

CONVENTION

MLA to Meet in Washington for Its 121st Annual Convention

Washington, DC, a city of monuments and museums, offers free attractions and an endless calendar of special events to enjoy year-round. From its monuments to its unique neighborhoods such as Adams Morgan, Capitol Hill, Chinatown, and Foggy Bottom, the sights and sounds of the nation's capital invite you to visit. Beyond its most familiar vistas, the city is a lively cosmopolitan center. There are casual cafes and upscale bistros and restaurants, jazz, and world-class performers at the Kennedy Center.

Washington is easily accessible by air—Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (only minutes from downtown), Washington Dulles International Airport, and Baltimore-Washington International Airport—and by frequent Amtrak train service. From the airports, hotels can be reached by Super Shuttle or taxi. The Metro subway system provides easy access to the city, and taxis are readily available.

Join your friends and colleagues at the 2005 MLA Annual Convention and browse through the exhibit hall, explore the city, and enjoy the meeting.

MLA convention hotels are located in the northwest quadrant of Washington, within walking distance of the Metro Red Line or the Orange and Blue Lines, which connect with the Red Line; station entrances are marked by tall brown columns capped with an M, and colored stripes indicate which lines are available. The minimum fare is \$1.35 and may increase during rush hour and for longer trips. Rail fare cards can be purchased at vending machines located inside the stations.



Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. The taxi fare from Reagan Airport to the various hotels is around \$17. Reservations for accessible taxi transportation must be made at least two hours before arrival (703 522-3333). Super Shuttle offers regular shuttle service and accessible transportation from Reagan National for \$12 for the first person and \$8 for each additional person each way to all the MLA hotels. You must make a reservation in advance for accessible transportation. For further information and to make reservations, please call 800 258-3826 or access the Web site at www.supershuttle.com. Reservations

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are not required for regular Super Shuttle transportation to your hotel. Follow ground transportation signs to locate Super Shuttle boarding areas. Super Shuttle drivers accept cash and credit cards for payment.

Dulles International Airport. The taxi fare from Dulles Airport is around \$55. Reservations for accessible taxi transportation to the convention hotels must be made at least two hours before arrival (703 522-3333). Super Shuttle offers shuttle and accessible transportation service from Dulles for \$25 for the first person and \$8 for each additional person each way to the convention hotels. For further information and to make reservations, please call 800 258-3826 or access the Super Shuttle Web site at www.supershuttle.com. Reservations are not required for regular Super Shuttle transportation to your hotel. Follow ground transportation signs to locate Super Shuttle boarding areas. Super Shuttle drivers accept cash and credit cards for payment.

Union Station. Taxi fare to the convention hotels is approximately \$6.50 to \$8.50.

Most English sessions and the exhibits are in the Marriott. Most foreign language sessions are in the Washington Hilton. The Job Information Center and the child care center are in the Omni Shoreham.

A complimentary transportation service for persons with disabilities will also operate throughout the convention.

The convention begins at 3:30 p.m. on 27 December and continues until 3:00 p.m. on 30 December. All MLA members and others involved in the study or teaching of language and literature must register in order to attend or participate in meetings, take part in the job service, or reserve hotel rooms at special MLA rates.

Some of Washington's best hotels are offering MLA registrants special rates. Single rooms range from \$95 to \$134 a night, double rooms from \$105 to \$163 a night. MLA rates apply at all convention hotels from 25 December 2005 through 1 January 2006, based on availability and arrival and departure dates.

The Washington, DC, Convention and Visitors Association will supply information on galleries, theaters, restaurants, and other points of interest. You can also obtain information from the office's Web site (www.washington.org) or by writing to Washington, DC, Convention and Visitors Association, 901 7th St., NW, 4th floor, Washington, DC 20001; 202 789-7000; 800 422-8644. Pamphlets will be available at the MLA information centers in each hotel (Lobby level, Marriott Wardman Park; Concourse level, Washington Hilton; and Regency Gallery, Omni Shoreham).

Travel arrangements may be made through Association Travel Concepts (ATC), the official travel coordinator for the MLA Annual Convention in Washington, DC; through the MLA Web site; or directly with United Airlines, Continental Airlines, American Airlines, or Amtrak.

Airline and Amtrak Discounts

- **United:** 10% to 15% off the lowest available fare for tickets purchased more than 30 days prior to the meeting. 5% to 10% off the lowest available fare for tickets purchased less than 30 days prior to the meeting.
- **Continental:** 10% to 15% off certain classes of service for tickets purchased more than 60 days prior to the meeting. 5% to 10% off certain classes of service for tickets purchased less than 60 days prior to the meeting.
- **American:** 10% to 15% off certain classes of service for tickets purchased more than 30 days prior to the meeting. 5% to 10%

MLA WEB SITE NEWS

Convention Registration

MLA members can now register online for the MLA Annual Convention and renew their membership for 2006 at www.mla.org. Members receive priority registration as well as reduced rates. A searchable list of all convention sessions will be available to members beginning in November.

Professional Notes and Forthcoming Meetings on the Web

Beginning with the October 2005 issue of *PMLA*, Professional Notes and Comment and Forthcoming Meetings and Conferences of General Interest will appear on the MLA Web site. See related article on page 11. □

off certain classes of service for tickets purchased less than 30 days prior to the meeting.

- ATC will also search for the lowest available fare on any airline.
- Zone fares are also available. Zone fares are region-to-region flat rates.
- The above discounts are valid for travel from 24 December 2005 to 2 January 2006. Some other restrictions may apply.

United Airlines 800 521-4041 Meeting ID: 510CK

Continental Airlines 800 468-7022 Meeting ID: VXBVVF

American Airlines 800 433-1790 Meeting ID: A70D5AH

ATC will send electronic ticket receipts and itineraries to your e-mail address for airline reservations if you book through the Web site or to your e-mail address or by regular mail if you book over the phone.

Amtrak offers a 10% discount off the lowest rail fare available to Washington, DC, between 24 December 2005 and 4 January 2006. The discount is valid on Metroliner and Acela service. Only paper tickets are issued for Amtrak. To book your reservation call Amtrak at 800 872-7245 or go to www.amtrak.com or contact Association Travel Concepts. Please refer to Convention Fare Code X89H-946.

There is a service fee of \$20 per airline or Amtrak ticket issued for telephone reservations and \$15 per airline ticket issued for reservations made through the MLA Web site (where housing reservations can also be made; note that Amtrak reservations cannot be made through the MLA Web site and that the discounted fare is not available through the Amtrak Web site). ATC can be reached at 800 458-9383 Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Eastern time. Reservations can be made for air travel only on the MLA Web site at any time. □

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The Paradox of Academic Freedom

On 30 June 2005, the Global Colloquium of University Presidents issued a statement decrying the “ongoing series of threats” to academic freedom from governments, people inside universities, and corporations seeking to “buy opinions”; signatories reaffirmed academic “rights and responsibilities” and urged their peers at institutions around the world to endorse their declaration (“University Presidents”). Like other recent statements (see “Restoring”), this document reflects a growing sense that academic freedom is under attack and must be defended. The need to combat the infringement of academic freedom may be clear, but the meanings and implications of the concept remain stubbornly unclear. In part, this is a result of changes in the conception of academic freedom over time, as the different AAUP statements from 1915 and 1940 to 1970 and 2002 confirm. Such statements have been drafted in response to shifting sociohistorical and political contexts. As Joan Scott emphasizes and Hanada Taha Thomure shows, the definition and conception of academic freedom change according to differences in culture, economics, and politics, to name but three important variables. It is a historical, not a transcendent, notion; its meanings are contextual, relational, and open to change.

