

MidAmerica XXXVII

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

DAVID D. ANDERSON, FOUNDING EDITOR
MARCIA NOE, EDITOR

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

2010

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF
MIDWESTERN LITERATURE

<http://www.ssml.org/home>

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

David D. Anderson, Founding Editor, *MidAmerica*

Marcia Noe, Editor, *MidAmerica*

Marilyn Judith Atlas	Ohio University
William Barillas	University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse
Robert Beasecker	Grand Valley State University
Roger Bresnahan	Michigan State University
Robert Dunne	Central Connecticut State University
Philip Greasley	University of Kentucky
Nancy McKinney	Illinois State University
Mary DeJong Obuchowski	Central Michigan University
Ronald Primeau	Central Michigan University
James Seaton	Michigan State University
Jeffrey Swenson	Hiram College
Joseph J. Wydeven	Bellevue University

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS

Blake Harris	Jen Litton
Ashley Lane Hopkins	Gale Mauk
Emily Hurst	Heather Palmer
Michael Jaynes	Beth Ellen Roberts
Paige Joyner	Chelsea Sokol

MidAmerica, a peer-reviewed journal of the Society for the Study of
Midwestern Literature, is published annually. We welcome scholarly contri-
butions from our members on any aspect of Midwestern literature and cul-
ture. Except for winners of our annual poetry and prose contests, we do not
publish poems, short stories, or creative nonfiction. If you would like to sub-
mit a scholarly essay of not more than 15 pages or 3,750 words to be consid-
ered for publication in *MidAmerica*, please send a hard copy of your essay to
Marcia Noe, 535 Elinor Street, Chattanooga, TN 37405. If your essay is
selected for publication, you will then send your manuscript by electronic
attachment to marcia-noe@utc.edu after making any required and/or desired
changes. Please follow the most recent edition of the *MLA Handbook*. In docu-
menting sources, use parenthetical citations within your essay and a list of
works cited. If you include discursive notes, they should be endnotes that use
Arabic, not Roman, numerals. Use no headers, footers, or page numbers. Do
not put your name on your essay. Include your contact information in your
cover letter to Marcia. Be sure to give your institutional affiliation.

Copyright 2010
by The Society for the Study of
Midwestern Literature
All rights reserved.

Printed in the United States of America.

No part of this work may be
reproduced without permission of
the publisher.

MidAmerica 2010 (ISSN: 0190-2911) is a peer-reviewed journal that is published annually
by The Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature.

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



In honor of
Joseph J. Wydeven

DAVID D. ANDERSON (1924-2011)

AN APPRECIATION

MARCIA NOE

On Saturday, December 3, 2011, I lost a colleague, a teacher, a mentor, and a cherished friend.

I met Dave Anderson in 1985 at the first meeting of The Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature that I ever attended. I was an English teacher at a community college in Illinois; Dave took me to lunch at the Michigan State Room of the Kellogg Center and treated me like a respected scholar and equal. Over the years I learned many things from Dave: that an Old Fashioned is the perfect cocktail, that the power to fund is the power to kill, that the real reward is the work itself. I learned how to be cheerful in the face of ill health and disability, how to commit to a goal and persevere through setbacks and roadblocks, how to grab and hold an audience when giving a conference paper, how to let my intellectual curiosity shape my research program and find inspiration in wide-ranging reading, how to appreciate rather than denigrate the scholarship of others, and, above all, how to nurture and value relationships with people and prioritize them over publications, promotions, raises, or career advancement.

Dave published over thirty-five books and hundreds of articles and papers. He was a leading Sherwood Anderson scholar, a nationally recognized authority on Ohio literature and the Ohio frontier, and a Distinguished University Professor at Michigan State University. He was the founding editor of this journal and a co-founder of the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature. He is well known for his many honors, awards, and professional accomplishments, but his larger legacy lies in the writers he mentored, the students he taught, the colleagues from all over the country he encouraged and assisted, and the hearts he touched. These days, as the university corporatizes, instruction becomes increasingly standardized, and professors are valued for the number of students they can cram into a classroom or, worse, online courses, the lesson of Dave's life becomes more valuable than ever: how to be the kind of teacher, scholar, editor, and colleague who is not merely respected and admired but also loved.

