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2009 MLA Elections

The 2009 MLA elections for second vice president, Executive Council, Delegate Assembly, and division executive committees will be conducted both online and on paper. All 2009 MLA members who have provided an e-mail address will be notified by e-mail when balloting becomes available at the Web site in mid-October. All other 2009 members will receive a postcard with instructions for obtaining a paper ballot.

Online ballots must be submitted before midnight on 10 December; paper ballots must be received at the MLA office on or before 10 December to be counted. Members who vote online do not have to complete the ballot in one session but may exit the system and return as many times as is necessary to finish voting.

The online voting system uses hyperlinks to access candidate information. The paper ballot contains instructions

Philadelphia to Host the 125th Convention

This December the MLA returns to Philadelphia for its 125th annual convention. A city with a rich heritage and modern style, Philadelphia is more than cobblestone streets and historic landmarks. Among the city's many museums and galleries, the Philadelphia Art Museum offers several exhibitions during the convention, including *Arsbile Gorky: A Retrospective*, *Pleasures and Pastimes in Japanese Art*, and *Marcel Wanders: Daydreams*. The Institute of Contemporary Art will feature *Dance with Camera*, and the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts will present the Pennsylvania Ballet production of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*. Philadelphia is also home to world-renowned chefs and some of the country's finest restaurants. Philadelphia International Airport and Amtrak serve the city, and the local mass transit options make it easy to get around. Members can choose from a variety of hotels, all offering rooms at substantial discounts for the convention.

Come and join friends and colleagues at the MLA Annual Convention in Philadelphia and enjoy this dynamic city.



A Focus on Translation

"The Tasks of Translation in the Global Context" is the theme of the Presidential Forum at this year's MLA Annual Convention in Philadelphia. The forum and two linked sessions provide a focus for more than fifty related programs sponsored by a variety of divisions, discussion groups, and allied and affiliate organizations.

Why translate? Who translates? What do translators need to know? What do translation theory, history, and practice have to offer to students of literature and language? Responding to the Presidential Forum theme, colleagues have taken up these questions from dozens of different angles. I hope you'll be able to attend several of the sessions and discover new perspectives on translation and its importance for our profession.

Catherine Porter

for retrieving candidate information from the MLA Web site. Members who do not have Web access should request a printout of the candidate information from the coordinator of governance before 10 November.

Both ballots provide a means for members to suggest candidates for the 2010 division and discussion group executive committee elections.

If you are an eligible online voter and do not receive an e-mail notification by 23 October, please check your spam folder before contacting the coordinator of governance. Requests for paper ballots must reach the coordinator of governance (Carol Zuses, MLA, 26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10004-1789; 646 576-5103; fax: 646 576-5107; governance@mla.org) by 10 November.



Why Translation?

The response to the call for sessions on the Presidential Forum theme, “The Tasks of Translation in the Twenty-First Century,” has been remarkable. In addition to the Presidential Forum and its two linked sessions, over fifty additional translation-related sessions are scheduled for the 2009 convention. Talks on topics from retranslation to self-translation, from translation in the medieval Persian context to translation in the early American context, and from inter-Asian translation to postcolonial translation will enrich the emerging field of translation studies and offer new insights to those of us in adjacent disciplines.

Lately, as a thought experiment, I've tried to imagine living in a world without translators. A preposterous notion, to be sure, although perhaps no more so than others we accept as premises for

entertainment, for example, the notion that a certain Benjamin Button is born old and proceeds to grow younger. In any event, to anchor the exercise in a bit of science fiction, I'm positing that the human brain has evolved to permit the learning of just a single language; translation is thus out of the question. The resulting world, as I picture it, is radically and starkly diminished. Pursuing the experiment through the prism of my own tradition, which members of my generation typically encountered in curricular form as “ancient history” followed by “Western civilization,” I see that the Arabs, the Assyrians, the Egyptians, the Greeks, the Hebrews, and the Romans learned nothing from one another. There has been no New Testament, no Renaissance, no Reformation, no Enlightenment, no scientific or industrial revolution. There is no American Constitution, no United Nations Charter, no European Union. Works of literature, philosophy, scholarship, and science that may have been produced in other linguistic contexts are forever inaccessible to speakers of English—and of course the English language itself has not developed in anything like its present form.