As crucial as conceptual clarity may be, and as difficult—perhaps impossible—as it may be to realize this idea(l) in any society, academic freedom nonetheless needs to be defended wherever it is under attack. In this column, I examine some of the problematics of the concept in the present context and at the same time affirm the need to combat recent instances of the infringement of academic freedom that are central to the concerns of MLA members.

The difficulty of achieving a clear notion of academic freedom emerges symptomatically in the attempt to place this freedom within the framework of “universal” human rights. For instance, Scholars at Risk (SAR) defines itself as an international network of universities and colleges founded to promote the freedom and the

right of scholars, individually and collectively, to teach and discuss, to carry out research and to disseminate and publish the results thereof, to express freely their opinion about the institution or system in which they work, to be free from institutional censorship, and to participate in professional or representative academic bodies without fear, persecution, harassment, intimidation and violence, without discrimination and without constriction by prescribed doctrine. This articulation recognizes that each scholar possesses the internationally recognized civil, political, social and cultural rights due all citizens, including freedom of thought[,] conscience, religion, expression, assembly and association, the right to liberty and security of the person and liberty of movement. . . . Scholars, like all citizens, should not be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention, nor to torture, nor to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.¹ (“Academic Freedom”)

While the emphasis on the right to teach and discuss, to do research and disseminate or publish it, to express opinions about the academic system or institution, and to participate in academic bodies and professional societies may be undeniable components of what we understand by academic freedom, the text bases this freedom on the articulation of the rights of all citizens in the 1948 *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*² but not of scholars in particular. Indeed, just as the declaration has been fairly criticized for limiting its purview to the rights of citizens in nation-states, it could be argued that in emphasizing the “rights due all citizens,” the SAR definition leaves in limbo noncitizens, resident aliens, and foreign scholars. Thus the defi-

inition makes no mention of denying entry to foreign scholars, which we are witnessing in the United States today, a right that could be derived from article 13 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* on the freedom of movement.

The SAR emphasis on the fundamental rights of citizens is consistent with the practice of United States courts since the 1950s to rest the case for academic freedom on the first amendment, the right of free speech. But as Robert Post, Thomas Haskell, and others have observed, basic citizens’ rights cannot provide a defense of the specific freedoms necessary for the scholarly profession or account for the specific structure of faculty obligations and responsibilities (which the SAR definition does not mention and which are arguably as important as our rights). In its 1915 definition of academic freedom, the AAUP had repudiated the framework of individual rights to challenge the notion that professors perform employment service at the sufferance of the employer and to define academics instead as appointees responsible to the public and to the profession. Thus academic freedom meant professional freedom for experts who advanced knowledge through forms of inquiry that would be self-regulated by a disciplinary community. The SAR definition does not emphasize a professional framework,³ but such an approach poses problems in its own right. Scholars have consistently questioned—and should question as part of their academic freedom—the conservative nature of “the profession,” its disciplinary standards, its exclusions and inclusions. As Judith Butler demonstrates, academic and professional norms are always subject to crisis and are always being remade.

Yet another problematic aspect of the SAR definition is its assumption that scholars have the same rights within the university (the intramural: the classroom and the scholarly community) and outside of it (the extramural or the public arena).⁴ But under sustained scrutiny, the demarcation between these two collapses, notably in today’s cyberworld (Derrida 45). Thus it remains unclear why scholars should have academic rights outside of the university if they are no different from other members of society.⁵ By extension, the SAR definition does not recognize a distinction between academic freedom and political expression. Now it could be argued that no such distinction exists, since the academic and scholarly inevitably overlap with the political to the point of being indistinguishable. In more absolute parlance, it could be said that there is no difference between them because “everything is political.” Still, it seems necessary to draw some distinctions between the intramural and the extramural, however imaginary or symbolic they may be. In a publication, scholars can say what they want, supported by argument and evidence that the profession (as readers) will evaluate. But where, then, do we locate a book such as *On Bullshit* by philosopher Harry G. Frankfurt? In the intra- or extramural? In the classroom, it is even more difficult to draw lines between academic speech (protected by academic freedom) and political speech. Some have tried to limit the presence of political speech in the classroom by using as the standard “what is relevant or germane to the subject,” but the germane is inevitably a matter of personal interpretation, and, besides, a striking political analogy often makes the subject relevant to the student. A more promising, albeit tenuous, approach might be to differentiate persuasion in the classroom (protected by academic freedom) from indoctrination

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(a negative form of extramural political expression), if by persuasion or even advocacy we mean an argument that allows for other interpretations and explanations, that does not foreclose them in a doctrinaire manner but instead stimulates them. Although we might agree that this mode of rhetoric is part and parcel of every academic's obligations and responsibilities,⁶ that still does not resolve the question of what defines the particularity of academic speech that should be protected by academic freedom.

We need to grapple with the ambiguities and contradictions of academic freedom to try to produce a provisional definition for our time and place, but at the same time we need to confront and combat the assaults on this idea(l) here and now. I want to list five manifestations of the current threat to academic freedom in the United States, in my view the most recent phase of the culture wars, which now seem specifically directed at higher education.

1. The American Council of Trustees and Alumni, launched by a Republican (Lynne V. Cheney, former chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities) and a Democrat (Joseph Lieberman, United States senator from Connecticut) and others, aims to exert top-down pressure to get "a nation's intellectuals . . . to sustain its civilization" (Martin and Neal 7). Its 2001 report, *Defending Civilization: How Our Universities Are Failing America and What Can Be Done about It*, insists that universities are the weak link in the war against terror because they do not make sure that "students understand the unique contributions of American and Western civilizations" (7). It lists in an appendix 117 professors, staff members, and students whom the report regards as guilty of this failure; and it criticizes the addition of courses on Islamic and Asian culture to the curriculum of United States universities.

2. HR 509 (known as HR 3077 in 2004) retains in the latest version, passed by the House of Representatives in July 2005, the International Higher Education Advisory Board, which would grant unprecedented investigative authority to the federal government over instructional content and area studies programs, notably Middle East studies.

3. The Academic Bill of Rights (ABOR), introduced in fifteen state legislatures, claims to protect the rights of students by empowering those who feel uncomfortable in class because of something a teacher says or does to institute grievance procedures against that teacher. The ABOR deploys the language of hostile climate, taken from the discourse of sexual harassment, essentially to impose constraints on what academics can and cannot say, in my view to intimidate them into self-censorship. Its premise challenges the fundamental tenet that education should stimulate students to question their beliefs and ideas.⁷

4. In several recent instances, speakers or professors have had invitations and offers withdrawn or visas denied them because their views or publications were deemed too controversial by an academic institution or the United States government.

5. Finally, article 215 of the PATRIOT Act grants government agencies the right to examine library and bookstore records. Recipients of 215 orders cannot disclose that they received them to anyone but their attorneys.

In this climate, which I believe to be nothing less than neo-McCarthyist, we need to be vigilant, and, as individuals and in collaboration with other groups, we can and should take action. Let me cite some actions that the MLA has taken in response to these threats and that members may wish to take in the near future.⁸

1. With the Executive Council's approval, the MLA Web site linked to *readerprivacy.org*, which collected over a million signatures to combat the extension of article 215 of the PATRIOT Act.

