

### CONVENTION

## MLA Members to Meet in San Diego

The MLA will hold its 119th annual convention in San Diego, the second largest city in California. Surrounded by Mexico, the Pacific Ocean, the Anza-Borrego Desert, and the Laguna Mountains, the city's location combines the warm, dry air of the desert with the cool breezes of the Pacific, resulting in a nearly perfect climate.

Beautiful weather is not San Diego's only attraction. The city is also rich in art and culture. San Diego offers an array of theaters, the largest concentration of museums west of the Mississippi, a lively downtown with shopping, award-winning restaurants, and the Gaslamp Quarter, where restored Victorian buildings house restaurants, coffee shops, jazz clubs, and exciting nightlife and galleries featuring art, antiques, and crafts.

Not only is San Diego home to the San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park, SeaWorld, and Balboa Park, it also has first-class academic and research institutions such as the Salk Institute, the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and the University of California, San Diego. Come to San Diego for MLA's annual convention and meet with old friends, browse through the book exhibits, attend sessions, and enjoy the climate and everything else that San Diego has to offer.

Twenty-two major and commuter airlines serve the San Diego International Airport (619 686-8200; [www.portofsandiego.org](http://www.portofsandiego.org)). The airport is approximately three miles northwest of downtown San Diego, less than ten minutes from the downtown MLA convention hotels and minutes from the hotels on Harbor Island. Shuttle and bus service is available on the transportation plaza across from terminals 1 and 2. Taxi fare to downtown San Diego is approximately \$10 plus tip. Your fare will be displayed on the meter and will include a flag drop charge plus a per-mile or a

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The 2003 MLA Annual Convention will be held from 27 to 30 December in San Diego. Information can be found on pages 1, 2, and 8-12.

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per-hour charge. Five can ride for the price of one. All cabs leaving the airport charge the same rate. Rates for all other cab trips may vary from company to company; a company's rates are posted outside and inside every taxicab. Greyhound provides frequent bus service to and from the area. Amtrak also offers daily service; for schedules and fares call 800 USA-RAIL or visit [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com).

MLA convention hotels are located on Harbor Island and in downtown San Diego. Downtown there are city buses, taxis, pedicabs, horse-drawn carriages, ferries, water taxis, and the San Diego Trolley. The San Diego Trolley runs every fifteen minutes throughout most of the day and every thirty minutes in the evening. The trolley connects downtown with Mexico and East County communities and links downtown and Mission Valley.

For more information visit the MLA Web site ([www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org)).

Most English sessions are in the Manchester Grand Hyatt. Most foreign language sessions are in the San Diego Marriott. Some foreign language sessions and some English sessions are in the San Diego Convention Center.

The Job Information Center and the child care center are in the San Diego Marriott. Exhibits are in the San Diego Convention Center.

A complimentary shuttle service for attendees who are staying in hotels that are not within walking distance or are not located close to a trolley stop will operate throughout convention meeting hours. Bus schedules will be available on-site. A complimentary transportation service for persons with disabilities will also operate throughout the convention.

The convention will begin at 3:30 p.m. on 27 December and continue until 1:15 p.m. on 30 December. All MLA members and others involved in the study or teaching of language and literature must register in order to attend or participate in meetings, take part in the job service, or reserve hotel rooms at special MLA rates.

Some of San Diego's best hotels are offering MLA registrants special rates. Most single and double rooms range from \$99 to \$137 a night. MLA rates apply at all convention hotels from 25 December 2003 through 1 January 2004, based on availability and arrival and departure dates.

The MLA information booths will have brochures on city tours, museums, and public attractions.

Travel arrangements can be made through ITS, the official travel coordinator for the 2003 convention, or directly with American Airlines or Southwest Airlines and with Amtrak.

ITS will provide electronic ticket receipts and itineraries by presorted first-class mail. There is a service fee of \$20 per airline or Amtrak ticket issued for telephone reservations and of \$15 per airline ticket issued for reservations made through the MLA Web site (where housing reservations can also be made; note that Amtrak reservations cannot be made through the MLA Web site). ITS can be reached at 800 621-1083 Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. central time. Outside the United States and Canada, call 847 940-1776. ITS can provide the special discounts on American, Southwest, and Amtrak and can also provide the lowest available published fares on other airlines.

American Airlines offers 10% off the lowest applicable American Airlines fare on tickets booked at least 30 days or more prior to travel and 5% off the lowest applicable published fare when you book within 29 days of travel. Applicable restrictions must be met. Or take advantage of special American Zone fares with substantial savings and with no Saturday night stayover required. American Airlines (meeting ID number A04D3AJ) may be reached at 800 433-1790.

Southwest Airlines offers a 10% discount off most of their lowest applicable published fares. Applicable restrictions must be met. Southwest Airlines (meeting ID number Y0274) may be reached at 800 433-5368.

Amtrak offers a 10% discount off the lowest rail fare available for reservations to travel between 24 December 2003 and 2 January 2004. Call ITS (800 621-1083; outside the United States and Canada, call 847 940-1776) or Amtrak (800 USA-RAIL) and ask for fare code X32A-967. □

## WEB SITE NEWS

### New Features for Members at MLA Web Site

Starting in September 2003, a newly redesigned MLA Web site will offer MLA members exclusive benefits such as priority convention registration, access to a searchable list of members, and discounts on MLA titles. The site ([www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org)) will make it easier for all users to navigate.

A searchable list of all convention sessions will be available to members only beginning in November.

#### Featured

- Action appeals on legislative and institutional issues related to teaching and scholarship
- Announcement of candidates in 2003 elections for second vice president, Executive Council, and Delegate Assembly
- Frequently asked questions about MLA style

#### Member Services

- Access to a searchable list of MLA members
- Membership renewal
- Priority convention registration for MLA members beginning 1 September 2003
- Publications information and sales

#### Reports and Documents

- Report from the Ad Hoc Committee on the Future of Scholarly Publishing
- Policy statements, guidelines, and reports available to ADE ([www.ade.org](http://www.ade.org)) and ADFL ([www.adfl.org](http://www.adfl.org)) member departments

#### Job Information List Online

- Career and job market information
- Guidelines for job seekers
- Guidelines for hiring departments
- ADE and ADFL online job counseling □

The *MLA Newsletter* (ISSN 0160-5720) is published four times a year (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter) by the Modern Language Association of America, 26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, New York 10004-1789.

The *MLA Newsletter* is edited by the executive director of the association, Rosemary G. Feal. The managing editor is Judy Goulding. The cost of an annual subscription is \$6. The subscription price is included in the dues of all members of the association. Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. All news items and letters should be sent to the *MLA Newsletter* at the above address.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *MLA Newsletter*, 26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10004-1789.

## The New Humanities

Recently I came across a book called *Achilles in Vietnam*, published in 1994, by Jonathan Shay, a sociologist and psychiatrist working with Vietnam combat veterans. Trying to make sense of the traumatized states of his patients, Shay found his way to anthropological studies on grief, rage, and warfare and from there back to his undergraduate studies of *The Iliad*. In *Achilles in Vietnam* Shay reads *The Iliad* alongside his patients' oral interviews on their Vietnam experiences, using the two corpora to illuminate each other. And they do. Through its resonances with the veterans' accounts of their experiences, *The Iliad* comes into view as a vivid ethnography of war; the ethics of war; the particular forms of suffering, rage, and grief that accompany war; and the resources on which people draw to face them. Read through and against *The Iliad*, the veterans' reflections become insights on the pathologies of war and those peculiar to the Vietnam conflict, helping Shay answer his questions on why this particular war produced so many veterans who simply could not recover psychic equilibrium. Studied together, the veterans' accounts and *The Iliad* produced an analysis of what vets call the "berserk state," revealing its links to unbearable grief. Many veterans have found this part of the text particularly valuable. The participation of the gods in the Homeric text led Shay to reflect on how Christian monotheism shaped soldiers' Vietnam experiences. Some of the most traumatized men had gone to war very young and inexperienced, with strong Protestant upbringings anchored in a benevolent God who was loving and good and saw people the same way. When this deity lost plausibility on the front, young soldiers' moral universes could simply fall apart. The capricious self-interested Greek deities, Shay concluded, were played in the Vietnam drama by officers who in Vietnam tended not to fight alongside the men, who instead issued orders by radio from safer locations. Shay concluded that the physical presence of leaders was a psychic necessity in warfare and that the betrayal of that requirement was a key cause of Vietnam's particular psychic destructiveness.

What makes this book a product of our time? Many things, some so obvious they may be hard to see. War itself, for instance. And the idea of placing an ancient epic alongside everyday discourse from a therapeutic setting, of enabling texts from radically separate textual orders to illuminate each other and then distilling historical and human insight from their resonances, intersections, and divergences—these are achievements of powerful methodologies that humanistic inquiry has developed and built on in the last thirty years. There is one discovery of our time that Shay seems to have missed: the centrality of gender as an analytic category. Women are everywhere in the quotations from Homer, as signs of victory and objects of possession and rape. Where were these elements, or their analogues, in the Vietnam drama? The opportunity is passed up, but the glaringness of the omission, the regret for the difference it would have made, is also a sign of our times.

