

The 39<sup>th</sup> 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"

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Law and Literature Green Room  
Moderator: James Seaton (Michigan State University)  
Charles Palmer (Cooley Law School) "Clarence Darrow, *Inherit the Wind*, and the Heroic American Trial Attorney"  
Renee Knake (Michigan State University College of Law) "Razzle Dazzle and the Rule of Law in the Musical *Chicago*"  
Philip A. Greasley (University of Kentucky) "John Donaldson Voelker's Jealous Mistress"

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**Session C 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.**

Poetry and Other Genres Parlor C  
Moderator: Susan A. Schiller (Central Michigan University)  
Jared L. Erickson (Defiance College) "Oh Madeline, My Madeline—Or, How To Lie to Friends and Get Away with It"  
Leonora Smith (Michigan State University) "Eating the Glitter Planet"  
Martha Vertreace-Doodly (Kennedy-King College) "Elizabeth Duncan: The War Years"

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Law and Literature Green Room  
Moderator: Philip A. Greasley (University of Kentucky)  
Mae Kuykendall (Michigan State University College of Law) "Midwestern Writers on Financial Panic: Contemporary Implications"  
Nancy Bunge (Michigan State University) "Why Scott Turow Writes like a Midwesterner"  
James Seaton (Michigan State University) "Justice in *Presumed Innocent* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*"

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**Dinner Break 5:30 p.m.**

**Editorial Committee Meeting**

Marcia Noe, chair David Anderson  
Robert Beasecker Philip Greasley  
Nancy McKinney James Seaton

**Green Room**

Marilyn Atlas Ronald Primeau  
Roger Bresnahan Mary Obuchowski

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**Session D 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.**

Film Green Room  
*Jump Back Honey: The Poetry and Performance of Herbert Woodward Martin*, produced and directed by David Schock (penULTIMATE, Ltd.), with Ronald Primeau (Central Michigan University)  
Respondent: Herbert Woodward Martin (University of Dayton Emeritus)

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**Friday, May 8, 2009**

Registration 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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**Session E 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.**

President's Panel: Wisconsin Women Writers Parlor A  
Moderator: Kenneth Grant (University of Wisconsin, Baraboo/Sauk County)  
Catherine Kalish (University of Wisconsin, Marshfield/Wood County) "An Ex-Con Christmas: Zona Gale's Modernist Experiment"  
Sara Kosiba (Central Michigan University) "Margery Latimer and the Little Magazines"  
Marc Seals (University of Wisconsin, Baraboo/Sauk County) "Edna Ferber's Emma McChesney: Midwestern Proto-Feminist?"

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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*"

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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*

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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"

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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*"

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## 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"

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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"

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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)

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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"

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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-Doody, 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"

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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

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Poetry Parlor C  
Moderator: Martha Vertreace-Doody (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*

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**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)

Lyanne 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: Lyanne 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"

Creative Writing Gold Room A  
Inside Out/Outside In: Short Readings by Professional Writing Students  
Moderator: Leonora Smith (Michigan State University)  
Alexandra Ghaly (Michigan State University)  
Ryan Wyeth (Michigan State University)  
Cherin Gillies (Michigan State University)  
Jonathan Vereecke (Michigan State University)  
Rebecca Butcher (Michigan State University)  
Tim Smith (Michigan State University)  
Anna Taylor (Michigan State University)

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Creative Writing Gold Room B  
Moderator: Kristina Yesley (Central Michigan University)  
Margo LaGattuta (Oakland University)  
Marc Van Wormer (Lansing, MI) "Alarms and Diversions"  
Carolyn Walker (Oakland Community College)  
Nick Kowalczyk (Ithaca College) "As I Lay Dying"

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Criticism Green Room  
*A Girl of the Limberlost* Centennial Session III  
Moderator: Randy Lehman (Limberlost State Historical Site)  
Cheryl Birkelo (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs) "Gene Stratton Porter: Scholar of the Natural World"  
Mary R. Ryder (Illinois State University) "'A Story of American Grit': Gene Stratton-Porter's *A Daughter of the Land* as Realist Manifesto"  
Robert Mellin (Purdue North Central) "The Talking Trees of the Limberlost: Negotiating a Class-Informed Ecofeminism"

**Editorial Board Meeting**

**1:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

*Dictionary of Midwestern Literature*

Green Room

David Anderson	Robert Beasecker	Marcia Noe
Phil Greasley, editor	Robert Dunne	Mary Obuchowski
Marilyn Atlas	Sara Kosiba	Guy Szuberla
William Barillas	Nancy McKinney	Joseph Wydeven

The Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature encourages you to revise your conference paper as a publishable essay and submit one hard copy by September 1, 2009 to Marcia Noe, 535 Elinor Street, Chattanooga, TN 37405. Go to [www.ssml.org/publications](http://www.ssml.org/publications) and click on the *MidAmerica* link for details.

# 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 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.