Fortunately for us, the human brain in its plasticity took a more propitious evolutionary path. Human beings can and do learn multiple languages; translators and interpreters have always been with us, and we need them as much as ever. At the risk of belaboring the obvious, let me point to a handful of contemporary reasons.

Although increasingly competent machines are already taking over some routine translation tasks, human translators continue to be indispensable even in this context, to select input for the machines on the one hand and to evaluate and refine their output on the other. And it is far from given that machine translation will ever be able to handle the syntactic, stylistic, and cultural complexities of literary, philosophical, or scholarly texts. For these tasks we shall continue to require

highly educated translators with strong backgrounds in the source and target languages and cultures.

Although English functions increasingly as an international lingua franca, monolingual English speakers are at a decided disadvantage in exchanges—whether diplomatic, commercial, or personal—with their multilingual counterparts. In addition, countless critical situations arise in which the use of English is not an option.

The combination of globalization and the knowledge explosion facilitated by digital media means that the sources of new knowledge will be increasingly diverse and translators will be in increasing demand. A whole new industry is growing up, for example, around the need for “localization” on the Internet: translation and contextualization of Web content for speakers of regional and local languages. Meanwhile, voices in our Anglophone culture are calling attention to the severe import-export imbalance: on average over the past several decades, only two percent to four percent of the books published in the United States have been translations.

The MLA itself, in its recent report “Foreign Languages and Higher Education: New Structures for a Changed World,” notes that “[t]here is a great unmet demand for educated translators and interpreters, and translation is an ideal context for developing translanguagual and transcultural abilities as an organizing principle of the language curriculum” (243).

But there is a problem. In his excellent book *The Translator's Invisibility*, Lawrence Venuti documents the history of the Anglo-American tradition according to which good translations must be fluid and transparent and good translators must stay out of sight. The invisibility of the translator has become a cliché, but it is by no means a myth. Presses don't want to advertise books as translations. Newspapers sometimes publish translated texts without acknowledging the fact. Academics have been known to remove translations from their curriculum vitae to avoid jeopardizing their chances for promotion or tenure. And until recently, few universities in the English-speaking world have acknowledged translation as a legitimate area of study.

It is one thing to recognize a need for competent translators in the world and quite another to take responsibility for their nurturing and development. Yet no one is better positioned to take on this task than we are, as postsecondary language and literature professionals. Some of us already help students reach advanced levels in foreign language study. Others help students refine their writing and editing skills in English. Many of us also teach courses that expand our students' cultural knowledge. Almost all of us

On the MLA Web Site

- [Fellowships and Grants Deadlines](#)
- [Upcoming MLA Deadlines](#)
- [MLA Committee Meetings](#)

The screenshot shows the MLA website with a navigation menu (Home, About, News, Programs, Publications, Services, Contact Us) and a main content area titled "Philadelphia 27-30 December 2009". The text on the page includes: "The MLA 2009 annual convention will be held in Philadelphia, registration and housing information is available (2)", "Because the MLA is working to conserve resources, no convention registration materials will be mailed.", "The convention will begin on Sunday, 27 December, and end on Wednesday, 30 December. All MLA members and others invited to the study or teaching of English and literature must register for the convention by participating in an online registration, visit the website, use the job service, or reserve hotel rooms at special MLA rates.", and "The Committee on Disability Issues in the Professions (CDIP) strongly advocates that employers from using physical products will help ensure the comfort of everyone at the convention."

work at teaching our students to become more careful and critical readers. In short, our current disciplinary structures provide the basic frameworks that allow students to begin to acquire the skills and knowledge essential to translators. Attending to the development of future translators at the college and university level need not require significant structural changes or an infusion of new resources.

An increased presence of translation in the undergraduate curriculum ought to elicit an increased presence of translators as teachers and scholars. I have argued elsewhere that translation of literary and scholarly works should be acknowledged as evidence of scholarly activity and assessed as such in decisions about hiring, promotion, and tenure. Adopting this practice would be one way of implementing the recommendation of the MLA Task Force on Evaluating Scholarship for Tenure and Promotion, which argues that “[t]he profession as a whole should develop a more capacious conception of scholarship by rethinking the dominance of the monograph, promoting the scholarly essay, establishing multiple pathways to tenure, and using scholarly portfolios” (11). Not every course related to translation has to be taught by a professional translator; still, faculty members who are experienced in the field should be recognized as such for the value of their work and for the special contributions they can make in the translation classroom.

