Hampl's *The Florist's Daughter*"

Session F

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Fiction and Nonfiction Parlor A
Moderator: Stephanie Carpenter (University of Missouri)
Curtis Burdette (Central Michigan University) "Catching the Fish by the Tale: A Fisherman's Grandson's Greatest Adventure"
Kristina Yesley (Central Michigan University) "A Stumbling of Strength"
Jim Gorman (Otterbein College) "In Ohio, the Story"
Elizabeth Dodd (Kansas State University) "The Point"

Criticism Parlor B
More than Regional: Universal Writers from the Heart of the Country
Moderator: Loren Logsdon (Eureka College and MidAmerica Award winner)
John McKenna (University of Nebraska, Omaha) "No Homecoming for Soldiers: Hemingway's 'Return' to the Midwest"
Natasha Whitton (Southeastern Louisiana University) "Pop Culture for the Centuries: Bobbie Ann Mason's Product Placement"
Nancy Genevieve Perkins (University of Illinois, Springfield) "John Knoepfle's Early Poetry: Taking the 'Wide Slow Waters' of the Sangamon to the Rest of the World"
Loren Logsdon (Eureka College) "Ray Bradbury's Tale of Two Cities: An Essential Message for a Technologically Dominated Culture"

Poetry Parlor C
Daughters of the Great Migration: Chronicling the Life, History, Geographies, and Identities of Three
Midwestern African American Families through Poetry
Moderator: Heather Buchanan-Gueringer (University of Michigan, Dearborn, The College for Creative
Studies)
Felecia Studstill (Wayne County Council for Arts, History, & Humanities Award winner and Aquarius
Press)
Karen Williams (Michigan State University and Cave Canem Fellow)
Heather Buchanan-Gueringer (University of Michigan, Dearborn, The College for Creative Studies)

Creative Nonfiction Gold Room A
Moderator: Laura Julier (Michigan State University)
Stephen Adams (Westfield State College) "Can I Get Some Monkey Dishes Here?"
Ryan Beatty (Michigan State University) "Everything I Needed to Know about Life I Learned from My
Svengali Deck"
Daisy Levy (Michigan State University) "Thoughts on the Middle"
Katie Livingston (Michigan State University) "Welcome Home: Michigan Womyn's Music Fest"

Film Green Room
A Girl of the Limberlost Centennial Session I
A Girl of the Limberlost (1934)
Moderator: Randy Lehman (Limberlost State Historical Site)

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
Marcia Noe, chair, editorial committee
Kenneth Grant, president

Gold Room B

Nancy McKinney, past president
Margaret Rozga, vice-president, president-elect
Laura Julier, Executive Council 2006-2009
Lawrence Moe, Executive Council 2006-2009
Jayne Waterman, Executive Council 2007-2010
Christian Knoeller, Executive Council 2007-2010
Martha Vertreace-Dood, Executive Council 2008-2011
Joseph Wydeven, Executive Council 2008-2011
Sara Kosiba, Executive Council 1009-1012
Michael Kula, Executive Council 1009-1012

Session G

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Poetry and Prose: Writers of Iowa City Parlor A
Moderator: Andre Perry (University of Iowa)
Tim Denevi (University of Iowa) "Ice"
Kevin Holden (University of Iowa)
Ryan Van Meter (University of Iowa) "Things I Want To Tell You on Our First Date But Won't"
Andre Perry (University of Iowa) "Selections from an Untitled Book"

Creative Nonfiction Parlor B
Moderator: David Settle (Grand Rapids Community College)
Dawn Comer (Defiance College) "Fella with an Umbrella: Finding Joy on the Autism Spectrum"
Kasey Coder (Findlay, Ohio) "Domestic Diva Strikes Back" and other stories

Poetry Parlor C
Moderator: Martha Vertreace-Dood (Kennedy-King College)
Janet Ruth Heller (Western Michigan University) "Offerings"
Matthew Cicci (Central Michigan University) "Hometowns"
Nancy Genevieve Perkins (University of Illinois, Springfield) Poems from *NYX: Sister of Erebus*

Criticism: Native American Themes Gold Room A
 Moderator: Clinton S. Burhans III (Central Michigan University)
 Nancy Down (Bowling Green State University) "William Kent Krueger's *Blood Hollow* and the Spiritual Quest"
 Edward Dauterich (Kent State University) "Urban Trickster: Cultural Hybridity in the Work of Gerald Vizenor"
 John Davidson (Central Michigan University) "Shadow-Walker Werewolves in Stereotypical Michigan: Killing Machismo in *Year of the Dogman*"
 Matthew Low (University of Iowa) "Prairie Survivance: Narratives and Counternarratives of the American Midwest"

Session H 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Poetry: Rhymes with Orange Parlor B
 Moderator: JoAnne Isbey (University of Detroit Mercy)
 Brandon Clark (University of Detroit Mercy)
 Alex Jones (University of Detroit Mercy)
 Deonte Osayande (University of Detroit Mercy)