The last thirty-five years or so have been an extraordinary time to be a humanist. A series of revolutions in knowledge have altered our objects of study, our corpora, our questions, our modes of understanding and explanation, our analytic categories and parameters, the geographic scope of our work. Every area of the humanities has been touched by these methodological changes and by the information technology revolution that has been enabling in so many ways. Humanistic inquiry has been an agent of important social change. This spring's Supreme Court decisions on affirmative action and gay rights, for example, mark sea changes in

which the work of humanists has played a central role. Area studies are moving in humanistic directions, partly because mathematical paradigms have temporarily taken over political science and economics but also because methodologies from the humanities have revitalized fields that had been trapped in an unreflective empiricism. Alongside traditional disciplinary formations, the humanities have been the core of ethnic and gender studies, whose curricular experimentations and serious interdisciplinarity are mapping possible futures for us all.

Institutional structures have not caught up with the changes in our modes of inquiry and objects of study. Many universities solve the problem through a division of labor between disciplinary departments and interdisciplinary programs. This arrangement becomes less and less satisfactory over time because departments tend to retain the powers of appointment and promotion. A familiar contradiction results. Programs are created to house kinds of inquiry not included in department-based disciplines, but scholars pursuing those kinds of inquiry must satisfy the requisites of the department-based disciplines whose parameters their work does not fit insofar as it is of interest to the program. Where traditional departments do not exist, interesting experimentation is going on. When a new branch of California State University was established at Monterey Bay eight years ago, for example, the founding faculty had a mandate to establish a nonconventional array of departments. A small core of humanists joined to form an integrated humanities degree program with a mission to prepare students to be ethical, creative, and critical thinkers and doers in a culturally diverse society and an increasingly interconnected world. Without prescribing set disciplines, this core group was placed in charge of its own growth. Today the department includes an expert in philosophy, communication, and legal studies; a United States cultural historian; a journalism and media studies specialist; an oral historian in Latina-Latino studies with a background in Spanish medieval literature; a leader in the creative writing and social action movement; a well-known Chicana poet with experience in law and business; an expert in rhetoric, religious studies, and gender studies; and half a dozen others with similar cross-disciplinary commitments. Majors choose one of several concentrations. The unfolding experiment is a good example of what is being discussed today as the "new humanities."

Defending against downsizing easily leads us to add bricks and mortar to departmental and disciplinary walls at a time when intellectual and pedagogical momentum would take us the other way.

### Heroes of the Book

Last April, Alia Muhammad Baker, chief librarian of the state library of Basra, Iraq, single-handedly saved thirty thousand books and hundreds of periodicals—seventy percent of the library's collection—days before the building was destroyed by fire. In the weeks before the impending war, Baker filled her car with books each night as she left her job and stored them in her home. When the British entered the city on 6 April 2003, she enlisted the help of Anis Muhammad, a restaurant owner next door. Muhammad and his employees, neighbors, and family formed a brigade, passing bags of books from the library over a wall and stacking them in the restaurant until they could be transferred to Baker's home. After the burning of the library, Baker, who is fifty-nine, suffered

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a stroke. She will retire as soon as the library is rebuilt. Baker's heroic story sent me back to a letter that reached me ten years ago, from Basra. It was written on what looked like the cover of a school notebook, carefully folded and taped without an envelope. The writer was a scholar interested in linguistics. Could I please, she asked, send her my books and writings as she had no way of acquiring any reading materials in her field. You probably have no idea at all, she said, of how we are living here. I sent a packet and never heard whether it arrived. The books saved at Basra were unlikely to have included any recent acquisitions from abroad. This is where my other book hero comes in. Paul Bundy has lived for thirty years in a tiny house in Palo Alto, California, and drives

an aged Volkswagen van. His life is devoted to redistributing books, from the United States, where they abound, to places where they are scarce. If you are leaving town or moving, a phone call brings Paul to your doorstep to pick up your giveaway books. Chemistry textbooks go to medical schools in Latin America or East Africa. Children's books go to day-care centers in Soweto. History and literature go to Central America or China. After some twenty years Paul has an elaborate, constantly mutating network. His house looks like Alia Muhammad Baker's all the time. This is what he does, knowing that his committed life is no substitute for viable publishing systems, decent book distribution outside the rich countries, and an international order that would permit both to exist.

Mary Louise Pratt

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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

## Nominations Sought for Director of Foreign Language Programs

*Elizabeth Welles, director of foreign language programs and ADFL, plans to retire from the position following a decade of dedicated service to the MLA and the profession. The Office of Foreign Language Programs has undertaken many significant projects under Welles's leadership, and the ADFL continues to be a vital resource for department chairs.*

*These are important times for the study of foreign languages, literatures, and cultures. The next director of foreign language programs will have the chance to work with MLA members and with colleagues in other associations on a wide variety of projects related to the field. The opening of this position represents a great opportunity to work in an intellectually stimulating environment and to have an impact on the profession at large.*

*The MLA is seeking applications and nominations, and I ask your assistance in identifying candidates for the position. The description of the position follows. I will be grateful if you would send your nominations either by e-mail to me at [rfeal@mmla.org](mailto:rfeal@mmla.org) or by regular mail to the attention of Regina Vorbeck, the associate executive director. Your help in this matter will be greatly appreciated.*

*Rosemary G. Feal  
MLA Executive Director*

### DIRECTOR OF MLA FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS AND DIRECTOR OF THE ASSOCIATION OF DEPARTMENTS OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES (ADFL)

The association is seeking a Director of MLA Foreign Language Programs and of the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages (ADFL). The director initiates, develops, and coordinates new and continuing foreign language studies programs; edits the *ADFL Bulletin*; organizes two annual ADFL Summer Seminars; serves as staff liaison to the ADFL Executive Committee and other MLA committees; represents the MLA at various professional meetings; codirects the MLA's Job Information Service; initiates research and surveys of the field and analyzes resulting data; works closely with other national foreign language studies organizations and with college and university foreign language departments; reports directly to the executive director of the association; and works with other MLA directors on matters affecting the general administration of the association.

The ideal candidate will have a doctorate in an appropriate field; teaching experience in a college or university; administrative experience chairing a department or chairing significant departmental, institutional, or association committees; an interest in issues affecting the study and teaching of foreign languages; the ability to develop grant proposals and projects; and an imaginative approach to current professional problems and opportunities. Although this is a regular staff position, the MLA welcomes applications from candidates who can take a multiyear leave of absence from their teaching institutions.

This position includes some travel and a good deal of administrative work. Salary is commensurate with experience. Please direct letters of application, vitae, and the names of three references to Regina M. Vorbeck, Associate Executive Director, MLA, 26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10004-1789. The MLA is an equal opportunity employer. □

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## Online Job Applications

The Executive Council plans to consider the advantages and disadvantages of online job applications. We would appreciate hearing about members' experiences with online applications or their views on the subject. Please send responses to [mlpratt@mmla.org](mailto:mlpratt@mmla.org). □

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## Conference on Disability Studies

The MLA and Emory University are organizing the first national conference in the humanities on disability studies. The conference, to be held 5-7 March 2004 at the Emory University Conference Center in Atlanta, invites college teachers and administrators to consider what we have learned about disability and what disability studies has taught us about learning. Registration materials will be sent in mid-November; online registration will also be available. Space is limited, and registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. □

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## Letters on Members' Teaching Awards Sought

The president of the MLA, Mary Louise Pratt, invites MLA members to write with information on teaching awards they have received during their careers. The letters should identify each citation and indicate where and when it was granted.

Please address the letters to the executive director at the MLA office. □

## English, Foreign Languages, and Interdisciplinarity: Encounter on Mount Baldy

A hike up a mountain isn't exactly an activity we normally associate with seminars for English and foreign language department chairs: a metaphoric one, perhaps, but I'm talking about a real climb to an altitude of eleven thousand feet atop snow-capped Mount Baldy near Snowbird, Utah, where the Association of Departments of English (ADE) and the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages (ADFL) held joint seminars in June. ADE and ADFL seminars have been taking place several times a year since 1967 and 1971 respectively. The jointly held seminars in Snowbird marked the first time since 1973 that chairs from departments of English, foreign languages, and comparative literature met all together. The 2003 encounter included joint plenary sessions and breakout discussions as well as meals taken together in dining areas surrounded by the dramatic landscape of Little Cottonwood Canyon. Although ADE and ADFL also held sessions in which English and foreign language chairs met separately while in Snowbird, it is the commingling that made these seminars distinct from all others.

