

In 2011, the association, under the leadership of the Executive Council, has continued to respond to shifts in the demographics and finances of colleges and universities, scholarly organizations, and publishers. By analyzing current trends, the council and the MLA staff have charted necessary changes to how we carry out our mission and monitored the success of our efforts. The fiscal year 2010–11 saw a slight surplus in the unrestricted and restricted funds, a result of targeted reductions in spending to compensate for lower income from print publications, notably the *MLA Handbook*.

As part of its strategic planning for the association's future, the Executive Council authorized the creation of the MLA Office of Scholarly Communication. Established to meet the needs of our members and of the larger academic community, the new office works on projects related to traditional and new forms of scholarly communication, Web-based communications among members, and the digital humanities. The office, in collaboration with publishing operations, acquires and produces books that continue to be a part of the MLA's distinguished publishing program.

The 2011 convention in Los Angeles was the first to be held on the new January dates. Attendance figures were strong, and participants responded positively to the new kinds of sessions, connections to the local community, and greater use of social media, innovations we will refine and continue at future conventions. The Seattle convention in January 2012 will feature seven creative conversations with writers, filmmakers, and other interlocutors; several cultural excursions, including two centered on regional culinary offerings; and three special workshops (on language programs, digital humanities, and media training) with limited attendance.

The first seven sections of this report discuss the activities of the MLA in 2011. The eighth and last section lists the actions taken by the 2011 Delegate Assembly and indicates what has been done to implement those actions.

MLA Convention

Maribeth T. Kraus, director of convention programs, plans for and organizes the MLA's annual convention and other association conferences. She reports that the final count of attendees at the 2011 convention in Los Angeles was 7,745. Of this number, 2,188 (28.2%) were graduate students and 159 (2%) were emeritus members. The convention program broke down as follows: 264 special sessions, linked sessions, and forums organized by members, which includes the presidential forum and its linked sessions; 127 competitive sessions; 221 division and discussion group sessions; 48 MLA committee sessions; 116 allied and affiliate organization sessions; and 43 special events and social events.

Plans for the 2012 Convention in Seattle

As of 18 November, 5,286 people had registered for the Seattle convention. (Last year at this time, we had 178 more registrants.) General information about the convention is available at the MLA Web site, along with convention registration and housing reservation forms. Travel arrangements can also be made through the MLA Web site. To date, 97% of registrants have registered at the MLA Web site; 3% have chosen to mail in their forms. Approximately 59% of the registrants are regular members, 24% are student members, 7% are unemployed members or members employed less than full-time, 4% are members residing outside the United States and Canada and 2% are emeritus members. The remaining registrants (4%) are nonmembers. Members were given priority discounted access to convention registration through the MLA Web site. Many members took advantage of this service: 3,959 members (13.7%) of the total membership registered at the Web site in September. As of mid-October, 109 exhibit booths were sold, which is 5 fewer than last year at the same time. The convention program was mailed in the second half of October and became available at the MLA Web site on 28 October. The *Convention News and Program Update* is being split into the *Convention Guide* and the *Convention Daily*, as explained in the section below on editorial activities. The *Convention Guide* will contain city and hotel maps and provide general information, whereas the *Convention Daily* will feature special notices, changes in schedule, and brief reports on convention activities.

Future Conventions

The 2013 MLA Annual Convention will be held from 9 through 12 January in Boston. Members must submit 2013 calls for papers through the MLA Web site. The July, September, and January submission deadlines have been replaced with a new submission system that posts calls for papers as members submit them online.

Honors and Awards

Each year at the convention, the association recognizes outstanding achievements in scholarship. This year we plan to award 18 publication prizes, including the William Riley Parker Prize for an outstanding essay in *PMLA*. A total of 557 titles competed for publication prizes this year. Two hundred seven (37%) of these titles competed for either the James Russell Lowell Prize or the MLA Prize for a First Book. Fifty-seven (10%) competed for the Scaglione Prize for a Translation of a Literary Work. The number of publications that competed for the remainder of the awards was 293 (53%).

The sixth MLA Award for Lifetime Scholarly Achievement will be presented to Fredric Jameson, William A. Lane, Jr., Professor of Comparative Literature and Professor of Romance Studies and Duke University. Jameson was selected for recognition by the Executive Council at the recommendation of the Committee on Honors and Awards.