Poetry Parlor C
 Moderator: Kasey Coder (Findlay, Ohio)
 Glenn Sheldon (University of Toledo) "Poems from the Dakota Plains"
 Linda Bearss (Arthur Hill High School) "Between the Waters"
 Ed Morin (College for Creative Studies) Selected Poems and Songs

Criticism Green Room
 Landscape and Nature in the Writing of Scott Russell Sanders
 Moderator: Christian Knoeller (Purdue University)
 Elizabeth Dodd (Kansas State University) "A Word or Two for Nature: Re-reading Wilderness Plots"
 Mary E. McGann (University of Indianapolis) "Homescape and the Natural World in Scott Russell Sanders' Creative Nonfiction"
 Elizabeth Homan (Purdue University) "Scott Russell Sanders in Indiana's Educational Landscape"
 Respondent: Scott Russell Sanders (Indiana University) Mark Twain Award Winner

Session I 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Mentoring Café Parlor A

Awards Banquet 6:30 p.m. Gold A & B, MSU Union

MidAmerica Award: Loren Logsdon

Mark Twain Award: Scott Russell Sanders

Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Prize Award Poem 2008 co-winners:
 Ed Morin, for "Yes"
 Roy Seeger, for "Diminishing Returns"

Paul Somers Prize for Creative Prose 2008: Dawn Comer, for "Raised in a Corn Palace"

David Diamond Student Writing Prize 2008 co-winners:
 Stephanie Carpenter, for "Doctor and Patient"
 Matthew Low, for "John Neihardt Writes: Textual Appropriations of Indigenous Storytelling"

Saturday, May 7, 2009

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Gold Room B

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

Session J

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Criticism

Parlor B

Moderator: Jennifer Holly Wells (Drew University)

Lawrence Moe (Metropolitan State University) "Remembering Steamboats on the Red River of the North"

Lia M. Siewert (Southern Illinois University, Carbondale) "The Impact of East Coast Domestic Values on Late Nineteenth-Century Midwestern Fiction"

Dana Edwards Prodoehl (Marquette University) "The American Dream Re-Presented: Theodore Dreiser's *An American Tragedy* and Midwest/East Coast Relationship"

Poetry

Parlor C

Moderator: Sara Kosiba (Central Michigan University)

Lynne Musselman (University of Indianapolis) From *Weathering the Midwest*

Kevin McKelvey (University of Indianapolis) and

Curtis Crisler (Indiana University-Purdue University, Fort Wayne) "The Bones of Indiana: A Poetry Collaboration"

Fiction

Gold Room A

Moderator: Jim Gorman (Otterbein College)

James Marlow (University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth) "Lakota Home"

Kathy Hadley (Michigan State University) "The Boat Case"

Angela Santo (Defiance College) "A Nu-Clear Day"

Poetry

Gold Room B

Moderator: Margaret Rozga (University of Wisconsin, Waukesha)

Nancy Lynn Allen (Haslett Public Schools)

Christian Knoeller (Purdue University) "Song of the River Rising"

Bobbi Byrd (Osseo, MI) Selected Poems

A Girl of the Limberlost Centennial Session II Green Room

Moderator: Randy Lehman (Limberlost State Historical Site)

Power Point Presentation: "Gene Stratton-Porter: America's Most Famous but Forgotten Naturalist"

Session K

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Criticism

Parlor B

Moderator: Kayleen Schumacher (Central Michigan University)

Jo Anne Isbey (University of Detroit-Mercy) "On Karen Williams' *Elegy for a Scarred Shoulder*"

Alixandra Summitt (Lansing Community College Emerita) "Internal Processes of Midwest Women Artists: Phases and Crazes"

Joseph Wydeven (Bellevue University Emeritus) "Wright Morris's Chicago"

Poetry

Parlor C

Moderator: Lynne Musselman (University of Indianapolis)

Mary Catherine Harper (Defiance College) Selected Poems

Kevin McKelvey (University of Indianapolis) "Water over White Stones: Ecopoetry of the Wabash River"

Elizabeth Dodd (Kansas State University) "The Wild Rising"

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 Prize for Creative Prose

The David Diamond Student Writing Prize (creative or scholarly work)

Name: _____

University affiliation (if any): _____

Degree program (if student): _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Eligibility and Requirements Entries must have been presented at the SSML Annual East Lansing conference, 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 and honorable mentions will be published in the 2009 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).

Permissions: for those who submit critical entries and do not win a prize If you agree, non-winning critical (but not creative) entries will be forwarded to the *MidAmerica* and *Midwestern Miscellany* editorial board and will be considered for publication in one of these publications.

_____ Yes, I agree. Please forward my essay to the editorial board.

_____ No, if my essay does not win an award please do not consider it for publication.

Please list the title(s) of work you wish to be considered for prizes

The Jill Barnum Midwestern Heritage Prize for Literary Criticism (indicate the title of the essay):

The David Diamond Student Writing Prize (include the title of the work):

The Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Prize (up to 3 poems may be entered, but no more than 14 pages; indicate titles):

1.

2.

3.

The Paul Somers Prize for Creative Prose (indicate the title of the short story, memoir, or creative nonfiction piece):

Deadline: June 15, 2009 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.