



DANIEL ROOT

The Executive Council met on 24 and 25 October 2003. Standing (left to right): Nancy K. Miller, Sidonie Smith, Rosemarie Scullion, A. LaVonne Brown Ruoff, Elisabeth Mudimbe-Boyi, Mary Louise Pratt, Tey Diana Rebolledo, Donna C. Stanton, Robert Scholes. Seated (left to right): K. Anthony Appiah, Judith Butler, Michael Bérubé, Katie Trumpener, Reed Way Dasenbrock, Amada Sandoval.

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### CONVENTION

## San Diego Convention

There is still time to preregister for the 2003 MLA convention in San Diego. By now you should have received your copy of the Program issue of *PMLA*, and you can see the wide range of subjects that will be discussed in more than seven hundred sessions. When you're not enjoying the sessions, meeting with colleagues, or visiting the exhibit hall, you can take advantage of San Diego's many attractions. Most of the convention hotels are well located for theaters, restaurants, museums, and shopping. The preregistration deadline is 1 December. Visit the MLA Web site ([www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org)) for up-to-date information about the convention.

Meetings will be held in the Manchester Grand Hyatt (most English language sessions) and the San Diego Marriott (most foreign language sessions). Registration and information areas in the Manchester Grand Hyatt, the San Diego Marriott, and the San Diego Convention Center will open at 12:00 noon on 27 December. Members can obtain copies of the *MLA Convention News and Program Update*, which announces program changes, new exhibits, and MLA election results. (The *MLA Convention News* will appear at the MLA Web site around

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## MLA Member Search

MLA members can now access a current membership list on the MLA Web site. This membership benefit, which requires the use of a member number and password for access, allows members to search other members' listings by first name, last name, or institution and to receive results that include street and e-mail addresses.

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20 December.) They can also purchase copies of the *Job Information List*, consult the "Who's Where" list for names and local addresses of their colleagues, and pick up brochures on local restaurants and tourist attractions.

Exhibits, in the San Diego Convention Center, will open at 9:00 a.m. on 28 December. The child care center and the Job Information Center will be in the San Diego Marriott. 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. □

#### GOVERNANCE

### Elections Committee Seeks Candidates

At the end of 2004, the seats of eighteen special-interest and thirty-eight regional Delegate Assembly representatives will fall vacant. The MLA Elections Committee will meet in January 2004 to begin the process of identifying candidates for these open special-interest and regional seats. Those elected in 2004 will serve in the assembly from 2005 through 2007 and must attend the meetings of the assembly in 2005, 2006, and 2007.

The Elections Committee is charged not only with nominating candidates and overseeing the elections but also with ensuring that the various groups within the MLA find representation in the Delegate Assembly. Committee members are therefore interested in hearing from all MLA members who are willing to be candidates in next year's Delegate Assembly elections. Members whose names are already on file at the MLA office need take no additional action at this time. Others who would like to be considered should write to the Elections Committee, c/o Carol Zuses, at the MLA office. □

### Profession 2004 Call for Papers

*Profession* is a journal of opinion about and for the modern language profession. With advice from the members of the *Profession* Advisory Committee, the editor selects articles covering a range of topics of professional concern, trying to give a voice to MLA members working in diverse subject areas and situations.

For *Profession 2004*, the members of the committee seek previously unpublished essays, of 1,800 to 5,000 words, on current intellectual, curricular, and professional trends and issues that are of importance to the field. The committee also welcomes articles on curricular developments in language and literature majors; articles that examine the changing shape of MA- and PhD-granting programs; new forms of scholarly communication; articles on the working environment in departments in various types of institutions; and reports from new PhDs who are working either in the academy or in the business, government, or not-for-profit sector. In addition, the committee invites essays about cooperative courses and programs organized jointly by English and foreign language departments and information about the study and teaching of the humanities in a global context.

Letters to the editor and short comments on articles in *Profession 2003*, of 800 words or less, will also be considered. *Profession* does not publish articles by the same author two years in a row. The deadline for submissions is 15 March 2004. Documentation should conform to the *MLA Style Manual*. Address materials to the editor, Rosemary G. Feal, at the MLA office. □

#### WEB SITE NEWS

### San Diego Convention Sessions Available Online

Beginning in November, a searchable list of convention sessions will be available online for MLA members at [www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org). This list will contain all the sessions in the November (Program) issue of *PMLA* and will be searchable in many ways, including by location, subject heading, and participant name.

The *MLA Convention News and Program Update* will be available online in a non-searchable format. □

### MLA Recommendations on Salaries for Entry-Level, Full-Time, and Part-Time Faculty Members

The minimum salary range for full-time appointments at the entry level should be at least \$36,000 to \$39,000 or better for instructors and \$45,000 to \$49,000 or better for beginning assistant professors. Health-care benefits and shared contributions to a portable retirement plan should also be provided.

Part-time faculty members perform a valuable role in institutions, giving employers flexibility in scheduling and providing a high level of expertise without a substantial long-term commitment from the institution. These faculty members should be compensated not only for their expertise but also for the flexibility and convenience they offer. The Modern Language Association therefore recommends a salary range of \$5,300 to \$7,400 per course section, with fringe benefits and cost-of-living increases, as reasonable minimum compensation for part-time faculty members. □

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 \$8. 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 Archive and the Aquifer

"Higher education is an aquifer, not a spigot." As good metaphors can, these words of the Yale sociologist Nancy Rutherford set the mind to work. The occasion was a conference on international education at Duke University, where the relation between the overall social enterprise of higher education and what are perceived as immediate and particular national needs was a recurring question. Rutherford's metaphor distinguished the two in a vivid and useful way. Universities, she argued, cannot be built in response to immediate needs, as the spigot someone can turn on for the expertise they need at the moment. Universities should be conceived as a deep reserve, built up slowly and sustained over the long term, on the assumption that though specific needs will arise, they cannot be anticipated. If there's no aquifer, the spigot will sputter dry in no time.

It's no accident that a discussion of international education occasioned this reflection. Deep knowledge of particular parts of the world cannot be produced overnight. It has to be built up over years, supported through real relationships with people and institutions abroad, passed along, invested in, and valued in terms independent of the contingencies, fears, and passions of a moment. Higher education and research are society's overall investment in itself, not short-term problem-solving apparatuses.

Humanists are conspicuous by their absence in international education discussions. Yet they too are engaged in creating the deep reserve that is there to be drawn on when needs arise. The aquifer metaphor evokes those vast, vital, and often underground entities around which our lives revolve: the corpus and the archive. Societies' understandings of themselves and others are produced through lively, conflictive processes of exploring, reconstituting, rereading, revitalizing, and reshaping their own and one another's cultural archives. This is a big part of what humanists do.