This is not the only time, however, that the MLA has brought together academics with teaching and scholarly interests in fields related to the modern languages (English and comparative literature included among them) with the goal of "constructing dialogue, imagining change," which was the theme of the Conference on the Relation between English and the Foreign Languages in the Academy, held in April 2002. Sponsored by New York University and the MLA, the conference represented a first step to identify modes of collaboration and to think together about linguistic and cultural diversity. Sylvia Molloy, in her introduction to the selected papers from the conference published in the October 2002 issue of *PMLA* (and available at the MLA Web site), sums up a fundamental question those gathered in New York addressed: "Why was it that we tended to think in binary terms, English and other, and what could we learn from comparative literature, from performance and media studies, from translation studies, all of them inspiring, intellectually provocative Mr. In-Betweens?" (1235). This encounter had elements of both a meeting of opposing forces and a meeting of minds. Metaphors of conquest and imperialism ceded to imagined models of cooperation (*de la conquista al encuentro*). The speakers, most of whom teach at research institutions, spoke compellingly of the historical, ideological, and practical reasons why English and foreign language departments have not often worked collaboratively. There were many encouraging signs, though. Some speakers pointed to increasingly strong links among departments (possibly an effect of globalization), and others suggested that our shared interdisciplinary, comparative, and theoretical approaches to languages, literature, and culture could help forge bonds among us.

The department chairs who met in Snowbird included several participants from the joint NYU-MLA conference eager to build on the work done there and to inflect the discussion with perspectives from their own institutional background. Not surprisingly, those who teach at colleges and universities that focus primarily on teaching and that do not enjoy a wealth of staffing resources had a different perspective on some of the collaborative models proposed at the April 2002 conference. Where FTEs rigidly determine budget and staffing, faculty members in English and foreign languages don't necessarily do their departments any favors when they offer to team teach or when they encourage colleagues in other departments to offer "competing" courses. It takes collabora-

tion among department chairs and a visionary dean to promote a shared humanities agenda in the areas of faculty appointments, curriculum, teaching assignments, research support, and so forth. As Reed Way Dasenbrock aptly put it, we act as our own INS, demarcating and enforcing *fronteras* in an attempt to protect what we think is ours. Organizational structures of institutions create many practical obstacles to collaboration across departments; chairs' political skills and savvy command of their institutions' financial and accounting systems become essential for success.

Participants at the Snowbird "summit" came to the conclusion that successful collaborations acknowledge and respect the real differences between the departments engaged in collaboration. They also reasserted the need for the humanities to develop a public account of the work we do for both the wider university community and the public at large. They cautioned, however, that we must not fall into the trap of promoting the misconception that humanities departments all do the same thing and can therefore be collapsed into one another. Peter Pfeiffer speculated that if collaboration is to be intellectually viable we would need to construct an overarching intellectual framework that provides an underlying reason and purpose for collaboration. Other participants advocated a more pragmatic and opportunistic approach, making progress however and wherever we can, conceding some sovereignty to achieve new goals.

On many campuses, efforts of this sort have already been instituted. World literature exists as a widespread curricular formation, yet it is only beginning to form itself as an intellectual concept. Thinking about world literature and planning the curriculum can be ways for meaningful interdepartmental collaboration. Literature in translation can be another interest shared among departments of English and of foreign languages, as long as we learn "to live with translation strategically," as Roland Greene advised. How? One place to start is by challenging the notion of linguistic ownership. Depending on our training and interests, each of us has many legitimate reasons to bring texts from multiple language traditions into our classroom. This notion applies to foreign language departments as well. Spanish professors sometimes despair when English departments teach Borges in translation, but to teach Borges in a Spanish class also should ideally entail presenting works in English, French, and the other languages in which the great Argentine writer moved effortlessly.

The department chairs who met at the ADE-ADFL seminars this summer reported a wealth of collaborations already in practice at their institutions. I list some of them to demonstrate the range of possibilities: medieval and renaissance scholarship in departments of English, French, Italian, German, and so on; MFA degrees with translation components; faculty appointments outside traditional boundaries (e.g., an anthropologist hired in a Spanish department); collaborative projects in disciplines as seemingly disparate as engineering and modern languages; Latina-Latino studies in both English and Spanish departments; language requirements in PhD programs in English with curricular cooperation from foreign language departments; courses organized to accommodate both English and foreign language students. Of course, these innovations take place within departmental structures; an entire world of collaboration exists outside the departments in programs, centers, institutes, and other cross- or interdisciplinary endeavors.

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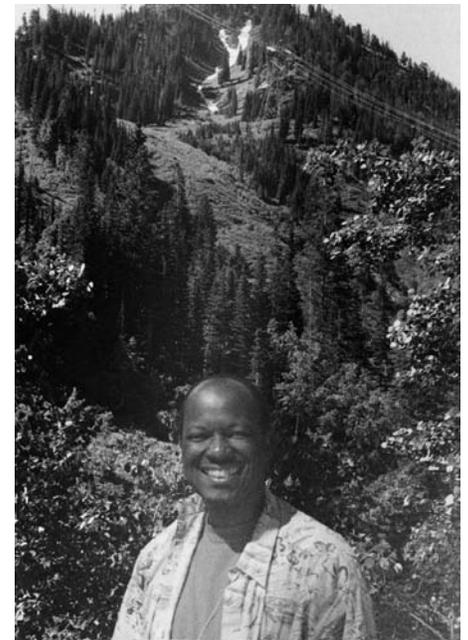
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What next? After climbing to the top of Mount Baldy, we turned around. Some of us descended quickly in the aerial tram; others took the winding path down the mountain and made their way back to the resort. We all knew there was more than one way to find one another at the end of the day, and we also recognized that cooperation on our campuses is generally a lot more difficult than on the mountain. Still, the energy from the encounter goes on. In the upcoming months, please look for some of the fruits of the jointly held seminars, such as articles in the ADE and ADFL bulletins. The participants this year overwhelmingly support the effort to bring together chairs from all departments represented by the MLA, and to this end we expect to stage more joint meetings at future summer seminars. Finally, the MLA offices of English and foreign language programs have always worked cooperatively, and now they have new motivation to increase the degree to which they undertake work in common. To carry out

collaborations of all sorts, we need to exchange information about what's happening on our campuses and what we see as attainable goals. How do you think the MLA can help?

Although the term "encounter" is most often associated with conflict, accident, and opposition—*incontra*—it also has a scientific meaning: "the coming of one molecule within the sphere of action of another with consequent change of direction or velocity of motion" (*Webster's Third New International Dictionary*). Collaboration across modern language departments can resemble this scientific encounter: as we enter the space of the other, cede territory, renegotiate borders, and discover our common interests, we effect change in the directions we take and moves we make. In its basic formulation, the conclusion I took away from the Snowbird seminars is this: what happens in foreign language departments must matter deeply to English departments, and vice versa. The strength of all the humanities on our campuses hinges on that essential finding.

Rosemary G. Feal



Some of the participants at ADE and ADFL Summer Seminar West, held 26–29 June 2003 in Snowbird, Utah.

Dolan Hubbard



Jacquelyn Green, Kathleen Kish, and Carol MacKay



Linda Brigham, Marie Lathers, and Ann Dobyms

## GOVERNANCE

## Request for Comments on Delegate Assembly Resolution

At its meeting on 29 December 2002 in New York, the Delegate Assembly approved the following resolution, which is subject to ratification by the MLA membership. MLA members are asked to comment on the resolution before the ratification vote is conducted.

The resolution comment process will be conducted in a members-only area of the Web site (<http://www.mla.org>). The text of the resolution will be posted at the Web site on 1 October, and members may enter signed comments at the Web site from 1 October to 1 November. Members who wish to comment but who do not have Web access may forward comments to Carol Zuses for posting at the Web site. The Delegate Assembly Organizing Committee, which proposed the use of the Web site for the comment process, encourages members to be brief, to limit comments to the issues addressed in the resolution, and to observe common rules of Internet etiquette. Members' comments will not be subject to a word limit, nor will there be a limit on the number of comments that an individual may post.

During the balloting period, from 1 November through 10 December, additional comments will not be accepted, but comments already posted will remain available for review. Members who do not have Web access may request hard copies of the posted comments from Carol Zuses.

To enter the members-only area of the Web site, you will need your membership number and your password. Your membership number appears on the line above your name on the mailing label for all MLA mailings. Your password is your five-digit zip code if you receive mail at a United States address; if your mail is delivered outside the United States, your password is the first five letters of the country on your mailing label.

The resolution that is subject to ratification is printed below. Members may reach Carol Zuses by mail (MLA, 26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10004-1789), e-mail ([governance@mla.org](mailto:governance@mla.org)), and fax (646 576-5107).

### *Resolution 2002-1*

Whereas the current violence in the Middle East has resulted in deplorable acts of bigotry at North American colleges and universities,

Be it resolved that university administrations and faculties be proactive in promoting productive dialogue and mutual respect among students of different religious, cultural, and political backgrounds; and

Be it further resolved that the MLA condemn anti-Jewish and anti-Arab or anti-Muslim racism as equally abhorrent; and

Be it further resolved that the MLA condemn boycotts and blacklists against scholars or students on the basis of nationality, ethnic origins, and religious background as unfair, divisive, and inconsistent with academic freedom. □

## GOVERNANCE

## Nominations for 2004 Division Executive Committee Elections

One new member is elected annually to each division executive committee. The elections are held in the fall, when the other major association elections (for second vice president, Executive Council, and Delegate Assembly) take place. Division executive committees arrange the contests in accordance with the "Policies for Divisions, Discussion Groups, and Allied and Affiliate Organizations" (Sept. 2003 *PMLA* 752-57). Because the policies require that an executive committee choose one nominee from among the MLA members "suggested by the division membership at large," executive committee members strongly encourage such suggestions.