Nevertheless, before the summer recess, this article passed the House, but a version that provides more curbs on the law and protections for readers also passed the Senate (S 1389) by unanimous consent. After the recess, MLA members who agree with the reader privacy initiative may wish to contact senators on the Judiciary Committee to urge them to sustain these curbs and protections when the bill goes to conference.⁹

2. The Executive Council of the MLA sent a letter to the United States Department of State objecting to the denial of visas to Cuban scholars who wished to attend the 2004 Latin American Studies Association annual meeting. More broadly and locally, MLA members can work with colleagues at their institutions to develop a policy on speakers that reaffirms the importance of academic freedom and the benefits of exposing the campus community to controversial points of view. Such a policy, which should be approved by the institution's faculty governing body, can be a mechanism for responding quickly to particular instances when campus groups militate against the academic freedoms of speakers and professors.

3. The Executive Council asked the MLA Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Rights and Responsibilities to monitor the ABOR closely. Although the ABOR seems to have stalled in the committees of the state legislatures in which it has been introduced, MLA members, in Pennsylvania at present and in other states where the bill might be introduced, who think that the ABOR is a dangerous legislative initiative should work with colleagues at their own and other campuses to fight against the passage of the bill in their states.¹⁰

4. Although HR 509 has been reauthorized, the Senate Health, Education, and Labor Committee will take the bill up in the fall. Some congressional staffers believe that this Senate committee will either improve the House version or not include the advisory board for area studies programs in the final bill. The MLA Executive Council has authorized the executive director and her staff to lobby on this matter with appropriate legislative offices. MLA members who are concerned about the issue¹¹ can contact senators on the committee and urge them to exclude the advisory board from Title VI programs.

5. Finally, MLA members may wish to ascertain whether alumni and trustees at their institutions are exerting pressure to alter parts of the curriculum to "sustain . . . our civilization" (Martin and Neal 7) and may elect to combat this infringement on academic freedom.¹²

The defense of academic freedom does not benefit academics alone. As Thomure argues, academic freedom is a byproduct of the forms of freedom in a society (5, 10, 15–16, 85); thus the assault on this freedom is a—or even the—measure of assaults on the civil liberties of everyone in that society. While striving for clarity in—and defending—this ambiguous concept at home, we also bear a responsibility to combat violations of academic freedom abroad.¹³ Academics may have a genetic tolerance for ambiguity, but we also have a congenital intolerance for constraints on our intellectual and professional rights and responsibilities wherever they occur.

Domna C. Stanton

NOTES

¹ This not to target SAR, which does important work, but to expose the definitional problems of academic freedom. The remarks that follow are taken in part from the paper I presented at the 29–30 April 2005 Scholars at Risk Conference at New York University.

² Thus article 5 stipulates that "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment"; article 9

that “No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile”; and article 18 that “Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,” to which article 19 adds “the right to freedom of opinion and expression.” See also articles 7, 9, 18–19, and 21–22 of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menue3/b/a_ccpr.htm).

³ The SAR definition also claims rights for collective action, which transforms scholars into a group comparable to a union, unlike most human rights documents, which emphasize individual rights.

⁴ As Frydl observes, the AAUP extended academic freedom to include extramural speech in 1965, causing a shift from the defense of professional expertise to a free speech issue.

⁵ Among the questions that I do not raise in this column are What defines an academic? and Why should academic freedom be the exclusive province of higher education and not be extended to high school or even elementary school teachers, especially today when advocates of “intelligent design” are challenging the teaching of evolution in biology classes?

⁶ For a recent example of the importance of presenting alternative views, see the critical analysis of the proposed Bible course for Texas public schools that David Newman of Odessa College made and sent to nearly all 1,034 school districts in the state (Blumenthal and Novovitch). On these obligations and responsibilities, see the various statements and reports of the MLA Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Rights and Responsibilities (www.mla.org).

⁷ Students for Academic Freedom, the group that promotes ABOR, claims to have chapters on 135 campuses nationwide (<http://www.studentsforacademicfreedom.org>).

⁸ For a fuller discussion of the threat to academic freedom after 9/11, see Doumani (“Introduction”).

⁹ The MLA membership voted in December 2004 to approve Delegate Assembly resolution 2003-3 condemning the PATRIOT ACT (http://www.mla.org/resolutions_from_the).

¹⁰ See the American Council on Education’s analysis of the ABOR (<http://www.acenet.edu/AM/Template.cfm?Section=HENA&CONTENTID=10677&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm>).

¹¹ See Delegate Assembly resolution 2003-4, approved by the membership in December 2004, criticizing HR 3077 (http://www.mla.org/resolutions_from_the).

¹² The most recent action that the MLA Executive Council has taken on behalf of academic freedom was the May 2005 statement sent to the British Association of University Teachers condemning their decision to boycott the entire faculty of two Israeli universities as inimical to the values of academic freedom.

¹³ In addition to SAR, see also the Network for Education and Academic Rights (<http://www.nearinternational.org>), an organization lo-

cated in England that monitors violations of academic freedom around the world, and, more broadly, the Freedom to Write Committee at PEN (<http://www.pen.org/freedom>).

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GOVERNANCE

2005 Election Ballot to Be Mailed

The 2005 ballot covering the elections for second vice president, Executive Council, Delegate Assembly, and division executive committees will be mailed early in October to all 2005 MLA members. Ballots must be received at the MLA office on or before 10 December to be counted. The ballot sheet contains instructions for retrieving candidate information from the members-only area of the MLA Web site.

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

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

Letters on Members’ Teaching Awards Sought

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

Please address the letters to the executive director at the MLA office (execdirector@mla.org). □

"There Has to Be Something the MLA Can Do": Supporting Adjunct Faculty Members and Unemployed Members

When I ask members what they wish their professional association could do (or do better), I often hear a call to find ways to improve the situation for adjunct faculty members and members who have not found employment in the fields in which they were trained. It is a call that the Delegate Assembly and the Executive Council take very seriously. Recent figures from the Department of Education show that contingent faculty members (both part-time and full-time non-tenure-track) now make up 65% of all faculty members in degree-granting institutions, up from 58% in 1995 and 43% in 1975 (Curtis). Part-time appointments now account for close to half of all teaching positions (46%).

This systemic change that has taken place in higher education is without doubt a pernicious weakening of the foundation on which quality education is built. The MLA can do three things to promote improvement in the system: use association resources to assist those with the greatest need, educate legislators and the general public, and collaborate with other associations and groups to do research, share findings, and advocate for change. I have reported on this issue before ("Trends"), noting that as a profession we need to educate students, parents, alumni, and legislators about the importance of establishing and maintaining an appropriate ratio of full-time to part-time faculty members and of adequately supporting the professional development of those employed on a contingent basis. Thanks to the contributions many of you make to the MLA Fund for the Promotion of the Profession, we have been able to disseminate information and foster a more positive attitude toward the profession. We have also established excellent collaborative relations with other associations to confront the changes in the academic workplace (see, e.g., www.academicworkforce.org). I now want to tell you about an important new initiative meant to assist our members, and I ask for your help in making it a success.