Nothing could exemplify this work better than the careers of three former MLA presidents whose lives came to an end this year: Walter J. Ong, SJ (president, 1978) was 90 years old, Carolyn Heilbrun (president, 1984) was 77, and Edward Said (president, 1999) was 67. All were extraordinary scholars, public intellectuals, and world citizens. From his classic *Presence of the Word* (1967) through *Orality and Literacy: The Technologizing of the Word* (1982), Ong studied the transition from oralism to writing and its effect on thought. Returning to what he called the primacy of orality, he explored the idea of language as event rather than as sign. He knew that technology, from TV to amplifier to e-mail, was transforming language and thought permanently and deeply. In Jesuit tradition, he was involved in projects all over the world. Carolyn Heilbrun was a leader of the gender revolution, in society and in thought. She founded the Institute for Research on Women and Gender at Columbia University and taught pioneering courses on gender theory and feminist criticism. From *Toward a Recognition of Androgyny* (1975) to *The Last Gift of Time: Life beyond Sixty* (1997), her scholarship was committed to the human condition and, as one of her book titles put it, the reinvention of womanhood. While Ong engaged the technological revolution and Heilbrun the gender revolution, Edward Said engaged in the workings of decolonization, of geopolitical relations, and of knowledge. From *Orientalism* (1978) through *Culture and Imperialism* (1993) to his forthcoming book on humanism and democracy, he sought to grasp the extent to which colonialism and empire had defined modern European culture. His profound commitment to Western humanism showed in many ways, including a consis-

tent, sometimes polemical concern with the responsibilities of intellectuals. The MLA was fortunate to have the inspiration of these three exceptional people. For this writer it has been an honor to walk in the tracks left by each of them.

### Next!

This marks the end of my three-year cycle of duties as vice president and president of the MLA. It has been a privileged learning experience. Anyone who serves in this role marvels at the quality and dedication of the Executive Council members you elect and of the MLA staff members whose wisdom, patience, and tact make the president's work possible. Opportunities to communicate with people in government, the media, and other scholarly organizations have shown me the respect and influence the MLA has out there, deriving not just from its size and weight but also from the range and caliber of the scholars who belong to it; from its reputation for integrity, reliability, and judgment; and from its commitment to free inquiry and educational democracy. There is much to be proud of and to uphold.

I come away with four questions and two exhortations.

Four questions:

1. Does the MLA need to involve its members more? Does it need to ask more of them and create more varied opportunities for their involvement? Are there enough forms of engagement for people who can't come to the convention?

2. Half of the teachers of language and literature in higher education work in community colleges. How can the MLA serve this vital constituency and benefit from its size and vitality?

3. How can we broaden the range of languages in our purview? I believe it is essential for the MLA to reach beyond our founding mantra of "French, German, Spanish, Italian, and other" and to do so quickly. On the one hand, teachers of many other languages (including the nine identified by the government as "strategic": Arabic, Mandarin, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Farsi, Russian, Portuguese, Turkish) need ways to pursue shared interests. On the other, the MLA needs a place at the table when decisions regarding languages in higher education or public policy are made. We have a stake in the outcome.

4. Do we have enough ways to house new and emergent domains of inquiry? Everywhere I've gone this year I've encountered people who say they'd like their work to be represented by the MLA and feel it is not. The two most recent examples were translation and interpretation studies and performance studies. My predecessors remind me this is an old story. At the same time, the geographies of literary, cultural, and linguistic inquiry seem to be shifting rapidly and deeply, while our internal map of divisions and discussion groups can change only slowly. Is this a problem, or is it exactly how it should be?

Two exhortations:

First, engage with your community. I'm convinced nothing will do more to dispel public skepticism about the humanities than the presence of humanists in local public forums, talking about what they do and why they do it, offering perspectives on the issues of the time or seeking community engagement in the teaching enterprise. Our habitual suspicion of popularizing is counterproductive. Like everything else we do, popularizing can be done well or badly, and we can learn to do it well. Institutions should come to value such activities on a par with research and teaching.

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Second, within your institution, take the lead in discussions of assessment and evaluation of humanistic inquiry and interpretive knowledge. Insist on opportunities to teach your administrators, colleagues, and trustees how to assess the value of what we do. The lack

of clarity on this issue costs us every day in promotion and budget committees, funding agencies, foundations, and state houses, and it is not going to go away unless we address it energetically and directly.

Thank you all.

Mary Louise Pratt

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GOVERNANCE

## Proposals for the 2003 Delegate Assembly Meeting Agenda

The following proposals were received at the MLA office by the 15 October deadline for consideration during this year's Delegate Assembly meeting in San Diego.

Whereas the U.S.A. Patriot Act U.S. government claims the right to define terrorism however it wishes;

Whereas under said Act the U.S. government claims the right to spy on reading habits, Web browsing, e-mail activity, and library borrowing habits, without court order, of anyone in an academic institution or elsewhere;

Whereas intellectuals who engage in critical inquiry and political activism may be dubbed terrorists as a result of this spying; and

Whereas citizens and noncitizens have already been detained as terrorists under this Act,

Resolved: The MLA urges the repeal of the U.S.A. Patriot Act.

*submitted by Grover C. Furr on behalf of the  
Radical Caucus in English and Modern Languages*

Whereas in wartime, governments commonly shape language to legitimate aggression, misrepresent policies, conceal aims, stigmatize dissent, and block critical thought; and

Whereas distortions of this sort proliferate now, as in use of the phrase "war on terrorism," to underwrite military action anywhere in the world, against whomever our government sees as opponents; and

Whereas we are professionals committed to scrupulous inquiry into language and culture;

Be it resolved that the Modern Language Association supports its members in conducting critical analysis of war talk, in public forums and, as appropriate, in classrooms.

*submitted by Richard Ohmann on behalf of the  
Radical Caucus in English and the Modern Languages*

Whereas the U.S. government spends \$3.9 billion monthly on the "war on terrorism," recently proposing \$87 billion more;

Whereas a \$2.3 trillion deficit is projected in Bush's first term—two-fifths attributable to tax cuts to the wealthy;

Whereas government fiscal priorities have intensified defunding/ privatization of higher education, e.g., as in California where 2003 budget cuts have caused a 90,000-student loss in access and loss of jobs and courses;

Be it resolved the MLA deplores government war-making projects and urges the withdrawal of troops and reallocation of funds to reverse inattention to, and grave deficits in, funding of education and other human services.

*submitted by Julia Stein on behalf of the  
Radical Caucus in English and Modern Languages*

Whereas the Association has repeatedly endorsed decent pay and working conditions for graduate students, teaching assistants, and adjunct faculty; and

Whereas many in MLA fields teach writing; and

Whereas the Conference on College Composition and Communication, at its 2003 convention, passed a resolution, "On Professional Standards for Instruction in Literacy," that led to establishment of an "Academic Quality Commission," one of whose charges is to seek cosponsorship with organizations such as the MLA of conferences to support professional standards and pay;

Moved that the MLA Executive Council and staff are asked to cooperate with the CCCC's Academic Quality Commission in this effort.

*submitted by Richard Ohmann and Leo Parascondola  
on behalf of the Radical Caucus in  
English and Modern Languages*

Be it resolved that the Modern Language Association recommends that the Yale administration work out a fair process for graduate teaching and research assistants to decide whether or not to unionize, in an atmosphere free from intimidation and coercion.

Be it resolved that the Yale administration and GESO, the union of graduate teachers and researchers at Yale, find a mutually acceptable forum for reaching some understanding about conduct that may represent a genuine threat to freedom of expression. That forum could be the NLRB if all parties conceded its jurisdiction; or it could be another forum devised by the parties.

*submitted by Jeffrey Boyd on behalf of the GESO organizing  
committee in comparative literature, French, Spanish, Italian,  
Slavic, Spanish, German, and English at Yale University*

In addition to these new proposals from the membership, the 2003 Delegate Assembly will consider reports from the Delegate Assembly Organizing Committee and the Executive Council and regular staff and committee reports on association activities.

MLA members are invited to attend the meeting of the 2003 Delegate Assembly during the convention in San Diego. Members may address the assembly on any of the issues on the assembly's agenda. The assembly meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, 29 December, in Ballroom Section 6B of the San Diego Convention Center. Because the assembly meeting is open-ended—recent meetings have lasted four hours or more—even latecomers will have a chance to join in important discussions of association policies.