To suggest someone for nomination in 2004, use the designated space at the bottom of this year's MLA election ballot or send a letter of nomination to the coordinator of governance at the MLA office. Please provide the person's name and affiliation and indicate the appropriate division. All suggestions received by 10 December 2003 (the deadline for receipt of election ballots) will be considered by the division executive committees during their meetings at the 2003 annual convention. Nominees selected by the executive committees will be invited in the spring of 2004 to accept the nomination. Anyone proposed by ten division members must be included by the executive committee on the slate of candidates (provided the person agrees to stand for election). □

## GOVERNANCE

## 2003 Election Ballot Is in the Mail

The 2003 ballot covering the elections for second vice president, Executive Council, Delegate Assembly, and division executive committees has been mailed to all 2003 MLA members. Ballots must be received at the MLA office on or before 10 December to be counted. The ballot sheet contains instructions for retrieving candidate information from the members-only area of the MLA Web site.

To enter this area, you will need your membership number and your password. You will find your membership number on the line above your name on the mailing label for the ballot. (It also appears on the mailing label for this *Newsletter*.) Your password is your five-digit zip code if you receive mail at a United States address; if your mail is delivered outside the United States, your password is the first five letters of the country on your mailing label. Members who do not have access to the Web should request a printout of the candidate information from the coordinator of governance before 10 November (MLA, 26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10004-1789; fax: 646 576-5107; [governance@mla.org](mailto:governance@mla.org)).

If you are eligible to vote and do not receive your ballot by 20 October, please write or call Carol Zuses, coordinator of governance, at the MLA office (646 576-5103; [governance@mla.org](mailto:governance@mla.org)). □

## Honorary Members and Fellows

Members are invited to submit nominations for honorary members and fellows of the association. Honorary members are distinguished foreign scholars, and honorary fellows are distinguished men and women of any nationality. The current rosters of honorary members and fellows can be found on pages 802-03 of the September 2003 (Directory) issue of *PMLA*.

Members who would like to recommend honorary members and fellows should refer to the instructions in the Directory (p. 797) or to the MLA Web site under Submissions and Prizes. □

CONVENTION

## Accommodations and Services for Persons with Disabilities

The MLA is committed to making arrangements that allow all members of the association to participate in the convention. Meeting rooms in the headquarters hotels and the convention center are accessible by elevator, and the doors are wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs. There will be desks in the convention registration and information areas at the Manchester Grand Hyatt (Manchester Ballroom Foyer, second floor), the San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina (Marriott Hall Foyer, lobby level), and the San Diego Convention Center (Sails Pavilion, upper level) staffed by personnel who can provide assistance to convention attendees with disabilities. To reserve hotel rooms that are specifically equipped for persons with permanent or temporary disabilities, write or call Karin Bagnall in the MLA convention office by 14 November 2003. The convention housing form also includes a space for attendees to request particular equipment or accommodations.

**Shuttle Bus.** A complimentary transportation service for persons with disabilities will be available throughout convention meeting hours to transport attendees with disabilities. Arrangements should be made at the desk for persons with disabilities in the Manchester Grand Hyatt, the San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina, or the San Diego Convention Center.

**Sessions.** Speakers are asked to bring five copies of their papers, even draft copies, for the use of members who wish to follow the written text. Speakers who use handouts should prepare some copies in a large-print format (fourteen- to sixteen-point). Speakers should indicate whether they want their papers and handouts returned. Sign language interpreters are available on request. To arrange for an interpreter, write or call Karin Bagnall by 14 November.

Karin Bagnall in the MLA convention office handles arrangements for persons with disabilities (kbagnall@mmla.org).

Please report any problems on-site to the MLA staff members in the headquarters offices at the Manchester Grand Hyatt (Emma A, third floor) or the San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina (Manchester 1, lobby level), and they will do their best to assist you. Hotel staff members may not be able to respond. □

CONVENTION

## Child Care Arrangements

KiddieCorp will provide child care during the annual convention in San Diego. The KiddieCorp staff's professional child care specialists have designed a program for convention groups that includes age-appropriate crafts projects, toys, games, and entertainment. KiddieCorp stresses carefully selected staff; sturdy, safe equipment; and close supervision of play and rest.

Parents are urged to preregister by Friday, 5 December, since only a limited number of on-site registrations may be available, depending on space, insurance, and staffing. To secure a reservation, write the convention office (convention@mmla.org) and request a registration form. Please return the completed form to the convention office by Friday, 5 December, along with the registration fee: \$45 a day for the first child and \$15 a day for each additional child; for graduate students, \$25 a day for the first child and \$15 a day for each additional child. The preregistration process will ensure the appropriate child-to-caregiver ratio.

KiddieCorp has the right to refuse child care to children who are seriously ill and to refuse on-site child care registrations if accepting additional children would adversely affect the quality of child care. A morning snack and an afternoon snack will be provided. Lunch will also be provided for children who are in child care at lunchtime. Parents must indicate each morning whether their children will need lunch, so that the staff can order the appropriate amount of food. Parents should inform the staff of any special dietary needs. □

CONVENTION

## Program Available for Members with Visual Impairments

Members with visual impairments who would like to receive a copy of the November 2003 (Program) issue of *PMLA* in a usable format should write or call June Hicks in the executive director's office (646 576-5102; jhicks@mmla.org). □

CONVENTION

## Job Clinic on Business, Government, and Not-for-Profit Careers

A job clinic for MLA members interested in employment outside the academy will be held at the 2003 convention in San Diego. The clinic will be conducted by Howard Figler, career consultant, author (*The Complete Job Search Handbook*), and former director of the University of Texas Career Center. The workshop, consisting of three sessions, will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, 26 December, the day before the formal opening of the convention, and conclude at 12:00 noon on Sunday, 28 December. Conflict with other sessions should be limited.

The job clinic is designed to help participants learn to identify career options and marketable skills, prepare effective letters of application and résumés, locate jobs, and improve interviewing and negotiation skills. It is especially recommended for those considering nonacademic professional careers in business, government, and the not-for-profit sector.

The first job clinic was held at the 1984 convention. Response over the years has been enthusiastic. One participant praised a previous clinic for being "very well organized, reasonably priced." Another observed, "I feel that I now have a concrete picture of available opportunities and practical approaches to the job search. Dr. Figler really helped build my confidence and change my frame of mind to a more positive attitude. I especially appreciated that Dr. Figler's own background and the slant given to the seminar were pertinent to my own specific situation as an academic in transition."

The cost is \$215. Participants must be registered for the convention. Since enrollment is limited, those interested should write as soon as possible to the Job Information Service at the MLA office (646 576-5133; joblist@mmla.org). □

CONVENTION

## Meeting Times for Allied Organizations

For allied organizations sponsoring two meetings, one meeting will take place on 27 December, beginning in either the 3:30 p.m. or 5:15 p.m. time slot. Please keep this in mind when making travel arrangements. □

## CONVENTION

## Using the MLA Job Information Center

The Job Information Center will be located in Marriott Hall 1 and 2 on the lobby level of the San Diego Marriott Hotel. The center includes a sign-in and interview information area, an interview area, and a message center. The interview area will be located in Marriott Hall 3.

All candidates, departmental representatives, and interviewers who wish to use the facilities of the Job Information Center must be registered for the convention.

The center, which is designed to assist job candidates and interviewers in both English and foreign languages, will provide the following services:

**1. Sign-In Desk.** The MLA will maintain a database of information about the location of interviews that departments have scheduled. Departmental representatives who plan to hold job interviews during the convention, whether in their hotel rooms or in the interview area of the Job Information Center, should sign in so that candidates with whom they have set up interviews will be able to locate them. Although an interviewer's name may appear in "Who's Where," for security reasons hotel switchboards will not give out guests' room numbers—and are in any case extremely busy. A brief stop at the sign-in desk by a thoughtful interviewer can save much confusion and worry for candidates.

The sign-in desk will be open on 27 December from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., on 28 December from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., on 29 December from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and on 30 December from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Interviewers should give, and candidates should ask for, as many specifics as possible at the time when an interview is being arranged. Candidates should be informed

- whether the interview will take place in the interview area or a hotel room
- what hotel the room will be in
- what name the room will be registered under
- the day, date, and hour when the interview will take place

Interviewers need to remember that a hotel switchboard will be able to connect candidates with them only if the person the candidate asks to be connected with is the person in whose name the hotel room is registered. Candidates may be unable to locate an interviewer if told no more than, for instance, "We'll be in the Marriott."