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

PREFACE

On May 13, 2010, members of The Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature gathered in East Lansing for its fortieth annual meeting. Highlights included the President's Panel on the poetry of Gwendolyn Brooks, the Mark Twain Award panel on the fiction of Jane Hamilton, and the MidAmerica Award Panel on Art, Architecture, and Midwestern Literature. Mary Minock received the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Prize, Dawn Comer won the Paul Somers Prize for Creative Prose, Richard B. Adams was the winner of the David Diamond Student Writing Prize, and the Jill Barnum Midwestern Heritage Essay Prize went to Joseph J. Wydeven, who also received the MidAmerica Award for distinguished contributions to the study of Midwestern literature. The Mark Twain Award for distinguished contributions to Midwestern literature went to Jane Hamilton.

SSML is currently operating at a loss due to increased expenses in publishing its journals and convening its annual symposium. A major gift from the late Jane S. Bakerman has enabled us to continue our work while we seek to establish a more stable financial footing for the work ahead. SSML is also grateful to the following members and friends who have made contributions in addition to their dues. As more such contributions are received, and earlier ones are discovered in searching the archives, we will add more names to this Honor Roll: Walter Adams, David D. Anderson, Robert Beasecker, Gwendolyn Brooks, Ray B. Browne, Mary Ellen Caldwell, Louis J. Cantoni, G.B. Crump, David Diamond, Bernard F. Engel, Kenneth B. Grant, Philip A. Greasley, Theodore Haddin, Donald Hassler, Janet Ruth Heller, Ted Kennedy, Jean Laming, Barbara Lindquist, Larry Lockridge, Loren Logsdon, Bud Narveson, Marcia Noe, Mary Obuchowski, Tom Page, E. Elizabeth Raymond, Herbert K. Russell, James Seaton, Guy Szuberla, Doug Wixson, Melody Zajdel, and the family and friends of Paul Somers.

CONTENTS

Preface		8
Cutting the Cord or Leaving Factory		
The Gwendolyn Brooks Prize Poem	Paul Stebleton	10
The First Vision of Baseball		
The Paul Somers Prize for Creative Prose	James Marlow	14
“Accentuated by the Wavering Uncertain Light”: Sherwood Anderson’s Construction of Rural Modernity		
The David Diamond Student Writing Prize	Andy Oler	24
Robert Vivian’s Tall Grass Trilogy:		
A Critical Introduction	Joseph J. Wydeven	35
Sherwood Anderson: Mentor of American		
Racial Identity	Margaret E. Wright-Cleveland	46
The Grammar of Segregation in the Sonnets of Gwendolyn Brooks	Margaret Rozga	63
Cross-Examining the Myth of Southern Chivalry: Gwendolyn Brooks’s Emmett Till Poems	Marc Seals	74
The Heartland of Susan Glaspell’s Plays	David Radavich.	81
“It Might Be Something Awful”: The Movement of Sex in the Plays of William Inge	Michael Schwartz	95
Michael Cunningham’s Introspective and Teacherly Narrators in <i>A Home at the End of the World</i>	Dominic Ording	106
The Late Twentieth-Century Rise of Regionalism: A Key to Louise Erdrich’s Success	Jennifer M. Holly Wells	116
Mary Swander’s <i>The Girls on the Roof</i> and the Transformation of Terror	Mary DeJong Obuchowski	127
Annual Bibliography of Midwestern Literature 2008	Robert Beasecker	133
Catch up on Midwestern Literature		194
Conference and Awards		195
Recipients of the Mark Twain Award		196
Recipients of the MidAmerica Award		Back Cover