So that association members may engage fully with the issues to be discussed at the Delegate Assembly meeting, the necessary documents will be made available at the beginning of the meeting. □

## Hypotext: Slow Writing for a Digital World

I don't have a laptop computer with me as I write these words on paper. It won't be long, however, before the words I pen meet up with technology on their way through the MLA editorial department, where they will undergo a transformation from rough to ready. Equally comfortable with longhand on a notepad or keystrokes on a computer, I belong to the generation of scholars who prepared their dissertations on typewriters and, a few years later, made the transition to word processing, followed by the leap into the digital age. By the 1990s we were submitting manuscripts electronically; accessing scholarly material through online databases; creating Web pages containing our course syllabi, readings, and links to a world of information in cyberspace. We began writing hypertext and publishing scholarly monographs, editions, and articles online. Today, it is almost impossible to imagine conducting research or teaching courses without tapping into the possibilities that electronic media afford. I nevertheless worry that our profession may soon confront a severe case of "overbyte" as the pressures build to digitize all scholarly output and make it available over the Web.<sup>1</sup>

Electronic access to scholarship has made a great difference to the way MLA members obtain, produce, and propagate knowledge. The MLA is committed to promoting the highest standards in scholarship and writing, whether in traditional paper publications or in new electronic media. (Please attend the awards ceremony on 28 December at the convention in San Diego to see one way in which electronic scholarship is prized). Careful and consistent editing, with scrupulous attention to documentation, is at the heart of all the MLA does.

The MLA has been at the forefront of providing electronic access to scholarship. The *MLA International Bibliography*, which has been available as an electronic database since the late 1970s, is considered the gold standard among librarians because of the quality and depth of its coverage and the consistency and accuracy of its search terms. The MLA was pleased to receive support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for indexing the language and literature journals that are included in the JSTOR database. This multiyear project, already well under way, will produce over 74,000 records from approximately 50 journals since their inception, including *PMLA*. The MLA bibliography staff has helped make the JSTOR language and literature collection highly functional from a research perspective by providing the indexing that is the motor behind all reliable electronic searches. Beginning in 2003, current issues of *PMLA* in electronic form are available to libraries by subscription, thereby making the entire run of the MLA's flagship journal searchable.

Students and scholars more than ever need assistance in navigating the digital world, and the MLA has responded to this need in several ways. The recently published sixth edition of the *MLA Handbook* (which members received earlier this year) discusses information sharing today and contains recommendations aimed at less experienced researchers who turn to the Web for scholarly information. The *Handbook* section on evaluating Internet sources outlines essential considerations to look for, such as indications of authorship; reliable textual editions, publisher, or sponsoring organization; and so forth. "Citing Electronic Publications" guides the researcher through the complex process of correct documentation for Internet sources, CD-ROMs, and works from library subscription services, for example.

One of the most useful pieces of advice I received early on in my career was this: "Don't rush into print" (a contemporary corollary: "Don't leap into cyberspace"). Writing—good scholarly writing, anyway—is a deliberate process that should not be precipitated, though

the pressures to write fast are tremendous. It is intriguing to witness how the "Slow Food" movement has flourished among members of the fast-food generation. Naturally, there is a Slow Food Web site that connects the "convivia," or grassroots, networks that make up the association. "Slow Travelers," whose goal is to spend time to get to know the places they visit, also have a Web site. "Slow" and "electronic" are not antithetical. Surely there is a place in academia for slow writers, many of whom embrace new technologies and support digital access to scholarship. Slow writers pay attention to form and care about lexical choice and syntax. Slow writers take care to document and cite properly. The editing process matters a great deal to these kinds of writers, and when their work appears in electronic form, they want it to be as polished as when it is published in print. Slow writers appreciate how electronic and digital technologies permit revisions, corrections, updates, and expansions of their work. They shudder at the prospect of serious scholarship being lost on the Web among the "great gobs of unvetted dross" (Smith 2). What many in the scholarly community want to see is digital scholarship capable of generating as much respect and prestige as the printed word. To accomplish this goal, we must in turn be respectful of the slow writing process (*hypotext*) that can in turn make *hypertext* the best it can be. The MLA community should be proud of our contributions to excellence in digital scholarship. We must endeavor to convince administrators, librarians, and the public that doing this kind of work correctly has time and monetary expenditures attached, and we should continue to help set the standards by which to create and judge new forms of scholarly communication.<sup>2</sup>

Rosemary G. Feal

### Notes

<sup>1</sup>University-based digital institutional repositories offer great potential for stewardship (organization, preservation, and access) of the scholarly production of their communities. There are several areas of concern to be noted, not the least of which is the quality control of the scholarly writing contained in digital repositories. See Lynch; Crow.

<sup>2</sup>The MLA Ad Hoc Committee on the Future of Scholarly Publishing made the following statement: "It is crucial that electronic publications—including book-length studies, periodicals, editions, and scholarly Web sites—contain a statement about the form of review used to evaluate the quality of the work published and that such a peer review be comparable in type and standard with that employed by university presses and reputable journals" (181). "Principles for Emerging Systems of Scholarly Publishing" also recommends that "the system of scholarly publications must continue to include processes for evaluating the quality of scholarly work and every publication should provide the reader with information about evaluation the work has undergone" (Case 2).

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## GOVERNANCE

## Executive Council Meeting Highlights

The Executive Council held its winter meeting on 21–22 February 2003 at the MLA office in New York. A complete report of this meeting appears in the October 2003 issue of *PMLA*; the following actions may be of special interest to members.

*Administration and Finance.* The council received the independent auditor's report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2002. It also received the Finance Committee's report, which reviewed the budget for the 2002–03 fiscal year and discussed the preparation of a budget for the 2003–04 fiscal year. The council authorized the staff to prepare a balanced budget for 2003–04 and approved the budget for the national conference on disability studies, which is to be cosponsored by and held at Emory University in March 2004.

*Establishment of Bibliography Fellowships.* The council approved a request from the Advisory Committee on the *MLA International Bibliography* that the association establish bibliography fellowships to aid in the recruitment and retention of field bibliographers. The three-year fellowships will be awarded to scholars of any level of seniority who are interested in being trained as field bibliographers and who agree to provide one hundred citations a year for three years. Awards of \$500 each will be made to fellows when they complete three years' service. Five to ten new fellowships will be made available each year. Since field bibliographers regularly make significant contributions to the bibliography in all areas of coverage, one goal of the new fellowship program is to encourage fellows who complete their fellowships to continue contributing citations to the bibliography.

*Constitutional Amendments Affecting the Resolution Process.* The council formally considered three recommendations from the Delegate Assembly Organizing Committee (DAOC) for constitutional amendments aimed at strengthening the association's resolution process. The DAOC had sought comments on these recommendations from the Delegate Assembly at the assembly's December 2002 meeting, and the council also considered a summary of these comments. The council agreed to propose two of the recommended amendments and postponed action on one. The first amendment the council agreed to propose aims to clarify the constitutional provision calling for resolutions to be submitted with "documented background material." The council will propose the following amendment to article 11.C.3.b of the MLA constitution (bracketed words to be deleted; italicized phrase to be added): "All resolutions must be accompanied by [documented background] material *that provides evidence in support of the resolutions' claims.*" The second amendment aims to facilitate the work of the DAOC, which is constitutionally charged with reviewing resolutions and transmitting them to the Delegate Assembly with a recommendation for or against approval, by changing the submission deadline for resolutions from 15 October to 1 October. Because the DAOC meets at most two weeks after the current 15 October deadline, changing the submission deadline to 1 October will allow more time for the preparation of the materials that the DAOC must review. The council will therefore propose the necessary amendments to article 11.C.3.c-d of the MLA constitution and to Delegate Assembly bylaw 7.