At its 2004 meeting the Delegate Assembly approved a motion that asked the Executive Council to set up a fund to subsidize travel to the annual convention for members employed less than full time. The Executive Council enthusiastically endorsed the motion and established the parameters for starting up this new fund. The council also added the category of "unemployed members" to the initiative. Currently the MLA subsidizes convention attendance for eligible graduate students through the Professional Education Assistance Fund, which has been granting awards since 1996. Last year 187 advanced graduate students were able to attend the convention with support from the MLA. In 2004, the amount awarded to each graduate student who qualified doubled, from \$100 to \$200. Funding for the awards comes from donations from members (usually submitted along with annual dues) and is supplemented with money from the unrestricted budget of the association.

The council expects the new travel assistance initiative to be administered under the Professional Education Assistance

Fund to have sufficient resources to begin operating for the 2006 convention. The guidelines for the awards will be published in the *MLA Newsletter* and at the MLA Web site. The MLA will provide applicants with a letter for their department chairs or other administrators requesting matching funds, and applicants must supply proof that they received a response (whether positive or negative) to the request. This feature of the award is particularly important, since the MLA travel funds are meant to supplement, and not replace, funds that colleges and universities should allocate to the contingent faculty members they employ. The Executive Council hopes that the MLA's initiative will encourage university administrations to support the careers of all those who teach on their campuses. Professional associations can (and should) assist their members, but groups like the MLA cannot (and should not) take up most of the slack when universities fail to provide for their own.

Recently I heard from a tenured associate professor of English, who sent in a substantial contribution to support the Professional Education Assistance Fund this year (enough to fund one and a half travel grants for graduate students). Along with her donation she issued a challenge to full-time, tenured faculty members to support the fund. She says, "I've been donating to the fund in a small way for several years because when I was finishing my PhD in 1979–80 I had an interview at the MLA convention in San Francisco but was unable to attend because I couldn't afford the trip. I missed out on the interview and that particular position. . . . Although I later was hired in a non-tenure-track position at a four-year college . . . and am now happily employed teaching English at a community college, I vividly remember my struggles as a graduate student. I could have used that financial support *then*; I want others to have it *now*." Graduate students, contingent faculty members, and those without employment do need support *now*. Please help the MLA do something concrete and meaningful for hundreds of our members by giving generously to the association's Professional Education Assistance Fund when you renew your membership by mail or at the MLA Web site. A gift of \$200 provides a stipend for one applicant. As a renewed member, you also will continue to support the association's mission as we attempt to educate the public at large, government officials, and university administrators about what humanities-trained scholars and teachers do—and what needs to be done for *them* so that they may continue to do their important work.

Rosemary G. Feal

WORKS CITED

- Curtis, John W. "Trends in Faculty Status, 1975–2003." 26 May 2005. <<http://www.aaup.org/research/FacStatTrends.htm>>.
Feal, Rosemary G. "Trends in Faculty Staffing and the Future of the Academic Workforce." *MLA Newsletter* 35.2 (2003): 5–6.

GOVERNANCE**Nominations for 2006 Division Executive Committee Elections**

One new member is elected annually to each division executive committee. The elections are held in the fall, when the other major association elections (for second vice president, Executive Council, and Delegate Assembly) take place. Division executive committees arrange the contests in accordance with the "Policies for Divisions, Discussion Groups, and Allied and Affiliate Organizations" (Sept. 2005 *PMLA* 1009–13; www.mla.org). Because the policies require that an executive committee choose one nominee from among the MLA members "suggested by the division membership at large," executive committee members strongly encourage such suggestions.

To suggest someone for nomination in 2006, use the designated space at the bottom of this year's MLA election ballot or send a letter of nomination to the coordinator of governance at the MLA office. Please provide the person's name and affiliation and indicate the appropriate division. All suggestions received by 10 December 2005 (the deadline for receipt of election ballots) will be considered by the division executive committees during their meetings at the 2005 annual convention. Nominees selected by the executive committees will be invited in the spring of 2006 to accept the nomination. Anyone proposed by ten division members must be included by the executive committee on the slate of candidates (provided the person agrees to stand for election). □

CONVENTION**2005 Convention Invitation**

The invitation to the 2005 MLA Annual Convention in Washington, DC, was mailed to members during the first week of September; it includes complete information about convention hotels, travel arrangements, and preregistering at member rates. A priority mailing of the convention preregistration packet was sent the last week of August to department chairs whose departments were members of ADE or ADFL by 30 June 2005. Once the mailing has gone out to the entire membership in September, suites will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Members can register for the convention and make hotel and airline travel arrangements through the MLA's Web site (www.mla.org) as of 1 September. Members cannot reserve suites or book Amtrak tickets through the Web site. □

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

A job clinic for MLA members interested in employment outside the academy will be held at the 2005 convention in Washington, DC. The clinic will be conducted by Howard Figler, career consultant, author (*The Complete Job Search Handbook*), and former director of the University of Texas Career Center. The workshop, consisting of three sessions, will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, 26 December, the day before the formal opening of the convention, and conclude at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, 28 December. Conflict with other sessions should be limited.

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

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

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

CONVENTION**Travel Assistance for Advanced Graduate Students**

The Executive Council has voted to allot funds to provide partial travel reimbursement of \$200 to advanced graduate students who are members of the MLA by 30 June 2005 and who will travel to the 2005 convention in order to attend preconvention workshops, sessions in their areas of scholarly interest, meetings with job counselors, or interviews. The council is particularly concerned with helping students who have no support for convention attendance from their institutions or other sources and who incur substantial costs for travel to and from the convention. Funds are available to cover awards for up to 150 students; if more apply, recipients will be selected in a random manner.

Letters of application must reach the MLA by 1 November 2005, by mail to the MLA Travel Assistance Program, 26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10004-1789, or by fax at 646 835-4067. Further information is available on the MLA Web site (www.mla.org). Fax transmissions may be used to meet the deadline, but they must be followed by signed letters. (Applications by e-mail will not be accepted.) Each letter should include a brief statement by the student stipulating that he or she has no external support for travel to the convention, together with a statement on university letterhead signed by the student's dissertation director or department chair confirming that the student is enrolled in a doctoral program at the signer's institution and has met all requirements for the PhD except the dissertation.

Since 1997, the Executive Council has invited MLA members to donate money to a professional education assistance fund that will provide ongoing support for these travel reimbursements. A space on the membership renewal form allows members to indicate that they have added to their dues payments a tax-deductible contribution to the fund. Advanced graduate students who have paid dues for the 2006 calendar year will be eligible to apply for travel reimbursements in 2006. □

CONVENTION

Program Available for Members with Visual Impairments

Members with visual impairments who would like to receive a copy of the November 2005 (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

Workshop on Negotiating for Women to Be Conducted at the Washington Convention

"How to Negotiate: A Workshop for Women," a program arranged by the Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession, will be held Thursday, 29 December, from 12:00 noon to 1:15 p.m., in Wilson A, Marriott. Maria Kacandes-Kamil, Director of Strategy and Marketing for Motorola Networks, will present general strategies for effective negotiating and discuss how those principles apply in several case studies collected in recent months from MLA women members at various ranks and institutions. The workshop concludes with ample time for questions and discussion. Kirsten M. Christensen (Pacific Lutheran Univ.) will preside. □

CONVENTION

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

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

ADE-sponsored convention sessions for job candidates. "A Preconvention Workshop for Job Seekers: The Job Search in English" will provide job candidates an opportunity to hear experienced department chairs from three types of institutions describe how their departments approach interviewing and reaching decisions about who should receive the offer of a faculty position. Speaking are Robyn R. Warhol (Univ. of Vermont), Deborah Ellen Kaplan (George Mason Univ.), and Bette L. London (Univ. of Rochester). "Career Opportunities in Two-Year Colleges" will provide information about the needs of and job opportunities at two-year colleges. Speaking are Robert Barshay (Prince George's Community Coll., MD) and Frederick De Naples (Bronx Community Coll., City Univ. of New York).