The theme of this year’s Presidential Forum is intended to shine a spotlight on the vital contributions of translators and to increase awareness of translation as it relates to much of the teaching and scholarship we do. I see translation as a hitherto underutilized arena of collaborative work, a site of potential engagement and interchange with colleagues and students in our and adjacent disciplines. Come to the convention if you can, sit in on some translation sessions, and if all goes well you’ll come away with some ideas for enhancing the position of translation on your campus and in your work.

Catherine Porter

Works Cited

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Members are invited to comment on the president’s column at www.mla.org/fromthepres.

Editor’s Column



Share Your Convention

This is the first issue of the *MLA Newsletter* devoted primarily to the MLA Annual Convention. We hope it functions as a portable preview that can accompany you to Philadelphia in person or in imagination. And this is the last year in which the convention will look like any you’ve experienced before. Some of the changes to come are major: after 2009, the convention will take place starting the first Thursday after 2 January each year (there will be no December 2010 meeting). Others are more modest, such as the addition of the option to hold roundtables with stations (and computers, if appropriate) where presenters can interact with attendees. This year, we will continue to roll out some of the features that will make the 2011 convention feel new while still retaining the core of what

makes the convention familiar. Here are some highlights.

In 2008 on the MLA Web site we introduced the “my convention” feature, which allows members to create their own convention schedules from the searchable online Program at www.mla.org. This year we are going a step further and creating a function to let you “share your convention” with others. Whether you want to post it on *Facebook* for all your friends to see or send it to just a few colleagues, we want to make things easier for you. I also began blogging the convention last year, something I plan to do again in Philadelphia. People told me that as much as they found my posts to be of interest, my writing sounded like, well, a *Newsletter* column. In the spirit of “shorter and tweeter,” my 2009 posts will find their way to *Twitter*, where you can follow them (see twitter.com/mlaconvention), or you can continue to read the blog on our Web site. I’ve already heard from many followers on *Twitter* what they’d like to see at upcoming conventions, and we’re looking into the possibilities.

The Presidential Forum theme, which Catherine Porter writes about in her President’s Column, promises to be

an exciting thread that runs throughout the entire meeting. There are some other innovations you won’t want to miss. This year, we are launching what we call Creative Conversations: they feature writers, filmmakers, poets, translators, visual artists, or practitioners of other disciplines (psychoanalysts, anthropologists, legal scholars, and so on) in dialogue with scholars of language and literature (and, of course, with the audience). I hope you’ll be able to check out at least one of these four sessions: “Sharing Culture and Preserving Poetry: Creative Conversations with Dick Davis on His Translations of Medieval Persian Verse” (286), “A Creative Conversation with Liz Lochhead, Scottish Playwright, Translator, and Poet” (316), “Between Poetry and Psychoanalysis: Creative Conversations” (423), or “Bringing Borges into English: A Creative Conversation” (564). We’re also running pre-convention workshops, including “Saying Yes Strategically, Saying No Constructively: A Pre-convention Workshop for Junior Faculty Members” (1), “Evaluating Digital Work for Tenure and Promotion: A Workshop for Evaluators and

(cont. on p. 4)

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Candidates" (2), "Workshop on Women in Academic Leadership" (3), and "Articulating Our Agenda: The Concerns of Community College Faculty Members" (4), which grew out of the success of last year's community college workshop led by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein-Graff.

Perhaps one of the most telling signs of the times is the special event called "Coming In from the Cold" (539). For years, the off-site poetry event attracted MLA convention attendees (rumor has it that the event competed with the MLA Presidential Address). When Marjorie Perloff made poetry the first Presidential Forum theme to link up with dozens of related sessions, it brought hundreds of poets and scholars and students of poetry to the convention. Even though the poetry reading was still held off-site during Perloff's presidential year, there's no doubt that the poets felt especially welcome at the annual meeting. So I am glad that they decided to hold the reading "in-house" this year, just as I will be pleased to see other groups use evening time slots for activities other than academic sessions. How you decide to organize your time in Philadelphia is, of course, up to you, but don't leave us in suspense: share your convention.