Graduate Student Travel Reimbursement Grants are available each year for advanced graduate students. The association has allocated funds for up to 200 awards each year. We received 318 applications for travel to the January 2011 convention; 316 of the applicants were eligible. (The number of eligible applicants for 2011 convention grants was down 2.4% from the previous year.) Of the eligible applicants, 208 received grants. An appeal to members for contributions allowed the association to award 8 more grants than we originally budgeted for.

Travel Grants for Non-Tenure-Track Faculty Members or Unemployed Members are also available; the association has allocated funds for up to 150 awards each year. We received 91 applications for the January 2011 convention, all from eligible applicants. Since 36 applicants did not attend the convention, we awarded a total of 55 grants.

Regular and life members who reside outside the United States and Canada and who planned to attend the 2011 convention could apply for a third type of travel grant. We received nineteen applications, and all applicants were eligible. Fifteen of the eligible applicants received grants, since four did not attend the convention.

MLA Publications

MLA International Bibliography

The *MLA International Bibliography* continues to be available as a subscription database through three vendors—Ebsco, ProQuest, and Cengage (Gale). Sales in the fiscal year 2010–2011 surpassed the previous year’s results.

In 2010 the MLA entered into discovery-platform agreements with Worldcat Local (OCLC) and Ebsco Discovery Service. Users at mutually subscribing libraries are now able to search and view MLA bibliographic records simultaneously with those from a library’s online catalog and from other database producers. Another contract was signed in 2011 with ExLibris to allow the MLA to participate in the Primo Central discovery service; testing of the file is under way.

MLA staff members and 93 scholar-bibliographers from the field (18 distinguished bibliographers, 16 senior bibliographers, 55 bibliographers, and 4 assistant bibliographers) indexed print and electronic publications for the 2010 file. In the past year 22 new field bibliographers participated in an online training program to introduce them to *Bibliography* rules and procedures.

Now that there are no print volumes to consider, the *Bibliography* production schedule changed to admit earlier inclusion of current material in the database. Records from 2010 were introduced two months earlier than under the previous schedule. The year closed with a total of 68,445 records. The first 2011 file was sent to vendors in early February. In 2011 the indexing structure was modified slightly to eliminate identical subject terms that had been required previously when a publication was included in multiple print volumes.

The *Directory of Periodicals*, available at the MLA home page as a benefit of membership, includes 4,766 titles, 337 of which are electronic journals. In spring 2011, members also gained access to the Web site listings that are included in the *Bibliography*.

As of the April 2011 retrospective update, over 30,000 publisher-provided abstracts were made available to our electronic subscribers. The number of *Bibliography* records containing full-text links continues to grow; in April, they represented 12% of the total number of *Bibliography* citations, which number over 2.3 million. There are now links in the *Bibliography*

to more than 36,500 Project Muse articles, more than 64,000 online dissertations deposited in ProQuest's Dissertations and Theses database, and more than 127,000 JSTOR articles. License agreements signed with Waxmann, Intellect Books, Wiley-Blackwell, Palgrave-Macmillan, and Taylor & Francis/Routledge will allow us to further expand the number of full-text links and abstracts in the database. Libraries that subscribe to any of these services will be able to give their users seamless access to full text. Vendors also add full-text links to the publications that are available through their other products. The *Bibliography* now includes over 175,000 digital object identifiers and more than 1,200 Web sites.

The eighth group of *Bibliography* fellows was appointed in April, and the eight new fellows and received their online training during the summer. Three 2007 fellows completed the fellowship requirements and were recognized during the awards ceremony at the 2011 MLA convention in Los Angeles.

Scholarly Communication

Kathleen Fitzpatrick, director of scholarly communication, reports that the association's book publications program continues to publish a range of books whose quality is ensured by peer review. To support teaching and scholarship in the modern languages and literatures, the MLA publishes reference works, collections of scholarly articles, guides to teaching, and books intended for instruction in foreign languages and English composition. The association publishes about a dozen new books each year and maintains a backlist of nearly 300 titles. Book sales continue to provide an important source of revenue for the association. Additionally, the restructuring of the Office of Scholarly Communication to include Web-based publishing has opened new opportunities for disseminating MLA publications and increasing their impact. In the calendar year 2011, the MLA has increased online access to the *MLA Handbook*, expanded library licensing for the online *Literary Research Guide*, and developed a dynamic new online convention program, including access for mobile devices. The MLA also expects to publish nine new titles in its established book series.