*Review of Resolutions Approved by the 2002 Delegate Assembly.* As required by the MLA constitution (art. 7.B.3), the council reviewed the three resolutions that the 2002 Delegate Assembly had approved. The council authorized nonsubstantive copyediting changes to the wording of one of the resolutions and forwarded it to the membership for the required ratification vote.

The council took the following actions on the remaining two resolutions, the first of which dealt with policies and practices at the University of California, Davis, affecting both probationary lecturers and long-term non-tenure-track faculty members, and the second of which asserted a direct relation between increased government spending on war and cuts in funding for education and other services and called on the MLA to encourage funding for education and services instead of war. Council members discussed both resolutions in the light of the constitutional requirement for the council to find that a resolution contains no "erroneous, tortious, or possibly libelous statements." In the matter of the first resolution, the council decided that it contained an erroneous statement and so could not be forwarded to the membership for ratification. The council found that the material submitted with the resolution did not support the resolution's claim that the category of long-term non-tenure-track lecturers at Davis was being weakened. However, because council members found that the supporting documents did show that the review process that would make probationary lecturers eligible for positions with longer-term job security was being preempted, they decided to return the resolution to the assembly and to ask either for evidence in support of the resolution's claims or for revision of the language of the resolution so that it refers to the preemption of the review process. In addition, the use of MLA policy statements to justify practices that council members strongly objected to prompted the council to begin work on clarifying the MLA's position on the issues surrounding the conversion of non-tenure-track faculty lines to tenure-track faculty lines. In the matter of the resolution dealing with government spending on various activities, the council found the resolution's claim of a cause-and-effect relation between increased government spending on war and decreased spending on education to be erroneous, citing in particular the funding of the GI Bill and the fact that there had been no cuts in federal education funding in recent years. In addition, the council found that taking a position against government spending on war fell outside the MLA's chartered mission and so threatened the association's tax-exempt status. Because of these two findings, the council decided it could not forward the resolution to the membership. As required by the constitution, the council will explain the reasons for its action to the 2003 Delegate Assembly.

*Election of a Council Member to the Delegate Assembly Organizing Committee.* The council elected Rosaura Sánchez to the Organizing Committee for a two-year term (2003–04).

*Appointments to MLA Committees.* The council made fifty-three appointments to the standing committees of the association and appointed eleven committee chairs or cochairs. The September 2003 (Directory) issue of *PMLA* lists all new and continuing committee members. □

## ADE and ADFL Online Job Counseling

The Association of Departments of English and the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages offer an online job counseling service to give job seekers year-round access to the advice that senior department chairs have provided annually through both associations at the MLA convention. The Web site currently includes more than one hundred forty responses to common questions about career planning, applying, and interviewing from chairs; from other administrators and faculty members; and from PhDs working in business, government, and nonprofits. Many of these responses have links to thirty-five articles from the *ADE Bulletin* and *ADFL Bulletin* archives that provide more detailed discussion of job seekers' concerns.

The eight categories of the site are:

- Planning a Career after Graduate School
- Developing an Academic Career
- Developing a Nonacademic Career
- When and Where to Look for an Academic Job
- C.V.s, Dossiers, Application Letters, Writing Samples, and Portfolios
- Interviews, Campus Visits, Job Talks, and Teaching Demonstrations
- Negotiating Special Situations
- Job Offers

The categories include questions ranging from "What would my job involve as a foreign language faculty member at an MA comprehensive university?" to "How should I handle a telephone interview?" and "How do I negotiate the terms of a job offer?" The site is designed to be flexible and to grow; anyone with suggestions for additional questions or responses should write to Steve Olsen at [solsen@mla.org](mailto:solsen@mla.org).

To access online job counseling, go to the *Job Information List* through the MLA, ADE, or ADFL Web sites and click on "ADE and ADFL Online Job Counseling." The counseling site is a service of the ADE and the ADFL and does not require a password. □

### CONVENTION

## Preconvention Workshops and Mock Job Interviews

ADE and ADFL will sponsor several sessions at the MLA convention to help job candidates and interviewers prepare for the job search, including

- A Preconvention Workshop for Job Seekers: The Job Search in English
- A Preconvention Workshop for Job Seekers: The Job Search in Foreign Languages
- Considering Community Colleges: Preparation, Application, and Career
- A Preconvention Workshop for Members of Search Committees
- The Job I Got: Recently Hired PhDs Talk about Their Experiences
- Mock Interviews for Job Seekers in Foreign Languages

For descriptions of these sessions, see the Fall 2003 *MLA Newsletter* and the convention program.

In addition, ADE and ADFL will staff the Job Counseling Service, located in the Job Information Center. Department chairs will offer their experience and expertise to job candidates (who should each bring a cover letter and a vita) in one-to-one counseling sessions. □

### CONVENTION

## Audio- and Videotaping Guidelines for Convention Sessions

The MLA Executive Council has approved guidelines for audio- and videotaping at the MLA Annual Convention. Audio- or videotaping of sessions is not permitted at the MLA convention without permission of all those present at a session. The session organizer must have the consent of all the speakers at a session, and permission must be requested before the session through the headquarters office (Emma A, third floor, Manchester Grand Hyatt; Manchester 1, lobby level, North Tower, San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina) in order to allow taping. The session organizer will then announce to the audience that audiotaping or videotaping will take place during the session. □

### CONVENTION

## Registration Still Available for Annual Job Clinic on Business, Government, and Not-for-Profit Careers

Applications are still being accepted for the nineteenth annual job clinic on business, government, and not-for-profit careers at the 2003 convention. Since registration is limited, interested members are urged to write for information and registration materials as soon as possible. A full description appears in the Fall 2003 *MLA Newsletter*.

The three sessions will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, 26 December, and conclude at 12:00 noon on Sunday, 28 December. The schedule offers minimal conflict with other convention sessions.

The registration fee is \$215. Those interested should write immediately to the Job Information Service at the MLA office or call or e-mail Roy Chustek (646 576-5133; [rchustek@mla.org](mailto:rchustek@mla.org)). □

### CONVENTION

## Recommendations for Session Presiders

Session presiders should remind participants that a session lasts for one hour and fifteen minutes and that at least fifteen minutes at the end of each session must be left for discussion. Therefore presiders should tell presenters how much time they have to speak.

When a session runs long, the hotel staff cannot enter the room to prepare it for the next session, and the speakers and attendees waiting to enter the room block hallways and doorways, causing an unpleasant and potentially dangerous situation.

There will be copies of a brief statement signed by Rosemary G. Feal on the head tables in all meeting rooms to remind MLA members of the need to conclude their presentations on time. There will also be a second statement that an aide can present to a presider when a session has gone substantially beyond the allotted time. This statement will inform the presider that the time limit has expired and ask that the presider conclude the session as quickly as possible.

If you are a speaker, please respect the time limits. If you are a presider, please allow at least fifteen minutes for discussion. □

## CONVENTION

## Important Information about the Job Information Center

As it has for more than twenty years, the MLA will operate a Job Information Center at the annual convention.