Rosemary G. Feal

Members may write to the editor at execdirector@mmla.org. Writers are asked to limit letters to five hundred words; the editor reserves the right to edit letters that exceed five hundred words. Letters to the editor appear on the MLA Web site.

Registration Information

You can now register and make travel arrangements for the 2009 convention in Philadelphia through the MLA's Web site (www.mla.org). Chairs whose departments were members of ADE or ADFL by 30 June 2009 received priority notification allowing access to convention preregistration in mid-August. Please note that suites are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. The 2009 convention Program will be accessible to both members and nonmembers through the MLA Web site (www.mla.org/convention) beginning in November. A word search of the Program will also be available.

Sessions on Academic Employment

ADE and ADFL will sponsor several sessions to help job candidates and interviewers with interview protocols and job search procedures. ADE and ADFL also provide individual job counseling 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 CV.

ADE-sponsored convention sessions for job candidates. "A Preconvention Workshop for Job Seekers: The Job Search in English" (5) will provide job candidates an opportunity to hear experienced department chairs from three types of institutions describe how their departments approach interviewing and reaching decisions about who should receive the offer of a faculty position. "Career Opportunities in Two-Year Colleges" (397) will provide information about the needs of and job opportunities at two-year colleges.

ADFL-sponsored convention sessions for job candidates. "A Preconvention Workshop for Job Seekers: The Job Search in Foreign Languages" (6) 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. In a second session, "Demonstration Interviews for Job Seekers" (98), 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. ADE and ADFL jointly sponsor "A Preconvention Workshop for Members of Search Committees," (7) which will give 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.

The three preconvention workshops, along with "Saying Yes Strategically, Saying No Constructively: A Workshop for Junior Faculty Members" (1), will be held in the Pennsylvania Convention Center on 27 December. ADE and ADFL are also sponsoring "The Academic Workforce: Where We Need to Go, How We Get There" (563).



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About the Job Information Center

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

The center, designed to assist both job candidates and interviewers, will be located in the Pennsylvania Convention Center (Ballroom A, Ballroom level). 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 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.

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. There will be a combined interview area for English and foreign languages within the Job Information Center. 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; administrators should be aware that communication during the convention can be difficult. Tables in the interview area, which will be open 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, 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, 5, 6, 7, 98, 397, and 563 should interest job seekers and administrators alike.

Session Time Limits

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 should be left for discussion.

When a session runs long, the hotel staff cannot prepare the room for the next session, and the speakers and attendees waiting to enter the room block hallways and doorways.

Time-limit reminders will be on the head tables in all meeting rooms, and an aide will ask the presider to conclude if the session has gone substantially beyond the allotted time.

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

Meeting Times for Allied Organizations

For allied organizations sponsoring two meetings, one meeting will take place on 30 December in the 12:00 noon or the 1:45 p.m. time slot. Please keep this in mind when making travel arrangements.

Child Care Arrangements

KiddieCorp will provide child care during the annual convention in Philadelphia. KiddieCorp has designed a program for convention groups that includes age-appropriate crafts projects, toys, games, and entertainment.

Parents are urged to preregister by Friday, 4 December, since only a limited number of on-site registrations may be available, depending on space, insurance, and staffing. To secure a reservation, you can download a PDF of the form from the MLA Web site (www.mla.org/2009childcareregistration). You can also write the convention office (convention@mla.org) and request a registration form. Please return the completed form to the convention

office by Friday, 4 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 pre-registration process will ensure the appropriate child-to-caregiver ratio. The registration fee may be paid by credit card or by check made payable to the Modern Language Association of America.

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.

Audio- and Videotaping Guidelines

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. Only background taping is allowed, not the taping of an entire session. The session organizer must have the consent of all the speakers at a session and must request permission

to tape through the headquarters office before the session begins (Conference Suite III, 3rd floor, Philadelphia Marriott; Hospitality Suite, 4th floor, Loews Philadelphia). The session organizer will then announce to the audience that audiotaping or videotaping will take place during the session. The deadline for submitting requests to film the convention as part of a creative or documentary project is 15 October.