As the office expands on the work of the MLA book publication program, it will seek to promote digital communication with and among members, including through the MLA Web site. The office now oversees the content of the site and works with other departments to update existing Web pages and develop new features. In August we introduced free member access to the *MLA Handbook* Web site through the MLA site. By logging in to www.mla.org, all MLA members can now use the online *Handbook*, which includes the full text of the print edition as well as supplementary materials. In October we launched a revamped online convention program; the new dynamic interface allows users to search and browse the program more easily by day, by participant, by subject, and by meeting time and to find sessions by keyword. Session details will include live links to organizers' Web sites, and members are encouraged to comment on sessions in the program, thereby fostering year-round conversations about the topics. The full program will also be available as a downloadable PDF and in a streamlined form for mobile devices. The office, in conjunction with editorial staff members, also updates the membership on association news through the News from the MLA Web page and biweekly e-mail digests, which were launched in October 2010.

The Office of Scholarly Communication has continued its expansion of library licensing for the online edition of the *Literary Research Guide*, an award-winning version of the widely used, annotated listing of reference sources in English literary studies. In the book publications program, the Options for Teaching series offers new books on French women writers from the Renaissance through the eighteenth century as well as a volume on law and literature. New books in the Approaches to Teaching series address the works of William Faulkner, H.D., François Rabelais, and John Gower. The World Literatures Reimagined series offers a new title on contemporary Galician studies, and the most recent volume in the New Variorum Edition of Shakespeare is *The Comedy of Errors*.

This year's new titles are as follows:

Beasley, Faith E., ed. *Teaching Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century French Women Writers*

Debo, Annette, and Lara Vetter, eds. *Approaches to Teaching H.D.'s Poetry and Prose*

Henning, Standish, ed. *The Comedy of Errors* (A New Variorum Edition of Shakespeare)

Hooper, Kirsty, and Manuel Puga Moruxa, eds. *Contemporary Galician Studies: Between the Local and the Global*

O'Donnell, Patrick, and Lynda Zwinger, eds. *Approaches to Teaching Faulkner's As I Lay Dying*

Reeser, Todd W., and Floyd Gray, eds. *Approaches to Teaching the Works of François Rabelais*

Sarat, Austin, Catherine O. Frank, and Matthew Anderson, eds. *Teaching Law and Literature*

Winn, Colette H., ed. *Teaching French Women Writers of the Renaissance and Reformation*

Yeager, R. F., and Brian W. Gastle, eds., *Approaches to Teaching the Poetry of John Gower*

In addition to these titles, twelve titles are accepted and in preparation for publication; about eighty new projects are in development.

PMLA

Patricia Yaeger's report (see Item No. 5 [d]) details the recent news about *PMLA*. The 126th volume features twenty-three regular essays, several submissions from members under the rubrics Criticism in Translation and Little-Known Documents, an array of commissioned articles, and, in the Forum section, ten letters to the editor and six replies from authors.

Two of the Editor's Columns this year are collaborations in which Yaeger invited authors to comment on a topic. One topic, published in January 2011, is the bronze plaques embedded in the sidewalks outside the New York Public Library. These plaques are embossed with literary quotations, such as Gertrude Stein's "remarks are not literature," and with interpretive illustrations. The other topic, in March 2011, is the idea that literary history might fruitfully be

conceived in terms of the energy sources that shape works. This column inspired a response from a blogger at *Inside Higher Ed*.

The January issue also features six members' essays and a submission to Little-Known Documents comprising three literary manifestos of early modern Spain. Two sets of short commissioned essays address children's literature and "the vanishing Spanish Golden Age," while another commissioned text is on zines. Five members' essays fill out the March issue, along with a presentation under Criticism in Translation of an essay by Georges Poulet on Henri Bergson's "thoughts about the panoramic vision of the dying and its representations in literature." The notion of a clash of religions is taken up by a group of commissioned writings under Theories and Methodologies. Individual solicited contributions deal with love and with financial capital.