The interview committee should let candidates know whether it will be checking in with the Job Information Center or whether candidates should call the switchboard of the committee's hotel to find out its room number. Unless a committee checks in with the Job Information Center, the center will not know where it is interviewing.

The center opens at 12:00 noon on 27 December to provide candidates information on interview locations; it will not be able to give location information to candidates for any interviews scheduled before that time.

**2. Interview Area.** For the convenience of departmental representatives and candidates, the Job Information Center includes an interview area for both English and foreign languages. Departments that wish to use the interview area should schedule interviews with candidates before the convention whenever possible. Interviews may be scheduled on-site by leaving messages at the message center, although departments should be aware that communication during the convention can be difficult. Tables in the interview area will be assigned to departmental representatives on a first-come, first-served basis. The hours for the interview area are from 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m. on 27 December, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on 28 December, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on 29 December, and from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on 30 December.

## CONVENTION

## 2003 Convention Invitation

The invitation to the 2003 MLA Annual Convention in San Diego was mailed to members during the first week of September; it includes complete information about convention hotels, travel arrangements, and preregistering at member rates. A priority mailing of the convention preregistration packet was sent the last week of August to department chairs whose departments were members of ADE or ADFL by 30 June 2003. Once the mailing has gone out to the entire membership in September, suites will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Members can register for the convention and make hotel and airline travel arrangements through the MLA's Web site ([www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org)). Members cannot reserve suites at the headquarters hotels or book Amtrak tickets through the Web site.

Interview committees using the interview area should not arrange interviews outside the scheduled hours. Candidates who know that their interviews will take place in the interview area can go there directly to find the right table number without stopping at the interview location desk. Staff members will be on duty in the area to assist interviewers and candidates.

Interviewers and candidates who use the area must be registered for the convention and display a registration badge to enter.

**3. Counseling Service.** The Job Information Center counseling service affords job seekers the opportunity to discuss individual employment problems with experienced departmental administrators. While counselors cannot help candidates obtain interviews, they can offer concrete advice on such matters as the appropriate content and presentation of vitae and letters of application, the kinds of institutions to which candidates might most profitably apply, and realistic approaches to job interviews. Counselors will be on hand to speak with interested candidates during selected hours from 10:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. on 28 and 29 December. Appointments can be arranged through the staff member on duty. Each counselee should bring a sample cover letter and vita.

**4. Vacancy Notices.** A list of openings received too late to be included in the print version of the December *Job Information List* will be posted in the center. Detailed descriptions of any last-minute vacancies may be submitted to the MLA staff in the center for posting. On request, the MLA staff will collect vitae for departments that plan to conduct interviews at the convention for such positions.

**5. Message Center.** Open from 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m. on 27 December, from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on 28 December, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on 29 December, and from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on 30 December, the message center will help candidates and interviewers who have corresponded before the convention arrange specific interview times and places. The message center will not be useful to those who leave messages at random for persons with whom they have had no earlier contact and who may not even be at the convention. Such messages are rarely picked up.

While every effort will be made to assist participants at the Job Information Center, it should be stressed that the MLA does not have the facilities to introduce candidates and interviewers who have not corresponded before the convention. Job candidates who do not have prearranged interviews should not attend for the sole purpose of seeking employment.

Before attending the convention, candidates and interviewers should review the guidelines for job seekers and hiring departments in the *JIL* section of the MLA's Web site. □

## CONVENTION

**ADE- and ADFL-Sponsored Sessions for Job Candidates and Interviewers**

ADE and ADFL will sponsor several sessions at the MLA convention to help job candidates and interviewers with interview protocols and job search procedures. ADE and ADFL also provide an individual job counseling service in the interview area of the Job Information Center. Department chairs will offer their experience and expertise in 25-minute one-on-one counseling sessions on 28 and 29 December. Job candidates who take advantage of the counseling service should bring a copy of an application letter and c.v.

*ADE-sponsored convention sessions for job candidates.* "A Preconvention Workshop for Job Seekers: The Job Search in English" will provide job candidates an opportunity to hear experienced department chairs from three different types of institutions describe how their departments approach interviewing and reaching decisions about who should receive the offer of a faculty position. Speaking are Patrick O'Donnell (Michigan State Univ.), Paula Krebs (Wheaton Coll., MA), and Robyn Warhol (Univ. of Vermont). "The Job I Got: Recently Hired PhDs Talk about Their Experiences" will feature reflections of two recent PhDs about the tenure-track positions they successfully sought. Speaking are Robert Beuka (Bronx Community Coll., City Univ. of New York) and Michael Collins (Texas A&M Univ., College Station). "Considering Community Colleges: Preparation, Application, and Career" will provide information about the specific needs of and job opportunities at two-year colleges. Speaking are Frederick De Naples (Bronx Community Coll., City Univ. of New York) and Anna Holston (Central Texas Coll.).

*ADFL-sponsored convention sessions for job candidates.* "A Preconvention Workshop for Job Seekers: The Job Search in Foreign Languages" will offer job candidates and interviewers opportunities to participate in a roundtable discussion of interviewing and hiring practices led by experienced department chairs who serve on the ADFL Executive Committee. Participating will be Julia Candler Hayes (Univ. of Richmond), Dellita L. Martin-Ogunsola (Univ. of Alabama, Birmingham), Peter C. Pfeiffer (Georgetown Univ.), and Elizabeth Welles (MLA). In a second session, "Mock Interviews for Job Seekers in Foreign Languages," recently successful candidates will be publicly interviewed by department chairs; discussion will focus on what went right and wrong, what the interviewers were expecting or looking for, and how the interviewee might improve his or her performance. Participating will be T. Richard Chi (Univ. of Utah) and Dennis Looney (Univ. of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh).

ADE and ADFL jointly sponsor "A Preconvention Workshop for Members of Search Committees," which will provide members of departmental search committees an opportunity to discuss the hiring process, including writing advertisements, reading vitae and dossiers, interviewing at the MLA convention and on campus, and negotiating job offers. Discussion leaders will be Malcolm Alan Compitello (Univ. of Arizona), J. Lawrence Mitchell (Texas A&M Univ., College Station), and K. Wendy Moffat (Dickinson Coll.). □

## CONVENTION

**Travel Assistance for Advanced Graduate Students**

The Executive Council has voted to allot funds to provide partial travel reimbursement of \$100 to advanced graduate students who are members of the MLA by 30 June 2003 and will travel to the 2003 convention in order to attend preconvention workshops, sessions in their areas of scholarly interest, meetings with job counselors, or interviews. The council is particularly concerned with helping students who have no support for convention attendance from their institutions or other sources and who incur substantial costs for travel to and from the convention. Funds are available to cover awards for up to 150 students; if more apply, recipients will be selected in a random manner.

Letters of application must reach the MLA by 2 November 2003, by mail to the MLA Travel Assistance Program, 26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10004-1789, or by fax at 646 835-4067. Further information is available on the MLA Web site ([www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org)). Fax transmissions may be used to meet the deadline, but they must be followed by signed letters. (Applications by e-mail will not be accepted.) Each letter should include a brief statement by the student stipulating that he or she has no external support for travel to the convention, together with a statement on university letterhead signed by the student's dissertation director or department chair confirming that the student is enrolled in a doctoral program at the signer's institution and has met all requirements for the PhD except the dissertation.

Since 1997, the Executive Council has invited MLA members to donate money to a professional education assistance fund that will provide ongoing support for these travel reimbursements. A space on the membership renewal form allows members to indi-

cate that they have added to their dues payments a tax-deductible contribution to the fund. Advanced graduate students who have paid dues for the 2004 calendar year will be eligible to apply for travel reimbursements in 2004. □



*The ADE Ad Hoc Committee met on 29 May 2003. Standing (left to right): John Stevenson, Frederick De Naples, Linda Ray Pratt, and Paul Armstrong. Seated (left to right): J. Lawrence Mitchell and Wendy Moffat.*

## CONVENTION

## Calls for Papers for 2004 Convention in Philadelphia

The 2004 convention will be held in Philadelphia. Members should familiarize themselves with the guidelines for the MLA convention, which appear in the September 2003 *PMLA* (pp. 746–57), before writing to the organizers listed below. If not provided, organizers' addresses are in the September 2003 *PMLA* and available on the MLA Web site to MLA members. All participants in convention sessions must be MLA members by 7 April 2004. Organizers are responsible for responding to all inquiries. A member may participate as speaker or respondent only twice (e.g., by organizing and chairing a meeting, reading a paper, or serving as a speaker, panelist, or respondent in one or two sessions) at a single convention.

Calls for papers are limited to thirty-five words, including the session title but not the name or address of the organizer.

Groups that announce two or more calls for papers with the same contact person list the contact person only once.

### Divisions

#### *German Literature*

##### 18TH- AND EARLY-19TH-CENTURY GERMAN LITERATURE

**Open topic.** This session topic will be determined on the basis of all proposals submitted on 18th- and 19th-century German literature topics.