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

Again this year, there will be a combined center for English and foreign languages. The center, designed to assist both job candidates and interviewers, will be located in the Marriott Hall 1 and 2, lobby level, of the San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina. Job candidates will be able to locate their interviews at the center; there will be no telephone service for interview locations.

**1. Sign-In Desk for Departments.** Departmental administrators or representatives who plan to hold job interviews during the convention, whether in their hotel suites or in the interview area of the Job Information Center, should sign in (indicating name, institution, hotel, and room number) at the Job Information Center 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 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., on 28 December from 9:00 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.

**2. 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 in the interview area. Each counselee should bring a cover letter and vita.

**3. Interview Area.** For the convenience of departmental representatives and candidates, there will be a combined interview area for both English and foreign languages within the Job Information Center. Those administrators who wish to use the interview area should schedule interviews either by writing or telephoning candidates before the convention or by leaving messages at the message center. Tables in the interview area, which will be 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, will be assigned to departmental representatives on a first-come, first-served basis. Staff members will be on duty in the area to assist interviewers and candidates.

**4. Vacancy Notices.** A list of openings received too late to be included in the December *Job Information List* will be posted on bulletin boards in the center. Departmental representatives should submit detailed descriptions of any last-minute vacancies to an MLA staff member in the center, who will see that they are posted. Such notices may also appear in the February *Job Information List*, so that candidates who do not attend the convention may have an opportunity to apply.

**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 candidates and interviewers at the Job Information Center, it should be stressed that the MLA does not have the facilities for introducing candidates and interviewers who have not corresponded before the convention. Very little open interviewing takes place at the convention. Job candidates who do not have prearranged interviews should not plan to attend for the sole purpose of seeking employment.

Meetings 1, 2, 3, 29, 157, 160, 301, and 696 address the job situation; they should interest job seekers and administrators alike. □

## 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 are accessible by elevator, and the doors are wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs. A complimentary bus service for attendees with disabilities will operate throughout the convention.

To arrange for a sign language interpreter or a specifically equipped hotel room, write or fax Karin Bagnall in the MLA convention office by 15 November (fax: 646 835-4004; kbagnall@mla.org). The MLA also has a TDD (646 576-5148).

There will be desks near the convention registration and information areas at the Manchester Grand Hyatt (Manchester Ballroom Foyer, second floor), 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 persons with disabilities. The telephone numbers for the desks will appear in the *MLA Convention News and Program Update*, which will be available at the MLA Web site around 20 December and at the convention.

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.

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 provide the help you need. □

CONVENTION

## New Discussion Group Holds Organizational Meeting

The new discussion group that the Executive Council approved in May—on Mexican cultural and literary studies—will hold an organizational meeting at this year's convention in San Diego. Members who would like to participate in the activities of this new group should plan to attend the meeting.

The meeting of the discussion group, Mexican Cultural and Literary Studies (session 604), will be held on Monday, 29 December, from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. in America's Cup D at the Manchester Grand Hyatt. Members can contact the organizers of this meeting through the coordinator of governance, 26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10004-1789 (fax: 646 576-5107; governance@mla.org). □

CONVENTION

## Program Issue 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@mla.org). □

CONVENTION

## Forum Proposals Welcome

Proposals of forums for the 2004 convention are welcome. Convention forums are large public meetings on topics of broad general interest; they may be organized by individual members, divisions, discussion groups, allied organizations, or the American Literature Section. (For information on organizing forums, see the Sept. 2003 *PMLA*, pp. 750–51.) Those interested in proposing forums are encouraged to attend the open hearing of the Program Committee at the convention (Tues., 30 Dec., 10:15–11:30 a.m., Ford C, third floor, Manchester Grand Hyatt). The deadline for submission of proposals is 15 March 2004. Please direct inquiries to the office of the executive director. □

CONVENTION

## 2004 Calendar of Dates and Deadlines for Special Sessions

Address all correspondence concerning special sessions to Stacey Courtney (MLA Convention Office, 26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10004-1789; scourtney@mla.org), who will direct it to the appropriate person or to the Program Committee. Except where indicated otherwise, the deadline is the close of business on the date listed. For more-specific information, please consult the guidelines published in the September 2003 *PMLA* (pp. 746–51).

- 5 JAN. Deadline for receipt of notices for the Spring 2004 *MLA Newsletter* announcing intent to propose a special session for the 2004 convention and inviting prospective panelists to convey their interest (submit announcements only if you wish to solicit speakers)
- 8 FEB. Spring 2004 *MLA Newsletter* mailed to members
- 1 APR. Deadline for receipt of requests for audiovisual equipment for the 2004 convention
- 1 APR. To ensure that formal proposals for special sessions for the 2004 convention arrive at the MLA office in sufficient time for processing and submission to the Program Committee, they must be postmarked no later than 1 April or submitted at the Web site by 1 April; hand-delivered proposals must be received at the MLA office by the close of business on 1 April.
- 7 APR. Deadline by which organizers and panelists in special sessions proposed for the 2004 convention must be listed on the MLA membership rolls
- 7 APR. Deadline for receipt of requests for waiver of membership requirements for panelists (foreign scholars and persons outside the disciplines of languages and literatures) in special sessions proposed for the 2004 convention
- 15 APR. Deadline for receipt of requests for funds for speakers (if appropriate) in special sessions proposed for the 2004 convention
- LATE MAY Notification of the Program Committee's decisions mailed to members who submitted proposals for special sessions for the 2004 convention
- 15 JUNE Notification of decisions on funding requests mailed to organizers who applied for funds for speakers
- EARLY-MID JULY Program-copy proofs and information on date, time, and place of 2004 special sessions sent by the convention office to organizers
- LATE JULY Deadline for receipt of corrections for special session program-copy proofs for the November 2004 (Program) issue of *PMLA*
- 26 JULY Deadline for receipt of notices for the Fall 2004 *MLA Newsletter* announcing intent to propose a special session for the 2005 convention and inviting prospective panelists to convey their interest (submit announcements only if you wish to solicit speakers)
- LATE AUG. Information on date, time, and place of 2004 special sessions to be sent by organizers to panelists
- 17 SEPT. Deadline for receipt of notices for the Winter 2004 *MLA Newsletter* announcing intent to propose a special session for the 2005 convention and inviting prospective panelists to convey their interest (submit announcements only if you wish to solicit speakers)
- LATE SEPT. Fall 2004 *MLA Newsletter* mailed to members
- LATE NOV. Winter 2004 *MLA Newsletter* mailed to members
- 27–30 DEC. 2004 MLA convention held in Philadelphia

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).

### MLA Committees

##### COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES IN THE PROFESSION

**Disability and Ethnicity.** Papers addressing the relation between disability and ethnicity and the ways in which the disciplines of ethnic and disability studies inform each other. 250-word abstracts by 15 Mar.; David Neal Miller.

**Obesity as Disability.** There is an extensive literature representing obesity across most cultures and times. Can these images be used to define the margins and centers of disability studies? 250-word abstracts by 15 Mar.; S. L. Gilman.

**Sex and Disability.** Sexual existence of people with disabilities. Cultural and historical representations of disability studies, institutional effects on sexual practices and identities, issues of privacy, personal assistants, technology. Proposals or abstracts by 15 Mar.; Tobin Siebers (tobin@umich.edu).