For the May issue, Yaeger pulled together a range of materials on Asian literature: a Guest Column, all four of the regular essays, a translation about learning Turkish for Little-Known Documents, and eleven commissioned essays. The issue also includes three solicited studies on teaching and one on comparison as a valid intellectual method, two other projects for Little-Known Documents, and the 2011 Presidential Address.

The October 2011 issue is the last one to be assembled during Yaeger's term. It is devoted to the special topic Celebrity, Fame, Notoriety, which was coordinated by Joseph A. Boone and Nancy J. Vickers. Following an introduction by the coordinators, the issue's eight regular essays, nine commissioned texts under Theories and Methodologies, and epilogue span the topic from Homer to reality TV. Upcoming special topics are Work, coordinated by Vicky Unruh (Oct. 2012), and Tragedy, coordinated by Jean Howard and Helene Foley (Oct. 2014).

As of 31 October 2011, *PMLA* had received 198 submissions in the year, down slightly from 207 for the same period in 2010. The acceptance rate for submissions remains about 10%.

In 2011, members enjoyed the benefits of the online directory, with all the features previously included in the September issue of *PMLA*. The November issue of *PMLA*, the print version of the convention program, was mailed in the second half of October; it became available on the MLA Web site in late October.

Profession

Profession, the association's annual journal, appears in December. The executive director serves as editor; Carol Zuses is managing editor. The 2010 issue of *Profession*, which was published on schedule, carries a total of twenty-four articles. The contents are divided into three sections.

The first section presents the essays from the Presidential Forum that Catherine Porter organized for the 2009 convention, The Tasks of Translation in the Global Context. The section includes Porter's introductory remarks and eleven varied contributions from Emily Apter, Sandra Bermann, Tom Conley, Verena Conley, Jonathan Culler, Brett de Bary, Peggy Kamuf, Marjorie Perloff, Naoki Sakai, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, and Lawrence Venuti. The second section of *Profession* explores a special topic, disability and language, which was proposed by the MLA

Committee on Disability Issues in the Profession. Introduced by Petra Koppers, the section includes essays by Michael Bérubé, Kristen Harmon, and Margaret Price.

The third section of the 2010 issue includes eight essays on a variety of topics. Five are original essays; their authors or coauthors are Marjorie Garber, Katie Hogan, Michelle Massé, Linda Ray Pratt, James P. Purdy, Joyce R. Walker, and Tara Williams. Three essays--by Sidonie Smith, Jennifer Summit, and Lesley Wheeler--are reprinted from the *ADE Bulletin* or the *ADFL Bulletin*. The use of bulletin reprints defined *Profession* in its early years; more recently, reprints have shared space with original essays and other features. The practice of reprinting continues for two reasons: to give a wider readership to some of the work taking place in the ADE and the ADFL and to allow each issue of *Profession* to present as full a picture of current professional issues as possible.

The 2010 issue of *Profession* also presents a Forum section containing one comment on an article published the previous year along with the author's response.

Profession received twenty-seven regular submissions in 2010. *Profession* usually attracts between two and three dozen submissions each year on a wide variety of subjects. In 2010, as in years past, the *Profession* Advisory Committee and the directors of two MLA offices, research and programs, assisted the editor in evaluating submissions and selecting articles for publication.

Editorial Department Activities

In addition to providing support for the editor and the editorial board of *PMLA*, Judy Goulding oversees the production of MLA publications, including books, journals, and promotional material. She also serves as associate executive director. The department worked on the nine books scheduled for publication in 2011 and on thirteen other book projects that are in various stages of production. User support for and ongoing maintenance of the *MLA Handbook*, *Literary Research Guide*, and *MLA Journals* Web sites continue to be handled among a number of departments at the MLA office.

The *ADE Bulletin* and *ADFL Bulletin*, no longer available in print, are now published on ade.org and adfl.org in a redesigned full-color format optimized for online reading. Members whose departments belong to the ADE or the ADFL have access to the contents of the bulletins when they log in at the MLA Web site.