**Sex, Gender, and the Body.** Proposals concerning heterosexuality, same-sex desire, gender, sexual orientation or identities in 18th- and 19th-century literary texts, medical discourses, diaries, art, aesthetics, etc.

**Travel and Nation, Self, and Other.** Proposals concerning travel beyond German borders and its impact on constructions of nationhood, self, or race in 18th–19th-century travelogues, texts, etc. Submit by 1 Mar.; Susan Gustafson (sgfn@mail.rochester.edu).

#### *Interdisciplinary Approaches*

##### CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

**Children's Literature and the Left.** Relations between children's literature and progressive political movements. Possible topics: the Bank Street School, activist children's books, and authors with related interests. 1-page abstracts by 1 Mar.; Philip Nel (philnel@ksu.edu).

**Children's Literature and the Literary.** Papers exploring the literary and the aesthetic in children's literature and children's cultural studies, literariness in specific texts, or children's literature's disciplinary status. Detailed abstracts by 1 Mar.; Richard Flynn (rflynn@gasou.edu).

**Philip Pullman.** Critical approaches to Pullman's life and works; 8-page papers or 2-page abstracts by 7 Mar.; Lisa Rowe Fraustino (fraustinol@easternct.edu).

##### WOMEN'S STUDIES IN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

**Feminists in and on Love.** Any aspect of the topic in women's writing and feminist or gender theory: e.g., desire, family relations, sexuality, friendship, philanthropy, intimacy, community, spirituality.

**Funny Women.** Women's contributions to and theorizations of comedy, satire, humor, laughter, wit, irony; gender, sexual and other differences in economies of amusement. Work across genres, media, historical periods, social and cultural contexts, languages, etc. welcome.

**Women and Criminality/Liminality.** How do representations of the female (as) criminal and feminized crime unsettle, reinforce, and rewrite notions of gender, sexual, and other differences? 2-page abstracts or 15-min. papers and vitae by 20 Feb.; Elaine Chang (echang@uoguelph.ca).

### Special Sessions

These proposed topics for special sessions at the convention have not been approved; the announcements are intended to bring potential organizers and panelists together before organizers send in their final proposals. Organizers and panelists should note the 7 April deadline for membership and the 1 April deadline for submission of final proposals.

**Iberian Encounters between the Crescent and the Cross: New Perspectives.** Medieval, early modern, and contemporary approaches to the intersection of Christianity and Islam in the literature of Iberia. Metacritical and interdisciplinary proposals welcome. Abstracts by 1 Mar.; Jan Gilbert (jg208@cam.ac.uk); Kirsty Hooper (kirsty.hooper@queens.oxford.ac.uk).

**New Developments in Pre-Raphaelite Poetry.** New ways of reading, locating, or comparing Pre-Raphaelite poetry in/to its own time or later movements: 250-word abstracts and résumés by 15 Mar. (no attachments); Thomas J. Tobin, 406 East 10th Ave., Munhall, PA 15120 (dr.tobin@att.net).

**The Premodern in Poststructuralist Theory.** How have poststructuralist theorists conceived of (or not conceived of) premodern periods, texts, and cultures? What is the relation between the post- and the premodern in theory? Papers or abstracts by 10 Mar.; Todd Reeser (treeser@mail.hum.utah.edu).

**United States Travel Writing before 1865.** James Kirke Paulding, Timothy Dwight, others. Submissions on national identity, class, regionalism, the backwoods, the frontier, and satirical treatments of travel welcome. Abstracts, brief vitae by 1 Mar.; Katherine E. Ledford (katnbrian@bakerville.com).

### Allied and Affiliate Organizations

##### ASSOCIATION FOR BUSINESS COMMUNICATION

**The Power of Praxis: Best Practices in Professional Communication.** What are the

#### Deadline for Audiovisual Requests

All requests for audiovisual equipment must be made by the chair of the session by **1 April**. Requests must be received by mail or by fax by 5:00 p.m. on this date. Because the need for audiovisual equipment is a major factor in the scheduling of meetings (and because the movement of equipment is both costly and hazardous), the deadline is firm. Participants who plan to use audiovisual equipment should check with the chair of the session or with the MLA convention office to be sure that the necessary equipment has been ordered by 1 April.

best practices in business and industry? Which theoretical approaches and research methods are the most appropriate? Abstracts and brief biographies by 5 Mar.; Melinda Knight (knight@simon.rochester.edu).

##### CHILDREN'S LITERATURE ASSOCIATION

**Food in Children's Literature.** Papers investigating the construction and uses of food as a complex signifier for socialization and identity construction in literary texts written for or about children. 1–2-page proposals by 15 Mar.; Kara Keeling (kkeeling@cnu.edu) or Scott Pollard (spollard@cnu.edu).

**Here and Now: Approaches to Current Events through Children's Literature.** Panel exploring how cultural tensions and sociopolitical issues may be negotiated via texts produced for young readers. Abstracts by 15 Mar.; Nathalie op de Beeck, Illinois State Univ., Dept. of English 4240, Normal 61790 (dbop@ilstu.edu).

##### INTERNATIONAL BOETHIUS SOCIETY

**New Approaches to Boethius.** Papers dealing with new theoretical or interdisciplinary approaches to Boethius's *The Consolation of Philosophy*, later translations of the *Consolation*, or works directly influenced by Boethian thought from the Middle Ages to the present. 1–2-page abstracts by 1 Mar.; Philip Edward Phillips (pphillip@mtsu.edu).

##### INTERNATIONAL COURTLY LITERATURE SOCIETY

**The Courtly Gaze.** Papers addressing the way visual language and sight are used in courtly literature and in romance manuscripts. Possible topics include spectating, spying, ekphrasis, heraldry, public ceremony, costume, physical appearance, mise en page, and manuscript illumination. Proposals by 15 Feb.; Markus I. Cruse (mqc4540@nyu.edu).

**Females in Flower: Marguerites, Roses, and the Flower and Leaf as Courtly Cults.** Papers examining the poetic habit of allegorizing women as flowers, for the literary, political, feminist, and other implications. Proposals by 15 Feb.; Joyce Coleman (joyce\_coleman@und.nodak.edu).

##### HENRY JAMES SOCIETY

**Jamesian Futures.** Papers prognosticating author's place (which "Henry James"? more or less James?) in English studies of tomorrow—  
(continued on next page)

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curricula, scholarship, emergent theoretical models—or addressing James's assessment of his possible fortunes.

**Jamesian Pasts.** Papers reflecting on 20th-century constructions of "Henry James" in criticism and teaching (e.g., *Partisan Review* James, Cold War James, post-Sedgwick James) and the cultural work or ideological burden of such constructions. 2-page abstracts by 1 Mar.; Eric Haralson.

#### MARLOWE SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Papers for an open-topic session. Abstracts or 15-min. papers (e-mail attachment or hard copy) by 1 Mar.; Bruce E. Brandt, Marlowe Soc. of America, English Dept., Box 504, South Dakota State Univ., Brookings 57007 (bruce\_brandt@sdstate.edu). □

#### BOOK NEWS

### Call for Contributions and Ideas for Options for Teaching Series

For the MLA Options for Teaching Series, the Publications Committee has approved development of the volume *Teaching Italian American Literature, Film, and Popular Culture*, for which the book's editors, Edvige Giunta and Kathleen McCormick, seek contributions and ideas for practical and theoretical essays. As currently conceived, the volume has seven projected parts: (1) defining the field, (2) literary genres and movements (e.g., fiction, autobiography and memoir, poetry, performance poetry or art, theater, Beat Generation writings, oral histories, avant-garde and experimental literature, political writings), (3) film and popular culture (e.g., television, music), (4) themes and issues, (5) course contexts, (6) institutional issues, (7) resources (e.g., videography, discography, Internet resources). Interdisciplinary approaches are encouraged especially for sections 3, 4, 5, and 6. If you are interested in contributing to this volume, please send a 250–500-word essay proposal, along with a curriculum vitae, as a *Word* attachment to Giunta (eggiunta@njcu.edu) and McCormick (kathleen.mccormick@purchase.edu). Submissions may also be mailed to Kathleen McCormick, School of Humanities, Purchase Coll., State Univ. of New York, Purchase 10577. Preliminary inquiries, requests for tentative tables of contents, comments, suggestions for contributors, and so forth are also welcome. The deadline for submitting ideas and proposals is 1 December 2003. □

#### COMMITTEES

### MLA Committee Meetings, October 2003–May 2004

The following schedule of MLA committee meetings is current as of 21 August 2003. Members who wish to bring issues to the attention of a committee may write to the committee chair listed in the September 2003 *PMLA* (pp. 723–33) or address letters to the executive director's office.