ADFL-sponsored convention sessions for job candidates. "A Preconvention Workshop for Job Seekers in Foreign Languages" will offer job candidates and interviewers opportunities to participate in a roundtable discussion of interviewing and hiring practices led by experienced department chairs who serve on the ADFL Executive Committee. Participating will be Nelly Furman (MLA), Malcolm Alan Compitello (Univ. of Arizona), Nancy Hessert (Univ. of Wisconsin, Marathon County), and Constancio Kaasangata Nakuma (Clemson Univ.). In a second session, "A Mock Interview for Job Seekers in Foreign Languages," recently successful candidates will be publicly interviewed by department chairs; discussion will focus on what went right and wrong, what the interviewers were expecting or looking for, and how the interviewee might improve his or her performance. Participating will be David Goldberg (MLA), Ingeborg Christina Walther (Duke Univ.), and Jennifer K. Ward (Gustavus Adolphus Coll.). "Light at the End of the Job-Search Tunnel: Perspectives from Successful Candidates" will feature Ingeborg Christina Walther (Duke Univ.), Joseph Mai (Clemson Univ.), Jennifer M. Stulpa (Univ. of Wisconsin, Marinette County), Jose Alaniz (Univ. of Washington, Seattle), and Yvonne Marie Ivory (Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia).

ADE and ADFL jointly sponsor "A Preconvention Workshop for Members of Search Committees," which will provide members of departmental search committees an opportunity to discuss the hiring process, including writing advertisements, reading vitae and dossiers, interviewing at the MLA convention and on campus, and negotiating job offers. Discussion leaders will be Peter W. Travis (Dartmouth Coll.), Kathleen Vera Kish (San Diego State Univ.), Valerie B. Lee (Ohio State Univ., Columbus), and Downing A. Thomas (Univ. of Iowa). □

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. There will be desks in the convention registration and information areas at the Washington Hilton (Concourse Prefunction area, Concourse level), the Marriott Wardman Park (Built-in area, Lobby level), and the Omni Shoreham (Regency Gallery, Lobby level) staffed by personnel who can provide assistance to convention attendees with disabilities. To reserve hotel rooms that are specifically equipped for persons with permanent or temporary disabilities, write or call Karin Bagnall in the MLA convention office by 15 November 2005. The convention housing form also includes a space for attendees to request particular equipment or accommodations.

Shuttle Bus. A complimentary transportation service for persons with disabilities will be available throughout convention meeting hours to transport attendees with disabilities. Arrangements should be made at the desk for persons with disabilities in the Washington Hilton, the Marriott Wardman Park, or the Omni Shoreham. 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. To arrange for an interpreter, write or call Karin Bagnall by 15 November.

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

Please report any problems on-site to the MLA staff members in the headquarters offices at the Marriott Wardman Park (Taft, Mezzanine level) or the Washington Hilton (State, Terrace level), and they will do their best to assist you. Hotel staff members may not be able to respond. □

CONVENTION

Using the MLA Job Information Center

The Job Information Center will be located in the Ambassador Ballroom of the Omni Shoreham Hotel. The center includes a sign-in and interview information area, an interview area, and a message center.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. Interview Area. For the convenience of departmental representatives and candidates, the Job Information Center includes an interview area for both English and foreign languages. Departments that wish to use the interview area should schedule interviews with candidates before the convention whenever possible.

Interviews may be scheduled on-site by leaving messages at the message center, although departments should be aware that communication during the convention can be difficult. Tables in the interview area will be assigned to departmental representatives on a first-come, first-served basis. The hours for the interview area are from 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m. on 27 December, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on 28 December, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on 29 December, and from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on 30 December. Interview committees using the interview area should not arrange interviews outside the scheduled hours. Candidates who know that their interviews will take place in the interview area can go there directly to find the right table number without stopping at the interview location desk. Staff members will be on duty in the area to assist interviewers and candidates.

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONVENTION

Child Care Arrangements

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

Parents are urged to preregister by Monday, 5 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 copy of the form from the MLA Web site (www.mla.org). 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 Monday, 5 December, along with the registration fee: \$45 a day for the first child and \$15 a day for each additional child; for graduate students, \$25 a day for the first child and \$15 a day for each additional child. The preregistration process will ensure the appropriate child-to-caregiver ratio. 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. A morning snack and an afternoon snack will be provided. Lunch will also be provided for children who are in child care at lunchtime. Parents must indicate each morning whether their children will need lunch, so that the staff can order the appropriate amount of food. Parents should inform the staff of any special dietary needs. □

CONVENTION

Meeting Times for Allied Organizations

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

CONVENTION

Calls for Papers for 2006 Convention in New Orleans

The 2006 convention will be held in New Orleans. Members should familiarize themselves with the guidelines for the MLA convention, which appear in the September 2005 *PMLA* (pp. 1003–08), before writing to the organizers listed below. If not provided, organizers' addresses are in the September 2005 *PMLA* and available on the MLA Web site to MLA members. All participants in convention sessions must be MLA members by 7 April 2006. 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

Interdisciplinary Approaches

WOMEN'S STUDIES IN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

African and African American Feminisms. Theoretical and pedagogical approaches to literature and culture. Abstracts by 1 Mar.; Sue Lanser (lanser@brandeis.edu).

Asian and Asian American Feminisms. Theoretical and pedagogical approaches to literature and culture. Abstracts by 1 Mar.; Sonita Sarker (sarker@macalester.edu).

Latin American and Latina, Chicana, and Native American Feminisms. Theoretical and pedagogical approaches to literature and culture. Abstracts by 1 Mar.; Maria Herrera-Sobek (maria.sobek@evc.ucsb.edu).

Discussion Groups

HUNGARIAN LITERATURE

Hungarian Literature and Europe. Papers exploring representations of Europe and European and East-Central European identities in Hungarian literature or discussions of the relation of Hungarian culture to Europe. Submissions by 15 Mar.; Roland Végső (rvegs@buffalo.edu).

Special Sessions

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

Creating Culture in Modern Spanish Literature. Papers that treat any aspect of cultural formation in Spanish literature from the 18th century to the mid-20th century. 1-page abstracts by 1 Mar.; Íñigo Sánchez-Llama (sanchezli@purdue.edu).

Dorothy Salisbury Davis. Papers relating to mystery writer Dorothy Salisbury Davis. Nations of faith, New York, Ireland particularly

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.

welcome. Abstracts, papers, or inquiries by 1 Mar.; Peter Schulman (pschulma@odu.edu).

From the FDA to *Fast Food Nation: The Jungle at One Hundred*. Panelists will discuss the literary, political, and social legacy of Upton Sinclair's groundbreaking 1906 novel. 1-page abstracts by 15 Mar.; Kenneth Salzer, 4314 Mahoning Ave., NW, Warren, OH 44483-1998 (ksalzer@kent.edu).

Muslim Women Writing in English. Connections of religious heritage and contemporary culture. Possible authors include (poetry) Kaldas, Nye, Takara; (prose) Abu-Jaber, Bahrapour, Naqvi; (drama) Dowlatshahi, Mirza, Sharif; (films) Noujaim, Mehta, Rony. 300-word abstracts by 1 Mar.; Mera Moore Lafferty (tmlaffery@sas.upenn.edu).