This summer we moved the coordination of Web site activities into the scholarly communication office, with continuing collaboration among various departments. For the first time in 2011, calls for papers for the convention, which members submit through the Web site, were available on the site (to members and nonmembers) as soon as they were received. This fall, as we prepared for the 2012 convention, we separated the *Convention News and Program Update* into two publications: The *Convention Guide* will provide essential information on convention services and facilities, a map of the convention area, and floor plans for the facilities. It will be distributed through the MLA Web site and on-site as a printed brochure. The *Convention Daily*, which will appear in print and be posted online, will list updates to sessions, special events in the exhibit hall, election results, and the winners of MLA prizes.

Although the creation of the biweekly news digest has enabled us to streamline communications with members, we continue to use e-mail as one way to reach members, and we regularly conduct short surveys to learn about members' interests and preferences, asking about such things as convention sites and social media use.

Office of Research and ADE

David Laurence oversees the Office of Research, which supports the association's data collection projects and administers the *Job Information List (JIL)*, including the annual tabulation and analysis of the number of ads departments posted to the list and the number of jobs *JIL* ads announced.

In September the report on jobs in the 2010–11 *JIL* was posted on the MLA Web site. The number of jobs stabilized after the sharp downturn of the two previous years. In 2010–11 the *JIL*'s English edition contained 1,042 ads announcing 1,190 jobs, 90 (8.2%) more than in 2009–10. The foreign language edition contained 985 ads announcing 1,095 jobs, 73 (7.1%) more than in 2009–10. By contrast, over the two years 2008–09 and 2009–10 the number of jobs advertised in the *JIL* declined by 726 (39.8%) in English and by 658 (39.2%) in foreign languages, the steepest decreases in the thirty-five-year history of the *JIL* counts. While it is still early, so far in 2011–12 the number of ads departments are submitting to the *JIL* is running slightly ahead of last year.

In fall 2010 the office canvassed departments about the outcome of job searches they advertised in the 2009–10 *JIL*. The MLA first administered this survey in 2004. Findings document the year in which candidates hired to tenure-track assistant professor positions received their degrees and show that 70% of candidates hired to tenure-track positions received their degrees in 2010 (38.2%) or the three previous years (32.9%). A full report on the survey is in preparation. The database and questionnaire for the survey of departmental hiring are now permanent parts of the MLA's in-house systems, allowing new administrations of this survey to be done at any time.

In December 2011 the office is scheduled to begin data collection for the fourteenth in the series of MLA surveys of doctoral student placement. The survey is collecting information about employment two years post-graduation (as of fall 2010 and fall 2011) of graduates who received their degrees between 1 September 2009 and 31 August 2010. The study should provide insight into the impact of the economic recession on graduate student placement, especially when put alongside findings from the prior study, which covered graduates who received their doctorates in the pre-recession year 2006–07.

This spring the ADE Ad Hoc Committee on the Master's Degree completed its report, *Rethinking the Master's Degree in English for a New Century*. The report, which became available on the MLA and ADE Web sites in June, includes findings from the MLA's first survey of placement of graduates from master's degree programs. This survey shows the wide range of master's degree recipients' occupational placements and placement to further graduate and professional study. The leading occupational placement was postsecondary teaching (19.3%

of graduates); 33.0% were reported as going on to doctoral study in language, literature, or culture. The survey provides further documentation of the significant role of the master's degree and master's degree programs in the academic workforce.

The Office of Research made significant contributions to the fall 2010 survey of contingent faculty members undertaken by the Coalition on the Academic Workforce (CAW), a coalition of 22 higher education groups of which the MLA is a founding member. The director of research participated in the group that designed the survey questionnaire and prepared the data file for analysis after data collection was completed. Directed to members of the contingent academic workforce across all disciplines—faculty members, graduate student teaching assistants, and postdoctoral fellows and researchers—the CAW survey inquired about course assignments, salaries and benefits, contractual arrangements, and general working conditions of academics employed off the tenure track in United States colleges and universities. The survey received usable responses from more than 25,000 individuals. A symposium on the fall 2010 CAW survey of contingent faculty members took place on Friday, 18 November, at the 2011 annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) in Charlotte, North Carolina, where representatives of CAW conducted a discussion of initial findings from the survey.