##### COMMITTEE ON THE LITERATURES OF PEOPLE OF COLOR IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

**Artist-Critic, Critic-Artist.** Papers questioning the mutual dynamics, contradictions, and dilemmas of the artist-critic of color by reflecting on interplay of artistic-critical texts. Abstracts or proposals by 5 Mar.; Roberta Hill (rhwhitem@facstaff.wisc.edu).

**Indigenous Encounters as Sites of Ethnic Reproduction.** Any period or textual form, 1492–1898. 1-page abstracts by 5 Mar.; Malea Powell (powell37@msu.edu).

### Special Sessions

These proposed topics for special sessions at the convention have not been ap-

#### 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.

proved; 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.

#### The Absurdity of Contemporary Criticism.

Gender, multicultural, racial, or \_\_\_ studies are unrelated to literary criticism. Rather than tell us what literature says, they make literature say what they want. Or they \_\_\_\_\_. Abstracts or papers and short vitae by 15 Mar.; George Bellis, River Boat Books, PO Box 65314, Saint Paul, MN 55165.

**Aestheticism across the Map (Not Just London) and the Centuries.** "Aestheticist" phenomena in history; their causes, features, and legacies. Non-English instances and comparative approaches especially welcome. Abstracts by 15 Mar.; Gene H. Bell-Villada.

**1880s British Political Writers Crossing Genres.** Journalist-poets, lecturer-novelists, diarist-social observers, and others. 250-word abstracts by 15 Mar.; Diana Maltz (maltzd@sou.edu).

**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).

**Le 11 septembre.** French literary perspectives on 11 September 2001: Beigbeder, Goupil, Grief, Lang, Rehr, Virilio, Y. B. Abstracts in French or English and brief vitae by 1 Mar.; Jocelyn Van Tuyl (vantuyl@ncf.edu).

**The Legacy of Walter J. Ong: Rhetoric and Hermeneutics, 1550–1750.** Reprises and reappraisals of Ong's approaches to Ramism and Renaissance rhetorics, Puritan and colonial American rhetorics and hermeneutics, the "pedagogical juggernaut," related topics. Abstracts by 10 Mar.; Jan Swearingen (cjan@tamu.edu).

**Literature and Social Capital.** How does literature contribute to social capital and com-

munity formation in various historical periods? How might literary scholarship be enlisted in this evolving body of social theory? Abstracts by 1 Mar.; Mark Bayer (mark@aub.edu.lb).

**Modernity, Aesthetics, and Gender in Modern and Contemporary Spanish Literature.** Papers addressing interactions of modernization, cultural production, and gender in Spanish literature from the 18th century to the 21st century. 1-page abstracts by 15 Mar.; Iñigo Sánchez-Llama (sanchezll@purdue.edu).

**Walter Mosley Connections.** Easy Rawlins, Mosley's other fiction, other detective fiction, Mosley's nonfiction, history, African American fiction. 1-page proposals by 21 Mar.; Eric Hyman.

**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).

**The Rhizome and the Errant Medieval or Neomedieval Self.** Role of errancy (to wander or err) and rhizome theory (Deleuze and Guattari) in medieval romances or neomedieval texts (film, video games, postmedieval narratives). Abstracts by 1 Mar.; Tamara O'Callaghan (ocallaghan@nku.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@bakersville.com).

**The Victorians and the Orient: Reconsiderations.** New work on Victorian Orientalism and literary representations of the Orient; scholarship, criticism, translation, poetry, drama, the novel; 250-word abstracts and 1-page vitae by 1 Mar.; Christopher Decker or as *MS Word* attachments to cdecke@bu.edu.

**Women Theorizing Notoriety, 1558–1830.** Early modern women imagining themselves as objects of the public eye—as queens, patrons, artists, saints, etc. Cultural change and the self-portrayals of fame-seeking women. Abstracts by 1 Mar.; Mary Trull (trull@stolaf.edu) or Laura Engel (engel@macalester.edu).

**Zukofsky at One Hundred.** An assessment of Louis Zukofsky's work and reputation one hundred years after his birth. Complete papers or proposals by 15 Feb.; Barry Ahearn.

## Allied and Affiliate Organizations

### ASSOCIATION FOR BUSINESS COMMUNICATION

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



Independence Hall in Philadelphia, host city for the 2004 MLA Annual Convention

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).

### LANGSTON HUGHES SOCIETY

**"I, Too, Am America": Langston Hughes and the American Dream.** Papers that treat Hughes's engagement with and interrogation of the Americas and the American Dream. 1-page abstracts (e-mail submission preferred) and biographical statements by 7 Mar.; Dolan Hubbard (dolan.hubbard@att.net).

### 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 (pphillips@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—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). □

COMMITTEES

## Request from the Committee on Disability Issues in the Profession

In 1998 the membership of the MLA ratified a resolution supporting "the inclusion of disability as a value in academic hiring." The Committee on Disability Issues in the Profession (CDI) is in the process of creating access guidelines for the job search. To assist in its work, the CDI requests information from the membership about successes and difficulties in hiring practices. What role does disability play in promoting diversity in the academic workplace? How do hiring practices incorporate or exclude disabilities? In what ways is disability a value or a liability in the profession? Please contact the committee at [cdi@mla.org](mailto:cdi@mla.org). □

*The Committee on Disability Issues in the Profession met on 22 and 23 September 2003. Standing (left to right): Sander L. Gilman, Christopher Krentz, Cynthia Wu, David Neal Miller, Tobin Siebers. Seated (left to right): G. Thomas Couser and Celeste Langan.*

GRANTS AND PRIZES

## Elvira García Receives ADFL Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession

Elvira García, professor of Spanish, French, and Italian at the University of Nebraska, Omaha, has been selected to receive the 2003 ADFL Award for Distinguished Service in the Profession. The award honors eminent scholar-teachers for exceptional contributions to the field of foreign languages and literatures at the post-secondary level. Teaching at the University of Nebraska, Omaha, since 1968, García chaired the Department of Foreign Languages from 1989 to 2002 and has held numerous positions of leadership in the humanities and in foreign language education.

"As professor and as chair," a colleague writes, "Elvira García never disassociates administrative procedures from the question of values, both educational and personal. Her quickness of mind, high standards, and intellectual integrity are precious attributes. She helps colleagues identify what might be strengthened and how they might accomplish that task. She leads people to think innovatively as she advises about the best, most practical course to pursue. The expectation of competence and the atmosphere of trust that she creates in her daily work generate productive ideas. She knows how to listen and when to lend a hand. Thus she is admired, respected, and trusted by faculty, students, and staff and colleagues here and abroad. Quite simply, she exemplifies the very best in leadership in academia today."

García was a charter member of the Cervantes Society in 1979, served on the board of directors of the Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in 1979–84 (and is currently on its advisory council), was president of the Nebraska Foreign Language Teachers Association in 1985–86, and has served on the Nebraska Humanities Council since 1997. She was elected na-

tional president of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese for 1992–93 and president of ADFL for 1994. She is also the recipient of state and university teaching awards.

Elvira García has spent a lifetime energetically promoting the development and dissemination of languages and cultures at the state, regional, and national levels and in international forums. She spearheaded the establishment of a master of arts in teaching and the development of study-abroad programs in France, Germany, Spain, and Mexico at her university. She is known for her support of young professionals seeking employment and of young colleagues seeking leadership positions. Mindful of the community beyond the university, she promoted articulation between secondary schools and her institution, organized events celebrating the achievements of local schoolteachers, and brought university language programs into the community of Omaha. She is recognized for her willingness to pitch in: chairing fund-raising committees, mentoring students and young colleagues, organizing conferences, and just picking up the slack with great good humor wherever there is work to be done.