#### OCTOBER

- 2–3 ADFL Executive Committee
- 9–10 Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Rights and Responsibilities
- 9–10 *PMLA* Editorial Board
- 16–17 Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession
- 16–17 Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity and Tolerance
- 22–24 Delegate Assembly Organizing Committee
- 24–25 Executive Council
- 27–28 Advisory Committee on the *MLA International Bibliography*
- 30–31 Committee on Information Technology

#### NOVEMBER

- 6–7 Committee on Community Colleges
- 6–7 Publications Committee
- 13–14 ADE Ad Hoc Committee
- 13–14 Advisory Committee on Foreign Languages and Literatures

#### JANUARY

- 16 Radio Committee
- 23 Elections Committee
- 30 Committee on the New Variorum Edition of Shakespeare

#### FEBRUARY

- 5–6 *PMLA* Editorial Board
- 6 Nominating Committee
- 13 Texts and Translations Series Editorial Board
- 19–20 ADFL Executive Committee
- 27–28 Executive Council

#### MARCH

- 1–2 ADE Executive Committee
- 4–5 Advisory Committee on Foreign Languages and Literatures
- 8 Committee on Honors and Awards
- 11–12 Committee on the Literatures of People of Color in the United States and Canada
- 11–12 Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession

#### APRIL

- 1–2 Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Rights and Responsibilities
- 15–16 Publications Committee
- 15–16 Committee on Information Technology

#### MAY

- 6–7 Program Committee
- 6–7 *PMLA* Editorial Board
- 21–22 Executive Council

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Field Bibliographers Invited

The Advisory Committee on the *MLA International Bibliography* invites scholars and other professionals to serve as field bibliographers and graduate students to serve as assistant bibliographers. Both examine scholarly materials and send citations and indexing information to the MLA office. Service to the bibliography is performed under the supervision of MLA staff members, who provide extensive training in indexing practices. Address inquiries to Bibliographical Information Services at the MLA headquarters office (bibliography@mla.org; 646 576-5053). □

PMLA

## Electronic PMLA

Current issues of PMLA are now available to library subscribers in a searchable format through Ingenta. For the remainder of the calendar year, free trial subscriptions are available to libraries that subscribe to Ingenta. For more information, write or call Cindy Girone at the MLA office (646 576-5155; [subscrip@mla.org](mailto:subscrip@mla.org)). In addition, a historical archive of PMLA articles is available to JSTOR subscribers.

Two special features, a directory of current members (updated daily) and a searchable list of convention sessions (online beginning in November), will be available at the MLA Web site to members only. □

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BOOK NEWS

## Call for Suggestions for the Series Approaches to Teaching World Literature

The Publications Committee seeks to enhance the series Approaches to Teaching World Literature by offering more volumes on works commonly taught in introductory world literature courses. Such courses often cover a wide range of historical periods, genres, and source languages, thus leading many instructors to teach outside their fields of specialization. The committee welcomes copies of syllabi and course descriptions that will help it determine which texts are most frequently taught in these courses. The committee also welcomes proposals for new projects in the series. Information and inquiries should be directed to Jeremy George at MLA headquarters (fax: 646 458-0030; [jgeorge@mla.org](mailto:jgeorge@mla.org)). □

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BOOK NEWS

## Call for Contributions in Approaches Series

The Publications Committee has approved development of two new titles in the series Approaches to Teaching World Literature. The first volume, *Approaches to Teaching Petrarch's Canzoniere and Petrarchism*, will be edited by Christopher Kleinhenz and Andrea Dini. The second, devoted to Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway*, will be edited by Eileen Barrett and Ruth Saxton. If you wish to contribute to either volume, please send your name and mailing address by 15 November to Jeremy George at the MLA office (fax: 646 458-0030; [jgeorge@mla.org](mailto:jgeorge@mla.org)). □

PMLA

## PMLA Special Topic: The History of the Book and the Idea of Literature

PMLA is soliciting manuscripts for a special topic, to be published in the January 2006 issue. The subtopics listed below are provided by way of example and suggestion only.

*The History of the Book and the Idea of Literature.* The past three decades have seen a growing awareness of the book as a technological production, as a cultural artifact, and as a marker in a set of social, political, and economic relations. From an earlier study of books as mere repositories of canonical texts, or as aesthetic objects, or as "evidence" for positivist bibliographic scholarship, a history of the book has emerged that understands print as not simply a technology but a form of social behavior located in encounters with the published word that define both a public life and a private subjectivity. As Roger Chartier put it, "We necessarily hold reading to be an inventive and creative practice that seizes commonly shared objects in differing ways and endows them with meanings that cannot be reduced to the authors' and publishers' intentions alone." How does this new history of the book inflect the study of literary culture? Invited are submissions that consider any aspect of book history as it bears on literary study and that address such questions as the following: What are the relations between the institutions of book production and the rise of authorial identity, of literary canons, and of academic disciplines? How might scholars now and in the future apply such traditional disciplines as bibliography, codicology, and paleography in understanding literary history? How do the history and study of the book contribute to the sociology of knowledge in the large? How does the culture of collecting (e.g., bibliomania) affect the socioeconomics of the book, the production and reception of literature, and the academic study of book history? Do non-Western histories of the book (e.g., in China, in the Islamic world) challenge or reaffirm the discipline of book history as it has emerged in Europe and America?

The coordinators of the special topic are Seth Lerer (Stanford Univ.) and Leah Price (Harvard Univ.). The deadline for submissions is 28 May 2004. Manuscripts should be submitted to the Managing Editor, PMLA, Modern Language Association, 26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10004-1789. Submissions to PMLA must meet the requirements given in the statement of editorial policy, available online and printed in the January, March, May, and October issues of PMLA. □

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BOOK NEWS

## Contributions and Ideas Sought for Teaching North American Environmental Literature

For the MLA's Options for Teaching series, the Publications Committee has approved development of the volume *Teaching North American Environmental Literature* as the first of several planned books devoted to teaching environmental literature. The book's editor, Fred Waage (with associates Laird Christensen, Mark Long, and Kevin O'Donnell), seeks contributions and ideas for practical and theoretical essays on teaching literature in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. As currently conceived, the volume has four parts: (1) backgrounds to teaching North American literature, (2) mapping North American environmental literatures (i.e., all periods and varieties of US, Canadian, and Mexican environmental literature as well as literatures that cross national boundaries or address border issues), (3) teaching North American environmental literature (e.g., ecocomposition, poetry, fiction, nonfiction; interdisciplinary, cross-cultural, and issue-oriented approaches; nonclassroom education), and (4) resources for teaching North American environmental literature (e.g., bibliographies, nonprint media, Internet materials). Collaborative authorship is especially encouraged for interdisciplinary, international, and intercultural contributions. If you are interested in contributing to this volume, please send, in a page or two, your ideas for an essay, along with a curriculum vitae, preferably as a Word document attachment, to Waage ([waage@mail.etsu.edu](mailto:waage@mail.etsu.edu)). Submissions may also be mailed to Fred Waage, Dept. of English, East Tennessee State Univ., Johnson City 37614. Preliminary inquiries, requests for tentative tables of contents, comments, suggestions for contributors, and so forth are also welcome. The deadline for submitting ideas and proposals is 1 December 2003. □

## BOOK NEWS

## Three New MLA Titles Published

Please note that prices on all paperback volumes in the *Approaches to Teaching World Literature* series will increase to \$19.75 (MLA members \$15.80) on 1 January 2004.

The MLA published three new titles in fall 2003. Released in September, *Approaches to Teaching Gothic Fiction* is edited by Diane Long Hoeveler and Tamar Heller. Recent decades have seen a revival of scholarly interest in Gothic fiction. This volume contains twenty-eight essays that define the genre; examine its connections to history, philosophy, feminism, and social criticism; show its different forms in England, Ireland, and the United States; and probe its themes—including such motifs as ghosts, castles, entrapped heroines, and animated corpses. The volume is 320 pages; it costs \$37.50 (MLA members \$30.00) in cloth and \$18.00 (MLA members \$14.40) in paperback.

Also released in September was *Approaches to Teaching Rousseau's Confessions and The Reveries of the Solitary Walker*, edited by John C. O'Neal and Ourida Mostefai. In this volume, contributors discuss the sources of Rousseau's confessional writings, explore the new literary mode of autobiography, and consider the problems of the public responses to his work. They also scrutinize particular passages and investigate contemporary critical approaches as well as comparative approaches linking Rousseau to other writers, including Wordsworth and Baudelaire. The volume is 176 pages; it costs \$37.50 (MLA members \$30.00) in cloth and \$18.00 (MLA members \$14.40) in paperback.

*Cultural Studies in the Curriculum: Teaching Latin America*, edited by Danny J. Anderson and Jill S. Kuhnheim, is scheduled for publication in October. Some of the topics discussed in the volume are Chicano/a writing; Caribbean film, music, religious expressions, and sport; colonial Spanish perceptions of indigenous life; ethical issues in United States and Latin American business relations; and assumptions about gender and sexuality in Mexico before machismo. The book is 256 pages; it costs \$37.50 (MLA members \$30.00) in cloth and \$19.75 (MLA members \$15.80) in paperback.