Services for Persons with Disabilities

The MLA is committed to making arrangements that allow all members of the association to participate in the convention. Karin Bagnall in the MLA convention office handles arrangements for persons with disabilities (kbagnall@mla.org). Meeting rooms in the headquarters hotels 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 Pennsylvania Convention Center (Grand Hall, level 2), as well as at the Loews Philadelphia (Lobby level, adjacent to the front desk) and the Philadelphia Marriott (outside Grand Ballroom, Salon I, level 5), 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 by 13 November 2009. The convention housing form also includes a space for attendees to request particular equipment or accommodations.

Program. Members with visual impairments who would like to receive a copy of the November 2009 (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).

Shuttle Bus. A complimentary transportation service for persons with disabilities will be available throughout convention meeting hours to transport attendees with disabilities. Arrangements can be made at any of the locations listed above. Further details and phone numbers will be posted in the headquarters hotel lobbies.

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. The deadline to arrange for an interpreter is 13 November, though the convention office will make every effort to accommodate late requests. Members who require interpreters should write or call Karin Bagnall as soon as possible.

Please report any problems on-site to the MLA staff members in the headquarters offices at the Philadelphia Marriott (Conference Suite III, level 3) or the Loews Philadelphia (Hospitality Suite 413, 4th floor), and they will do their best to assist you. Hotel staff members may not be able to respond.

Travel Assistance

The Executive Council has voted to allot funds to provide convention travel grants to

- advanced graduate students
- unemployed and non-tenure-track faculty members
- members residing outside the United States and Canada

To learn more about these awards and application requirements, including the required statements, visit the MLA Web site (www.mla.org/grants).

Members may apply for assistance at the Web site or by mail. Applications must reach the MLA by 1 November 2009 and should be addressed to Travel Assistance Program, MLA, 26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10004-1789 (fax: 646 835-4067). Fax transmissions may be used to meet the deadline, but they must be followed by signed applications. Applications by e-mail will not be accepted. For additional information or details on how to apply, please contact Annie Reiser (646 576-5141; areiser@mla.org).

2011 Convention

The 2011 MLA Annual Convention, to be held in Los Angeles from 6 to 9 January (there will be no convention in 2010), will introduce exciting changes to the structure of the meeting. Visit the MLA Web site later this fall to find out about new meeting formats, collaborative sessions, and scheduling changes that set aside more time for social events.

Calls for Papers

Calls for papers are submitted through the MLA Web site under the Convention heading (www.mla.org/submit_calls). Submissions are due by 5 January 2010. Members should familiarize themselves with the guidelines for the MLA convention, which appear on the MLA Web site (www.mla.org/conv_procedures) and in the September 2009 *PMLA* (pp. 1059–66), before writing to the organizers listed in the calls for papers. All participants in convention sessions must be MLA members by 7 April 2010. 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 convention.

Calls for papers may be viewed online at www.mla.org/conv_papers.

All requests for audiovisual equipment must be made on the appropriate program copy forms and submitted by 1 April 2010. 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 must indicate their audiovisual needs when they respond to a call for papers and 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 2010.

Forum Proposals

Convention forums are large public meetings on topics of broad interest; they may be organized by individual members, divisions, discussion groups, MLA committees, allied and affiliate organizations, or the American Literature Section. (For information on organizing forums, see the Sept. 2009 *PMLA*, pp. 1064–65.) Those interested in propos-

Deadlines for Convention Sessions

Except where indicated otherwise, the deadline is the close of business on the date listed. For specific information, consult the procedures published in the September 2009 *PMLA* (pp. 1059–66). Please address all correspondence concerning division and discussion group sessions to Karin Bagnall (kbagnall@mla.org), special sessions to Stacey Courtney (scourtney@mla.org), committee sessions to Maribeth Kraus (mkraus@mla.org), allied and affiliate sessions to Lorenz Tomassi (ltomassi@mla.org).

