

## **MLA Committee on Honors and Awards Annual Report, 2010–11**

The Committee on Honors and Awards oversees the procedures that result in the nomination and determination of those receiving MLA honors and awards and also reviews proposals for new honorary members and fellows. The committee meets annually and examines, at least once every three years, its procedures and the procedures used by its subcommittees. It reports annually to the Executive Council indicating the recipients of all honors and awards. It also reports periodically to the council regarding significant changes in procedures or in the nature of honors and awards.

The CHA met at the MLA office on 18 March 2011. Those present were Wendy Allen, Santa Arias, Tom Conley (chair), and Madhu Dubey as well as MLA staff members Rosemary G. Feal, Annie Reiser, and Doug Steward.

### Date for next meeting

The date for next year's meeting is 30 March 2012.

### Overview of Prizes

The committee discussed the Executive Council's request that prize committees try to limit the number of cowinners or honorable mentions awarded. The CHA would like the council to revisit this policy because it sees the benefit of bestowing honor on outstanding scholarship as outweighing the risk of diluting the impact of the award. The committee recommends that honorable mentions and cowinners not be "avoided" but "considered very carefully" by prize committees. Staff members informed the CHA that, at the committee's request, the Executive Council authorized all prize winners in competitions where membership is not required to receive a one-year membership in the association, beginning with the 2010 competitions.

### Travel Grants

The executive director reported that she plans to ask the Executive Council to authorize an increased number of convention travel grants for graduate student attendees. Currently, two

hundred travel grants are offered to graduate students, but there are generally more than two hundred eligible applicants who attend the convention.

#### MLA Award for Lifetime Scholarly Achievement (LSA)

The committee discussed the three names forwarded by the MLA Prize for Lifetime Scholarly Achievement Review Committee and unanimously agreed that Fredric Jameson was the strongest candidate because of the breadth of his work and influence and the impact he has had across several fields. They suggest that the names of the other candidates be shared with the next LSA review committee.

#### Conversion of Four Annual Prizes to Biennial Prizes

The committee approved the schedule drawn up by the staff to convert four annual prizes to biennial prizes. Beginning in 2012, the Mina P. Shaughnessy Prize and the MLA Prize for Independent Scholars will be offered in even-numbered years, and the Kenneth W. Mildener Prize and MLA Prize in United States Latina and Latino and Chicana and Chicano Literary and Cultural Studies will be offered in odd-numbered years.

#### Appointments to Selection Committees

The committee appointed four members to 2010 committees and twenty-eight members to 2011 committees. It appointed sixteen current committee members to serve as chairs in 2011.

*Tom Conley (chair)*