ADFL welcomes nominations for this award. Criteria specify that the award is given not for fame from publication but for outstanding service to the profession in the larger community. Anyone wishing to nominate a candidate should write a letter of no more than two typed pages, gather three supporting letters, and forward these materials, together with the nominee's vita, to Director, ADFL, 26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10004-1789 ([adfl@mla.org](mailto:adfl@mla.org)). The ADFL Executive Committee acts on nominations at its spring meetings and confers the award only in years when a particularly outstanding candidate is nominated. □

MEETINGS**2004 ADFL Summer Seminars**

The ADFL summer seminars offer chairs, language coordinators, and program administrators three days of intense professional exchange about life and work in departments of foreign languages. The program is arranged to allow participants to enjoy the cultural and natural resources of the surroundings. The 2004 seminars will again feature preseminar workshops for new and recently appointed chairs. Seminar West will be held 10–12 June at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, and hosted by Tey Diana Rebolledo, chair, Department of Spanish and Portuguese. Seminar East will be held 24–26 June at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and hosted by Charles Ganelin, chair, Department of Spanish and Portuguese. Speakers and topics will be announced in the *ADFL Bulletin*, at the ADFL Web site ([www.adfl.org](http://www.adfl.org)), and in a brochure detailing housing, meals, and excursions that will be mailed to ADFL members in early spring. For further information, write or call David Goldberg, Associate Director, ADFL, at the MLA office (646 576-5132; [adfl@mla.org](mailto:adfl@mla.org)), or consult the ADFL Web site. □

BIBLIOGRAPHY**How to Be Included in the *MLA International Bibliography***

My colleagues and I are eager to include your work in the bibliography. We invite you to send us information about your articles, essays, and books that appeared in 2003 and those from before 2003 that have not previously been indexed. With the 2000 edition, we have expanded the scope of the bibliography to include rhetoric and composition and the history, theory, and practice of teaching language and literature at the college level. We have also endeavored to improve our coverage of scholarship about Arabic, Persian, and Turkish languages and literatures.

Bibliographic Information Services receives many of the periodicals on the Master List of Periodicals (found at the front of each issue of the bibliography or online through all of our vendors). Authors of journal articles may assume that their material will be indexed if the MLA receives the journal; members should check with the journal editor to be sure. Authors of monographs and articles in book collections (*Festschriften*, conference proceedings, books of essays, etc.) should ask the publisher to send a copy of the collection to the MLA. Authors in doubt about whether the MLA has received a journal or a book should send materials according to the following guidelines.

*Articles in journals.* Send an offprint or photocopy of the entire article, with the complete date, volume, and number of the journal issue in which the article appeared. Include a photocopy of the title and contents pages of the journal.

*Book collections.* Send the book. A single essay in a collection of essays may be indexed if the following documentation is provided: an offprint or photocopy of the essay; a photocopy of the title, copyright, and contents pages of the book; the number of pages in the book; and the ISBN.

*Books by a single author.* Send the book. Or send a photocopy of the title, copyright, and contents pages, together with an abstract or a photocopy of the introduction, the number of pages in the book, and the ISBN.

Bear in mind that the following kinds of writing are generally excluded from the bibliography: fiction, poetry, book reviews, unpublished dissertations, and entries in reference books.

The deadline for the receipt of material for the 2003 printed bibliography is 3 January 2004. Information received after that date will be considered for the 2004 edition. Address materials or questions to *MLA International Bibliography*, 26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10004-1789 (646 576-5053; fax: 646 458-0033; [bibliography@mla.org](mailto:bibliography@mla.org)).

Barbara Chen

GRANTS AND PRIZES**Mary A. Burgan to Receive the ADE Francis Andrew March Award**

The ADE Executive Committee is pleased to announce its selection of Mary A. Burgan, general secretary of the American Association of University Professors and former chair of the English department at Indiana University, Bloomington, to receive the thirteenth Francis Andrew March Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession. ADE President J. Lawrence Mitchell will present the award to Burgan at a special session the ADE is arranging in Burgan's honor at the 2003 MLA convention in San Diego.

Established in 1984, the ADE Francis Andrew March Award recognizes distinguished service to the profession of English at the postsecondary level. March (1823–1911) was a professor of English at Lafayette College and the first professor of English in the United States. In establishing the award, the ADE committee wanted to affirm the ideal of the scholar and teacher who accepts responsibility for strengthening the life and work of departments, the field, and the English studies community considered as a whole. □

MEETINGS**2003 ADE Summer Seminars**

The Association of Departments of English announces the dates and locations for the 2004 ADE Summer Seminars for department administrators. Seminar Midwest will take place Thursday to Sunday, 17–20 June 2004 in Iowa City, Iowa. Brooks Landon, chair of the English Department at the University of Iowa, is host. Seminar West will take place Monday to Thursday, 28 June–1 July 2004 at Kiawah Island Resort, Kiawah Island, South Carolina. Steven Lynn, chair of the English Department at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, is host. Workshops for New Chairs will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, 24 June, at Seminar Midwest, and on Monday, 28 June, at Seminar East. Seminar programs will be posted at the ADE Web site (<http://www.ade.org>). □

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 is scheduled to publish three new titles in winter 2003. Set for December release, *Approaches to Teaching Proust's Fiction and Criticism* is edited by Elyane Dezon-Jones and Inge Crosman Wimmers. In academic circles, Proust is seen as a canonical and a subversive author. His works are taught not only in the context of French literature and culture but also in a number of diverse courses. The goal of this volume is to provide those considering teaching Proust's fiction and criticism with practical tools and a wide range of current perspectives. The volume is 256 pages; it costs \$37.50 (MLA members \$30.00) in cloth and \$18.00 (MLA members \$14.40) in paperback.

Scheduled for October release are two new volumes in the MLA Texts and Translations series: the German text of Elsa Bernstein's play *Dämmerung: Schauspiel in fünf Akten* and an English translation, *Twilight: A Drama in Five Acts*. The volumes were edited and translated by Susanne Kord. In this naturalist drama, a woman eye surgeon treats the daughter of a man who is prejudiced against educated women. Her successful treatment wins the father's affection for her, and they fall in love. She is ready to give up medicine for wedded bliss—her wish is to become "very happily stupid"—but finds misery instead. Both volumes are 190 pages and cost \$9.95 (MLA members \$7.96).

*German Studies in the United States*, edited by Peter Uwe Hohendahl, is set for release in December. In the current academic climate, German studies finds itself at a crossroads, facing unexpected change in the structure of higher education and in the cultural and economic support for studying language and literature. In this volume, contributors take stock of Germanics—examining past achievements and future opportunities and evaluating the strategies Germanists are now using to develop their field. The book is 750 pages; it costs \$45.00 (MLA members \$36.00) in cloth and \$28.00 (MLA members \$22.40) 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 at [www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org). The MLA accepts Visa, MasterCard, and American Express. □

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 Nabokov's Lolita*, will be edited by Zoran Kuzmanovich and Galya Diment. The second, devoted to Tim O'Brien's works, will be edited by Alex Vernon and Catherine Calloway. If you wish to contribute to either volume, please send your name and mailing address to Jeremy George at the MLA office by 5 January 2004 ([jgeorge@mla.org](mailto:jgeorge@mla.org); fax: 646 458-0030). □

### Ideas for *What's the Word?*

*What's the Word?*, the MLA radio program, is now broadcast on more than two hundred radio stations in the United States. It is also aired in Canada, on Armed Forces radio, and on Radio New Zealand. An archive of programs is available on the MLA Web site and has been visited by six thousand users.