Spanish Golden Age and the Small College. Life as the Golden Age specialist at a smaller college or university: attracting students, curricular and extracurricular innovations, connections between research and teaching. 250-word abstracts by 15 Mar.; Michael W. Joy (mjoy@presby.edu).

Allied and Affiliate Organizations

ASSOCIATION FOR BUSINESS COMMUNICATION

Business, Technical, and Professional Communication: Issues, Insights, and Oppor-

tunities. Papers on any aspect of this field, including connections with linguistics, cultural studies, and literature. 1–2-page abstracts by 1 Mar.; Daphne Jameson (daj2@cornell.edu).

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF LITERATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Feminist Ethics and Systems of Hierarchy. Exploring the interconnections among the domination of animals, women, and people of color. What place do these hierarchical systems hold in the fabric and literature of feminist ethics?

Intersections: Literature, Science, Nature. Relations among literature, science, and nature and scientific theory and literary theory. 250–300-word abstracts by 1 Mar.; Barbara Cook (bcook@mtaloy.edu).

JOHN DONNE SOCIETY

Amorous Delicacies: Donne and the Rhetoric of Sexuality. 8–11-page, 20-min. papers by 1 Mar.; Ilona Bell.

Donne: An Open Session. 8–11-page, 20-min. papers by 1 Mar.; Kate Frost.

MARLOWE SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Open-Topic Session. Papers on any aspect of Marlowe studies. Detailed abstracts or 15-min. papers (e-mail attachment or hard copy) by 1 Mar.; Bruce Brandt, Marlowe Soc. of America, English Dept., Box 504, South Dakota State Univ., Brookings 57007-1397 (bruce.brandt@sdstate.edu). □

BOOK NEWS

Call for Essay Proposals for Options for Teaching Volume

For the MLA's Options for Teaching series, the Publications Committee has approved development of the volume *Teaching Narrative Theory*, edited by David Herman, Brian McHale, and James Phelan. The volume will be devoted to methods, strategies, and issues of teaching narrative theory in various pedagogical contexts and will include three sections: Elements (how to teach basic concepts of narrative theory), Situations (classroom environments and subject areas in which narrative theory is taught), and Interfaces (interconnections between the pedagogy of narrative theory and that of other approaches to literature and culture). One-page abstracts are invited by 15 January 2006, although the editors strongly encourage potential contributors to contact them well in advance of the deadline. Please address all inquiries, suggestions, and essay proposals to any or all of the editors, Dept. of English, Ohio State Univ., 164 West 17th Ave., Columbus 43210-1370 (herman.145@osu.edu, mchale.11@osu.edu, phelan.1@osu.edu). □

PMLA

Professional Notes and Forthcoming Meetings Move from Print to Web

The Professional Notes and Comment (PNC) and Forthcoming Meetings and Conferences of General Interest (FMC) sections of *PMLA* will soon be available as part of the members-only area of the MLA Web site (www.mla.org). On the Web site the sections will be updated twice monthly, and contributors can provide live links to their e-mail and Web addresses. For the October 2005 issue of *PMLA*, the sections will appear online and in print; beginning with the January 2006 issue, they will appear only online. Print versions of PNC and FMC will be available on request from the membership department at the MLA office (646 576-5151; membership@mla.org). The print edition of *PMLA* will continue to include In Memoriam listings and the minutes of Executive Council and Delegate Assembly meetings.

Once PNC and FMC are online, the sections will be updated on the first and fifteenth of each month. Online FMC entries will include e-mail and Web address links and will run until the meeting or conference has passed. Professional Notes listings that include deadlines will remain on the Web site until the deadline has passed; those that do not include deadlines will appear for three months. Contributors may submit Professional Notes listings to pnc@mla.org and Forthcoming Meetings and Conferences listings to fmc@mla.org or address submissions to *PMLA* Listings, Modern Language Association, 26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10004-1789. For more information, call or write John Golbach (646 576-5017; jgolbach@mla.org). □

BOOK NEWS

Two New MLA Titles to Be Published

Released in July, *Approaches to Teaching Henry James's Daisy Miller and The Turn of the Screw*, edited by Kimberly C. Reed and Peter G. Beidler, is the eighty-sixth volume in the MLA series *Approaches to Teaching World Literature*. Part 1, "Materials," suggests background readings, critical texts to use in the classroom, and various teaching resources. In part 2, "Approaches," twenty-three essays cover different approaches to *Daisy Miller* and *The Turn of the Screw* (among others, new-historicist, biographical, metatextual, semantic, queer-theoretical, visual), show how these two novellas may be taught alongside their film adaptations, and discuss the use of these works in a composition course. The volume costs \$37.50 (MLA members \$30.00) in cloth and \$19.75 (MLA members \$15.80) in paperback.

The latest volume in the MLA Teaching Languages, Literatures, and Cultures series, *Remapping the Foreign Language Curriculum: An Approach through Multiple Literacies*, is to be published in November. The volume, coedited by Janet Swaffar and Katherine Arens, offers a holistic approach to postsecondary language teaching that integrates the study of literature and culture into every level of the curriculum. By studying multiple genres ranging from popular to elite, students gain an understanding of multiple communicative frameworks and develop multiple literacies. Swaffar and Arens propose the use of a sequence of template-generated exercises that leads students from basic grammar patterns to a sophisticated grasp of the interrelations among language use, meaning, and cultural context. The authors combine theory and practice, research, and personal experience to present a new interdisciplinary curriculum that should strengthen the teaching of foreign languages in junior colleges, four-year colleges, and universities. The cloth volume will cost \$40.00 (MLA members \$32.00), and the paperback volume will cost \$22.00 (MLA members \$17.60).

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. The MLA accepts Visa, MasterCard, and American Express. □

PMLA

Suggestions Invited for PMLA Editor

At its meeting in May 2005, the MLA Executive Council appointed a subcommittee to oversee the process of selecting a new editor for *PMLA* (the term of Marianne Hirsch, the current editor, will end in June 2006). The members of the subcommittee are Michael Holquist (chair), Nancy K. Miller, and A. LaVonne Brown Ruoff. The committee approved the following criteria for the next editor:

1. Intellectual curiosity, range, and flexibility
2. An understanding of contemporary literary scholarship and critical methods
3. An ability to work within the structure of the MLA and *PMLA*, including a commitment to the principles guiding current editorial policy and a recognition of the journal as the organ of a large membership organization reflecting diverse scholarly and critical views
4. Past experience with *PMLA* (as author, referee, Advisory Committee member, or Editorial Board member) or substantial editorial experience with another scholarly journal in the field

The subcommittee invites suggestions from the membership; suggestions should include information about scholarly credentials and editorial experience. Please send your suggestions to Michael Holquist, c/o Judy Goulding, at the MLA office, by 15 November 2005.

PMLA

Electronic PMLA

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

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

BOOK NEWS

Call for Contributions in Approaches Series

For the series *Approaches to Teaching World Literature*, the Publications Committee has approved development of two new titles.