5 Jan.	Deadline for receipt of Jan. 2011 convention calls for papers for the spring online announcement <i>Divisions must submit at least one call for papers per convention.</i>
early Feb.	Spring 2010 <i>MLA Newsletter</i> mailed to members and available online. Announcement of calls for papers is only available online.
15 Mar.	Deadline for receipt of forum proposals for Jan. 2011 convention
1 Apr.	Deadline for receipt of requests for waiver of membership requirements for participants in Jan. 2011 convention
1 Apr.	Deadline for Web submission of program copy from divisions, discussion groups, MLA committees, and allied and affiliate organizations for Jan. 2011 convention
1 Apr.	Deadline for Web submission of proposals for special sessions for Jan. 2011 convention
1 Apr.	Deadline for Web submission of requests for audiovisual equipment for Jan. 2011 convention
7 Apr.	Deadline by which participants at Jan. 2011 convention must be listed on the MLA membership rolls
15 Apr.	Deadline for receipt of requests for funds for speakers (if appropriate) at Jan. 2011 convention
early June	Notification of the Program Committee's decisions mailed to members who submitted proposals for special sessions for Jan. 2011 convention
mid June	Notification of decisions on funding requests mailed to organizers who applied for funds for speakers
early to mid July	Proofs of program copy and information on date, time, and place of Jan. 2011 convention sessions sent to organizers
late July	Deadline for receipt of corrections to proofs of program copy for the Nov. 2010 (Program) issue of <i>PMLA</i> for Jan. 2011 convention
23 July	Deadline for receipt of 2012 convention calls for papers for the fall online announcement <i>Divisions must submit at least one call for papers per convention.</i>
late Aug.	Information on date, time, and place of the Jan. 2011 convention sessions to be sent by organizers to panelists
15 Sept.	Deadline for receipt of 2012 convention calls for papers for the winter online announcement of calls for papers (submit announcements only if you wish to solicit speakers)
late Sept.	Fall 2010 <i>MLA Newsletter</i> mailed to members
late Nov.	Winter 2010 <i>MLA Newsletter</i> mailed to members
early Dec.	Preregistration deadline for Jan. 2011 convention
early Dec.	Hotel reservation deadline for Jan. 2011 convention
2 Jan. 2011	Postmark deadline for registration refund requests for Jan. 2011 convention
6–9 Jan. 2011	2011 MLA convention held in Los Angeles

ing forums are encouraged to attend the open meeting of the Program Committee at the convention (Wed., 30 Dec., 10:15–11:30 a.m., Meeting Room 310,

Philadelphia Marriott). The deadline for submission of proposals is 15 March 2010. The executive director welcomes inquiries (execdirector@mla.org).

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Dated Material
Please deliver by 8 October

Delegate Assembly Resolution

At its meeting on 29 December 2008 in San Francisco, the Delegate Assembly approved a resolution that is subject to ratification by the MLA membership. MLA members are asked to comment on the resolution before the ratification vote.

The resolution comment process will be conducted in the 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 through 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. During the balloting period, from 2 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.

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), and fax (646 576-5107).

Resolution 2008-1

Whereas Palestinian literature and culture are legitimate subjects of study;

Whereas the conditions in the occupied territories have been critical in shaping modern Arabic literature generally;

Whereas those teaching and writing about the occupation and about Middle East culture have regularly come under fire from anti-Palestinian groups on extra-academic grounds;

Whereas education at all levels in the occupied territories is being stifled by the occupation;

Be it resolved that the MLA endorse teaching and scholarship about Palestinian culture, support members who come under attack for pursuing such work, and express solidarity with scholars of Palestinian culture.

Calls for Essays for Book Series

Approaches to Teaching

The Publications Committee has approved development of *Approaches to Teaching Beowulf*, second edition, edited by Howell D. Chickering, Jr., Allen J. Frantzen, and Robert F. Yeager. If you wish to contribute to this volume, please visit www.mla.org/approaches.

Options for Teaching

Four new titles in the series Options for Teaching have been approved for development by the Publications Committee. For information on how to propose an essay for any of the titles listed below, please visit www.mla.org/options.

Teaching American Proletarian Literature

Teaching Literature and Human Rights

Teaching the Latin American Boom

Teaching the Literatures of the Hispanic Caribbean