The MLA Radio Committee, which selects speakers and topics for the programs, welcomes suggestions from MLA members. Please send your ideas to Judy Goulding at the MLA office ([jgoulding@mla.org](mailto:jgoulding@mla.org)). □

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1. Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541	28,316	28,158
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17. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

Rosemary G. Feal, Executive Director

## NHA-Announce Provides Information on the Humanities

The National Humanities Alliance (NHA) is a coalition of more than eighty associations concerned with national humanities policy. The alliance advocates for support for humanities research and represents its members in matters of policy or legislation affecting work in the humanities. The NHA is the only organization that represents the United States humanities community as a whole. The Modern Language Association actively participates in the work of the NHA and is represented on the alliance's board of directors. NHA-Announce is a broadcast news service provided by the NHA to relay information on current policy, legislation, and funding affecting work in the humanities. Current and archived messages may be accessed on the NHA Web site (<http://www.nhalliance.org/news>). Those who wish to subscribe to the list can send a message to [NHA-ANNOUNCE-on@cni.org](mailto:NHA-ANNOUNCE-on@cni.org). □

### 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.

Paris apartment, 5th Arrondissement, Gobelins/Mouffetard, 1 bedroom, nicely furnished, Charming. January through May \$1000 a month + utilities. Available December 20th for short-term rental. \$500 a week. [Alamouff@aol.com](mailto:Alamouff@aol.com) or 203-697-2234.

Massachusetts Historical Society fellowships. In 2004–2005, the MHS will offer over 30 fellowships, including long-term (thanks to support from the NEH), regional (through the New England Regional Fellowship Consortium), and short-term. Deadlines vary. For details, see the fellowship page at the Society's website, <http://www.masshist.org/fellowships/>, or call (617) 646-0512.

## D E A D L I N E S

### Fellowships and Grants

The following list includes fellowships and grants that have deadlines between 1 January and 31 March. 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 (pp. 1124–44).

#### JANUARY

- 3 Andrew W. Mellon Fellowships in the Humanities at Cornell University
- 5 American Council of Learned Societies Fellowships and Grants
- 5 American Research Center in Egypt
- 5 Center for the Critical Analysis of Contemporary Culture, Rutgers University
- 5 National Foundation for Jewish Culture Dissertation Fellowships
- 5 Yale University Agrarian Studies
- 9 United States Institute of Peace
- 10 American Association of University Women Educational Foundation
- 10 Rockefeller Foundation
- 13 Institute of Historical Research Mellon Fellowships for Dissertation Research in the Humanities
- 15 American Antiquarian Society
- 15 American Association of University Women Educational Foundation
- 15 Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
- 15 John Carter Brown Library
- 15 Chateaubriand Fellowships
- 15 Gilbert Chinard, Harmon Chadbourn Rorison, and Edouard Morot-Sir Fellowships
- 15 Kosciuszko Foundation
- 15 Newberry Library (deadline for all long-term fellowships)
- 15 Phi Beta Kappa Society Mary Isabel Sibley Fellowship
- 15 Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, Vanderbilt University
- 15 Winterthur Research Fellowships in American Art, History, and Culture
- 15 Yale Center for British Art
- 21 Newberry Library (deadline for special awards)
- 30 Erasmus Institute
- 31 Belgian American Educational Foundation
- 31 Institute of Advanced Studies–Mellon Fellowships at the National Foreign Language Center
- 31 IREX (International Research and Exchanges Board)
- 31 W. Ormiston Roy Memorial Fellowship

#### FEBRUARY

- 1 American Research Institute in Turkey
- 1 Archaeological Institute of America
- 1 University of California, Los Angeles, Center for Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Studies
- 1 University of California, Los Angeles, William Andrews Clark Memorial Library
- 1 Camargo Foundation
- 1 Children's Literature Association
- 1 IREX (International Research and Exchanges Board)
- 1 Midwest Victorian Studies Association
- 1 Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center
- 11 Linguistic Institute Fellowships
- 13 Swann Fellowship
- 15 American Institute for Maghrib Studies
- 15 Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center of Stony Brook University
- 15 National Council of Teachers of English Research Foundation
- 15 National Women's Studies Association
- 15 Phi Sigma Iota Awards in Foreign Languages
- 21 Newberry Library (deadline for all short-term fellowships)
- 28 Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture
- 28 Schallek Memorial Awards

#### MARCH

- 1 American Academy in Rome
- 1 American Classical League
- 1 American Numismatic Society
- 1 American Philosophical Society
- 1 Friends of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Libraries Grants-in-Aid
- 1 Library Company of Philadelphia and Historical Society of Pennsylvania
- 15 American Handel Society Research Fellowship
- 15 Hemingway Research Grants
- 17 University of Michigan Center for Afro-American and African Studies

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

All deadlines are for receipt of material at the MLA office.

**DECEMBER**

- 1 Preregistration for the 2003 convention
- 10 Ballots covering ratification of 2002 Delegate Assembly action
- 10 MLA election ballots (covering contests for second vice president, Executive Council, Delegate Assembly, and division executive committees)
- 12 2003 convention addresses for "Who's Where"

**JANUARY**

- 3 Offprints and books for inclusion in the 2003 *MLA International Bibliography*
- 5 Calls for papers for the Spring 2004 *MLA Newsletter*
- 16 Departmental administrators' job listings for the February 2004 *Job Information List*
- 24 Field bibliographers' submissions for inclusion in the 2003 *MLA International Bibliography*
- 31 Proposals for honorary members and fellows

**MARCH**

- 1 Entries for the 2004 James Russell Lowell Prize competition for books published in 2003
- 1 *MLA International Bibliography* fellowship applications
- 5 Departmental administrators' job listings for the April 2004 *Job Information List*
- 15 Forum proposals for the 2004 convention
- 15 Submissions for *Profession 2004*

**APRIL**

- 1 Entries for the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for a Translation of a Literary Work and the MLA Prize for a

First Book for books published in 2003

- 1 Postmark for program copy from divisions, discussion groups, MLA committees, and allied and affiliate organizations
- 1 Postmark for proposals for special sessions for the 2004 convention
- 1 Postmark for requests for audiovisual equipment for the 2004 convention
- 7 Requests for waiver of membership requirements for participants in the 2004 convention; organizers and panelists at the 2004 convention must be listed on MLA membership rolls
- 15 Requests for funds for speakers at the 2004 convention
- 30 Applications for dues subsidies for residents of developing or soft-currency nations

**MAY**

- 1 Entries for the 2004 competitions for works published in 2003 for the MLA Prize for Independent Scholars, the Mina P. Shaughnessy Prize, the Kenneth W. Mildener Prize, the Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize, the Howard R. Marraro Prize for Italian Studies, the William Sanders Scarborough Prize, the MLA Prize in United States Latina and Latino and Chicana and Chicano Literary and Cultural Studies, and the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prizes for Comparative Literary Studies and French and Francophone Studies; for books published in 2002-03, for the MLA Prize for a Distinguished Bibliography and the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Studies in Germanic Languages and Literatures; for scholarly works published 1999-2003, for the Fenia and Yaakov Leviant Memorial Prize
- 28 Manuscripts for the *PMLA* special topic The History of the Book and the Idea of Literature

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