- *Approaches to Teaching the Writings of Primo Levi*, ed. Nicholas Patruno and Roberta Ricci
- *Approaches to Teaching the Works of Jack London*, ed. Kenneth K. Brandt and Jeanne Campbell Reesman

If you wish to contribute to either of these volumes, please send your name and mailing address to Jeremy George at the MLA office by 15 November 2005 (jgeorge@mla.org; fax: 646 458-0030). □

COMMITTEES

MLA Committee Meetings, October 2005–May 2006

The following schedule of MLA committee meetings is current as of 26 August 2005. Members wishing to bring issues to the attention of a committee may write to the committee chair listed in the September 2005 *PMLA* (pp. 987–93) or address letters to the executive director's office.

OCTOBER

- 6–7 Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession
- 6–7 *PMLA* Editorial Board
- 20–21 Advisory Committee on the *MLA International Bibliography*
- 20–21 Committee on Information Technology
- 26–28 Delegate Assembly Organizing Committee
- 28–29 Executive Council

NOVEMBER

- 3–4 Committee on Community Colleges
- 3–4 Publications Committee
- 7 Ad Hoc Committee on Foreign Languages
- 10–11 Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Rights and Responsibilities

DECEMBER

- 1–2 ADE Ad Hoc Committee
- 12 Radio Committee

JANUARY

- 27 Committee on the New Variorum Edition of Shakespeare
- 27 Elections Committee

FEBRUARY

- 2–3 *PMLA* Editorial Board
- 3 Nominating Committee
- 16–17 Committee on the Literature of People of Color in the United States and Canada
- 24–25 Executive Council

MARCH

- 2–3 Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession
- 3 Texts and Translations Series Editorial Board
- 6–7 Committee on the Status of Graduate Students in the Profession
- 9–10 ADE Executive Committee
- 10 Committee on Honors and Awards
- 16–17 ADFL Executive Committee
- 30–31 Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Rights and Responsibilities

APRIL

- 6–7 Committee on Information Technology
- 20–21 Committee on Community Colleges
- 20–21 Publications Committee

MAY

- 4–5 *PMLA* Editorial Board
- 4–5 Program Committee
- 19–20 Executive Council
- 30 Radio Committee

GRANTS AND PRIZES

Michael Katz Receives the ADFL Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession

The 2005 ADFL Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession will be presented to Michael Katz, the C. V. Starr Professor of Russian and Dean Emeritus of the Language Schools and Schools Abroad at Middlebury College. The award honors eminent scholar-teachers for exceptional contributions to the field of foreign languages and literatures at the postsecondary level, and Michael Katz has illustrated, as few can, extraordinary dedication coupled with outstanding accomplishments to the field of foreign languages.

A gifted administrator, when he was chair of the Department of Slavic Languages and director of the Title VI Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies at the University of Texas, Austin, Michael Katz instituted a PhD program in Slavic, established a tenure-track position and a doctoral track in the area of Russian language acquisition, and was instrumental in securing an endowed chair in Czech. He obtained funding from the NEH to take twenty-six Texas high school teachers of Russian to Moscow for language and pedagogy training over the course of three years. His extraordinary administrative skills led him to create a new language school in Portuguese at Middlebury College, expand the Arabic School, and open the Language Schools to researchers in second language acquisition. He is recognized for having strengthened Middlebury's agreement with historically black colleges and universities that send students to participate in the programs of the Middlebury Language Schools. During his tenure as dean at Middlebury, Katz provided critical support for a statistical analysis of learning outcomes in the Language Schools, a study of pragmatics in Spanish in the context of oral proficiency assessment, and the development of an adaptive computer-based Chinese reading test and proficiency-based tests in all four skills and grammar for Russian.

Former students praise his dedication and generosity both in and outside the classroom. He has encouraged Russian studies in yet other ways by making ten major texts in Russian available to English speakers in translation, offering scholarly commentary on nineteenth-century Russian fiction, and editing Tolstoy's short fiction for the Norton Critical Edition series.

The colleagues who nominated Michael Katz for the ADFL Award for Distinguished Service in the Profession write uniformly of him with personal warmth that transcends professional admiration. One writes, "Whether he is teaching Russian literature, conducting a seminar for K-12 teachers, or sitting on the floor with local kindergarten kids, Michael Katz's enthusiasm and energy are contagious."

ADFL welcomes nominations for this award. For details on making a nomination, visit the MLA Web site (www.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. □

GRANTS AND PRIZES

ADE Francis Andrew March Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession Presented to James F. Slevin

The ADE will present the Francis Andrew March Award to James F. Slevin at the 2005 MLA Annual Convention in Washington, DC. The award was established in 1984 to honor exceptional service to the profession of English. It is named for Francis March (1823-1911), professor of English at Lafayette College and the first professor of English in America. The committee looks for candidates whose impact reverberates beyond the local to affect, regionally or nationally, the ADE and MLA communities and the profession at large.

Slevin has taught at Georgetown University since 1975. He served three terms there as English Department chair and directed graduate studies in English and the Program on Justice and Peace. Currently he directs the Office of Curriculum and Pedagogy in the Center for Social Justice, which he helped to found. Slevin also founded Georgetown's Writing Center and Writing Program, which he has directed since 1981. He has published widely and served on the executive committees of several national associations, including the ADE's.

Slevin's scholarship and institutional and national service have particularly distinguished him in the areas of pedagogy, composition, and writing in the disciplines. He served on the MLA Commission on Writing and Literature and the program committees of the three conferences that the commission's work initiated. The first, the 1987 Spring Hill conference on the future of doctoral studies in English, led to the publication of *The Future of Doctoral Studies in English* (MLA, 1989). Two subsequent conferences, on literacy, brought humanists from higher education together with participants from K-12 education, workplace education, and community-based adult education and resulted in *The Right to Literacy* (MLA, 1990). Slevin also served on the MLA Committee on Professional Service, whose 1996 report "Making Faculty Work Visible: Reinterpreting Professional Service, Teaching, and Research in the Fields of Language and Literature" has been widely recognized as one of the most important and influential statements on the topic of service in the academic profession.

Prior recipients of the ADE Francis Andrew March Award are June Aldridge, Wayne C. Booth, Mary Burgan, Marcia Dalbey, Carole Edmunds, Phyllis Franklin, John Gerber, Charles B. Harris, Richard Lloyd-Jones, Andrea Lunsford, J. Hillis Miller, Robert Scholes, Philip Smith, and Patricia Meyer Spacks. ADE invites nominations for this award; for details, visit the MLA Web site (www.mla.org). □

GRANTS AND PRIZES

Competition Open for MLA Book Awards

The MLA Committee on Honors and Awards invites authors and editors to compete for the association's publication prizes. Five prizes that are awarded only in even-numbered years will be presented at the 2006 convention: the Fenia and Yaakov Leviant Memorial Prize, the MLA Prize for a Distinguished Bibliography, the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Studies in Germanic Languages and Literatures, the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for a Translation of a Literary Work, and the Howard R. Marraro Prize.

Prizes awarded annually by the MLA are the James Russell Lowell Prize for an outstanding book by a member of the association; the MLA Prize for a First Book; the MLA Prize for Independent Scholars, awarded for a distinguished scholarly book on language or literature; the Kenneth W. Miltenberger Prize for an outstanding work in the fields of language, culture, literacy, or literature with strong application to the teaching of languages other than English; the Mina P. Shaughnessy Prize for an outstanding work in the fields of language, culture, literacy, or literature with strong application to the teaching of English; the Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize for an outstanding book published in English in the field of Latin American and Spanish literatures and cultures; the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Comparative Literary Studies; the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for French and Francophone Studies; the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Publication Award for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Studies; the William Sanders Scarborough Prize for an outstanding scholarly study of black American literature or culture; and the MLA Prize in United States Latina and Latino and Chicana and Chicano Literary and Cultural Studies. A work published in 2005 may compete for one of the annual prizes that will be presented in 2006 if it meets the specific eligibility requirements for the prize. The deadline for entries for the 2005 James Russell Lowell Prize is 1 March 2006; for the First Book Prize it is 1 April; for the Scaglione Publication Award it is 1 August; for all other MLA awards it is 1 May.