To purchase these or other MLA publications, please call customer services (646 576-5161), fax your order (646 576-5160), or place your order through the MLA Web site ([www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org)). The MLA accepts Visa, MasterCard, and American Express. □

## BOOK NEWS

## Call for Proposals in New Series

The Publications Committee seeks proposals for volumes in the new series *World Literatures Reimagined*. Written by specialists but addressed to a wide audience, books in the series consider particular literatures in an international context. The scope of the books includes the emergent literatures of the developing world; the less-taught literatures of central and eastern Europe and the Americas; and the literary traditions and languages of Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. Volumes may address literary history, interpretation, and pedagogy. They may deal with periods within national literatures, with genres or topics, or with other ways of organizing literary traditions, exploring in the process the opportunities and problems of cross-cultural studies. Books may be edited collections or singly or jointly authored. Proposals for projects at early stages as well as inquiries regarding completed manuscripts are welcome. Guidelines for the series are available at the MLA Web site ([www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org)). Please send proposals or inquiries to Sonia Kane at MLA headquarters (fax: 646 458-0030; [skane@mla.org](mailto:skane@mla.org)). □

## GRANTS AND PRIZES

## Competition Open for MLA Book Awards

The MLA Committee on Honors and Awards invites authors and editors to compete for the association's twenty-three publication prizes. Five prizes that are awarded only in even-numbered years will be presented at the 2004 convention: the Leviant Memorial Prize, the MLA Prize for a Distinguished Bibliography, the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Studies in Germanic Languages and Literatures, the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for a Translation of a Literary Work, and the Howard R. Marraro Prize.

Prizes awarded annually by the MLA are the James Russell Lowell Prize for an outstanding book by a member of the association; the MLA Prize for a First Book; the MLA Prize for Independent Scholars, awarded for a distinguished scholarly book on language or literature; the Kenneth W. Mildener Prize for an outstanding research publication in the field of teaching foreign languages and literatures; the Mina P. Shaughnessy Prize for an outstanding research publication in the field of teaching English; the Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize for an outstanding book published in English in the field of Latin American and Spanish literatures and cultures; the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Comparative Literary Studies; the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for French and Francophone Studies; the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Publication Award for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Studies; the William Sanders Scarborough Prize for an outstanding scholarly study of black American literature or culture; and the MLA Prize in United States Latina and Latino and Chicana and Chicano Literary and Cultural Studies. A work published in 2003 may compete for one of the annual prizes that will be presented in 2004 if it meets the specific eligibility requirements for the prize. The deadline for entries for the 2003 James Russell Lowell Prize is 1 March 2004; for the First Book Prize it is 1 April; for the Scaglione Publication Award it is 1 August; for all other MLA awards it is 1 May.

Six prizes that are awarded only in odd-numbered years will be presented at the 2005 convention: the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Studies in Slavic Languages and Literatures, the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Italian Studies, the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for a Translation of a Scholarly Study of Literature, the Morton N. Cohen Award for a Distinguished Edition of Letters, the MLA Prize for a Distinguished Scholarly Edition, and the Lois Roth Award. Biennial prizes are open to books or editions published in either of the two calendar years preceding the year in which the prize is presented, except for the prizes for Italian studies (the Scaglione Prize for Italian Studies and the Howard R. Marraro Prize) and the prizes for literary translation (the Scaglione Prize for a Translation of a Literary Work and the Lois Roth Award), for which works must have been published in the year prior to the year in which they are presented.

Only members of the association may compete for the MLA Prize for a First Book, the Lowell prize, the Marraro prize, the MLA Prize in United States Latina and Latino and Chicana and Chicano Literary and Cultural Studies, and the Scaglione prizes for comparative literary studies, French and Francophone studies, Italian studies, studies in Germanic languages and literatures, and the Scaglione Publication Award for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Studies. Authors who are not members may compete if they join the association before the deadline. For detailed information about eligibility and the number of copies required to compete for any MLA prize, please call or write the Office of Special Projects (646 576-5141; [awards@mla.org](mailto:awards@mla.org)). □

## MLA Policy on Membership Mailing-List Rentals

From time to time the MLA rents mailing lists—of members, groups within the membership (e.g., divisions), and departmental administrators—to individuals and organizations wishing to reach scholars and teachers in the fields served by the association. The manager of the member and customer services department reviews the contents of mailings by prospective customers and approves only those that are relevant to teachers and scholars of modern languages and literatures; the rental of a list does not, however, imply endorsement of a product or of the sponsoring organization. Lists are frequently rented to announce calls for papers and forthcoming conferences and to promote new book titles and software products. Members who wish to be omitted from list-rental mailings should notify Allegra Millan, assistant manager, member and customer services office, in writing. □

### Classified Advertisements

Address all advertisements to MLA Newsletter, MLA, 26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10004-1789. Checks should be made payable to the Modern Language Association. The rate for advertisements is \$3 a word, with a ten-word minimum. Ads must be prepaid. Content and appearance of advertisements are subject to publisher's approval. The publisher does not solicit the items and cannot vouch for their reliability. Members should exercise reasonable judgment in responding to them.

**Shaw Conference.** March 17-21 at the U. of South Florida in Sarasota, Florida. For details see <http://chuma.cas.usf.edu/~dietrich/USFShawConference2004-Sarasota/index.html>. For inquiries write to [dietrich@chuma1.cas.usf.edu](mailto:dietrich@chuma1.cas.usf.edu).

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Sabbatical in Paris? Available 1 Oct. 2003, 2-bedroom; in 3eme/edge of Marais; fully furnished; shower/washer/dryer; sunny with balcony; \$1100 plus utilities; Call (973) 665-0272.

## D E A D L I N E S

### Fellowships and Grants

The following list includes fellowships and grants that have deadlines between 2 November and 31 December. More specific information, such as eligibility, description of grants, number of grants awarded, and sources for further details, can be found in the September 2003 PMLA, pages 1124-44. The arrangement is chronological, and each date is followed by the major title under which information is listed in the September issue.

#### NOVEMBER

- early Fulbright-Hays Section 102(b)(6)
- 8 Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation
- 15 American Academy in Rome
- 15 American Association of University Women Educational Foundation
- 15 American Research Institute in Turkey
- 15 Archaeological Institute of America
- 15 Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies of the City University of New York
- 15 Institute for Advanced Study
- 15 Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship at Wesleyan University's Center for the Humanities
- 15 Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania
- 30 Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies
- 30 International Research and Exchanges Board

#### DECEMBER

- 1 American Classical League
- 1 American Philosophical Society
- 1 American Printing History Association
- 1 Bibliographical Society of America
- 1 Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies, Princeton University
- 1 Dictionary Society of North America
- 1 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowships
- 1 Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities
- 1 International Research and Exchanges Board
- 1 William Morris Society in the United States
- 1 Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, the New York Public Library
- 1 Sex, Race, and Globalization Project at the University of Arizona
- 1 Stanford Humanities Fellows
- 1 Virginia Center for the Humanities
- 7 Andrew W. Mellon Fellowships in Humanistic Studies
- 8 Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women
- mid-Dec. Charlotte W. Newcomb Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships
- 15 American Association of University Women Educational Foundation
- 15 Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation Grants for Venetian Research
- 15 Huntington Library
- 15 Kosciuszko Foundation
- 15 Oregon State University Center for the Humanities
- 15 Thurber House Residencies
- 16 Harvard University's Kathryn W. and Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Russian Studies
- 19 Andrew W. Mellon Fellowships in Humanistic Studies
- 20 American Association of University Women Educational Foundation
- 31 Association for Canadian Studies in the United States
- 31 University of California, Los Angeles, Fellowship Program in Ethnic Studies
- 31 Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism

U P C O M I N G M L A D E A D L I N E S

**OCTOBER**

- 15 Deadline for receipt of resolutions to be considered and voted on at the 2003 Delegate Assembly meeting (see MLA constitution, articles 9.C.10 and 11.C.3-5); deadline for receipt of motions to be placed on the agenda of the 2003 Delegate Assembly meeting (see Delegate Assembly bylaw 7)
- 17 Deadline for receipt of departmental administrators' job listings for the December 2003 *Job Information List*

**NOVEMBER**

- 1 Deadline for applications from advanced graduate students for partial reimbursement for travel to the 2003 convention

**DECEMBER**

- 1 Preregistration deadline for 2003 convention
- 10 Deadline for receipt of MLA election ballots (covering contests for second vice president, Executive Council, Delegate Assembly, and division executive committees)
- 10 Deadline for receipt of ballots covering ratification of 2002 Delegate Assembly actions

**DECEMBER (cont.)**

- 10 Deadline for receipt of 2003 convention addresses for "Who's Where"

**JANUARY**

- 5 Deadline for receipt of convention calls for papers for Spring 2004 *Newsletter*
- 16 Deadline for receipt of departmental administrators' job listings for the February 2004 *Job Information List*
- 31 Deadline for receipt of proposals for honorary members and fellows

**MARCH**

- 1 Deadline for receipt of forum proposals for 2004 convention
- 1 Deadline for submission of books competing for the 2004 James Russell Lowell Prize
- 5 Deadline for receipt of departmental administrators' job listings for the April 2004 *Job Information List*
- 15 Deadline for receipt of submissions for *Profession 2004*

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