Six prizes that are awarded only in odd-numbered years will be presented at the 2007 convention: the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Studies in Slavic Languages and Literatures, the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Italian Studies, the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for a Translation of a Scholarly Study of Literature, the Morton N. Cohen Award for a Distinguished Edition of Letters, the MLA Prize for a Distinguished Scholarly Edition, and the Lois Roth Award for a translation of a literary work. Biennial prizes are open to books or editions published in either of the two calendar years preceding the year in which the prize is presented, except for the prizes for Italian studies (the Scaglione Prize for Italian Studies and the Howard R. Marraro Prize) and the prizes for literary translation (the Scaglione Prize for a Translation of a Literary Work and the Lois Roth Award), for which works must have been published in the year prior to the year in which they are presented.

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

MLA Fund Subsidizes Dues

Permanent residents of soft-currency or developing nations who apply for membership in the MLA may apply to have their dues paid by the Good Neighbor Fund. Each applicant should enclose with the membership application a letter stating his or her annual salary and citing an authority for claiming that he or she resides in a soft-currency or developing nation. Applications are due by 30 April and are processed in the order received until funds are depleted. Individuals may receive assistance for no more than two years. On request, the fund will pay for airmail delivery of the Spring and Winter *MLA Newsletter* for members receiving assistance. Members should alert potential applicants to this notice. Address applications and inquiries to Annie Reiser (646 576-5141; areiser@mla.org). □

Scholar Rescue Fund

The Institute of International Education (IIE) provides Scholar Rescue Fund fellowships to institutions for support of scholars whose lives and work are threatened in their home countries. Universities, colleges, and research centers in any country may apply to serve as hosts. For more information and application materials, visit the IIE's Web site (www.iie.org/srf/home). A complete listing for the IIE's Scholar Rescue Fund will appear in the September 2006 (Directory) issue of *PMLA*. □

Honorary Members and Fellows

Members are invited to submit nominations for honorary members and fellows of the association. Honorary members are distinguished foreign scholars, and honorary fellows are distinguished men and women of any nationality. The current rosters of honorary members and fellows can be found on pages 1051–52 of the September 2005 (Directory) issue of *PMLA*.

Members who would like to recommend honorary members and fellows should refer to the instructions in the September *PMLA* (p. 1047) or to the MLA Web site under MLA Prizes and Awards. □

MLA Policy on Membership Mailing-List Rentals

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

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

At its meeting of 1 April 2005 the MLA Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Rights and Responsibilities updated MLA salary recommendations, as charged by the Executive Council. The minimum salary range for full-time appointments at the entry level should be at least \$38,000 to \$41,500 or better for instructors and \$46,500 to \$50,500 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 the expertise but also for the flexibility and convenience they offer. The Modern Language Association therefore recommends a salary range of \$5,700 to \$8,000 per course section, with fringe benefits and cost-of-living increases, as reasonable minimum compensation for part-time faculty members. □

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.

Harriet Martineau Collected Letters: manuscript letters sought. Content only, photocopies desirable. deborah.logan@wku.edu

D E A D L I N E S

Fellowships and Grants

The following list includes fellowships and grants that have deadlines between 2 November and 31 December. More specific information, such as eligibility, description of grants, number of grants awarded, and sources for further details, can be found in the September 2005 PMLA, pages 1386–402. The arrangement is chronological, and each date is followed by the major title under which information is listed in the September issue.

NOVEMBER

- 10 American Council of Learned Societies
- 15 American Association of University Women Educational Foundation
- 15 Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania
- 15 Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies of the City University of New York
- 15 Institute for Advanced Study, School of Historical Studies
- 15 Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship at Wesleyan University's Center for the Humanities
- 15 Thurber House Residencies
- 30 Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies
- 30 Fulbright Scholar Program
- 30 University of Michigan Center for Afro-American and African Studies
- 30 Stanford Humanities Fellows

DECEMBER

- 1 American Classical League
- 1 American Philosophical Society
- 1 American Printing History Association
- 1 Bibliographical Society of America
- 1 Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies, Princeton University
- 1 Dictionary Society of North America
- 1 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowships
- 1 Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities
- 1 Romance Writers of America
- 1 Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, the New York Public Library
- 1 Sex, Race, and Globalization Project at the University of Arizona
- 1 University of Utah Tanner Humanities Center
- 7 Andrew W. Mellon Fellowships in Humanistic Studies
- 12 Oregon State University Center for the Humanities
- 15 American Association of University Women Educational Foundation
- 15 Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation Grants for Venetian Research
- 15 Huntington Library
- 15 Kosciuszko Foundation
- 15 William Morris Society in the United States
- 19 Andrew W. Mellon Fellowships in Humanistic Studies
- 20 American Association of University Women Educational Foundation
- 31 American Institute for Yemeni Studies
- 31 University of California, Los Angeles, Fellowship Program in Ethnic Studies
- 31 Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Field Bibliographers Invited

The Advisory Committee on the *MLA International Bibliography* invites scholars and other professionals to serve as field bibliographers and graduate students to serve as assistant bibliographers. Both examine scholarly materials and send citations and indexing information to the MLA office. Service to the bibliography is performed under the supervision of MLA staff members, who provide extensive training in indexing practices. Some field bibliography fellowships are also available. See the Summer 2005 *MLA Newsletter* (14) for further details. Address inquiries to Bibliographical Information Services at the MLA headquarters office (bibliography@mla.org; 646 576-5053). □

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

OCTOBER

- 1 Deadline for receipt of resolutions to be considered and voted on at the 2005 Delegate Assembly meeting (see MLA constitution, articles 9.C.10 and 11.C.3–5); deadline for receipt of motions to be placed on the agenda of the 2005 Delegate Assembly meeting
- 14 Deadline for receipt of departmental administrators' job listings for the December 2005 *Job Information List*

NOVEMBER

- 1 Deadline for applications from advanced graduate students for partial reimbursement for travel to the 2005 convention

DECEMBER

- 1 Preregistration deadline for the 2005 convention
- 9 Deadline for receipt of 2005 convention addresses for "Who's Where"
- 10 Deadline for receipt of MLA election ballots (covering contests for second vice president, Executive Council, Delegate Assembly, and division executive committees)

JANUARY

- 5 Deadline for receipt of convention calls for papers for Spring 2006 *Newsletter*
- 13 Deadline for receipt of departmental administrators' job listings for the February 2006 *Job Information List*
- 31 Deadline for receipt of proposals for honorary members and fellows

MARCH

- 1 Deadline for submission of books competing for the 2006 James Russell Lowell Prize
- 3 Deadline for receipt of departmental administrators' job listings for the April 2006 *Job Information List*
- 15 Deadline for receipt of forum proposals for the 2006 convention
- 15 Postmark deadline for submissions to *Profession 2006*
- 31 Deadline for submission of manuscripts for the *PMLA* special topic Remapping Genre

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