The office participated in two conferences relating to work in the digital humanities. The NINES/NEH Summer Institute on Evaluating Digital Scholarship at the University of Virginia brought together thirty people representing a range of institutions, ranks, and involvement with the digital humanities. Participants spent five days meeting in plenary panels, discussion groups, and writing cohorts to address the issues surrounding the evaluation of literary scholarship in digital media. At the University of Maryland another NEH-funded conference—Off the Tracks: Laying New Lines for Digital Humanities Scholars—explored the employment opportunities and career paths that are becoming available in postsecondary institutions to the hybrid scholar-programmers now staffing many digital humanities centers, sometimes in nonfaculty positions.

Staff members in the office also participated at the THATCamp SoCal unconference and attended the annual meetings of the College Language Association, the Conference on College Composition and Communication, and the National Council of Teachers of English.

ADE

The ADE had 719 member departments in the year ending August 2011. The ADE and the ADFL held a joint summer seminar at Northwestern University, which attracted 88 participants. ADE Seminar West took place at Stanford University; 96 participants attended. Among the topics discussed at the 2011 seminars were emergent directions for graduate and undergraduate study in the humanities, the impact of new media on student literacy and general education courses, the new literacy and the English curriculum, institutional frameworks for interdisciplinary study, and the digital humanities and literary scholarship. Seminar programs also included sessions on career paths for non-tenure-track faculty members, the master's degree and the academic workforce, legal and personnel issues for department administrators, and approaches to threat assessment and the prevention of targeted violence. Breakout discussion groups took up assessment of student learning outcomes, common goals for the department in relation to scholarly specializations and programmatic divisions, widening graduate students' career options, strategies for dealing with unprofessional behavior, and strategies for working

with difficult upper administrators. Each year the seminars include one-day workshops for new chairs and for directors of graduate studies.

Now an e-journal, the *ADE Bulletin* offers all faculty members and students in member departments the full text of articles across the entire run of issues, 1963 to the present, over the World Wide Web. Tables of contents and bibliographic information for all issues are openly available. Individuals who are unaffiliated with an academic department or whose departments are not members of the ADE may become ADE affiliate members to receive access to the *Bulletin* and to search the *JIL*. Library subscriptions are available; libraries receive the *JIL* and the ADE and ADFL bulletins at specified IP address ranges.

With over 700 subscribers, the ADE electronic discussion list continues to serve as a forum for exchange of information among chairs of member departments, as does the parallel list for directors of graduate studies.

Office of Programs and ADFL

The Office of Programs, directed by Nelly Furman, oversees activities in the fields of English and foreign languages and the projects of the ADE and the ADFL.

The office curates the MLA Language Map and its Data Center, which continue to serve many visitors. Between 1 January and 1 December 2011, tracking software recorded 30,651 visitors to the Map and 14,863 visitors to the Data Center. The average visitor to the Language Map called up 4.0 maps. The most frequently sought maps displayed the distribution of speakers of Spanish, French, German, Chinese, all languages other than English combined, and Italian. The state maps most frequently requested were for California, Illinois, New York, Pennsylvania, and Florida. In all, over 115,000 maps were requested. Visitors to the Language Map Data Center performed over 75,900 searches. The language maps display data from Census 2000; the Data Center includes data from Census 2000 and the 2005 American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS data allow the data center to offer comparative bar charts and tables for 2000 and 2005, tracing changes in language communities at mid-decade. The Office of Programs is now making preparations to add ACS summary data for 2005–10 to the map and the Data Center. The Language Map also displays the locations and enrollments of college and university programs in the languages the user is researching by using data from the fall 2009 enrollment survey.

The office makes available at no cost two brochures that can also be downloaded from the MLA Web site: *Why Learn Another Language? Knowing Other Languages Brings Opportunities*, designed primarily for secondary schools, and *Foreign Language Study in the Age of Globalization: The College-Level Experience*.

The survey report, *Enrollments in Languages Other than English in United States Institutions of Higher Education, Fall 2009*, was released in November 2010; in January 2011, the searchable *Language Enrollment Database, 1958–2009* was launched. The database allows users to individualize the parameters of a search—by language, institution, or location—of

twenty-two surveys dating back to 1958. Within an eleven-month span from January to the end of November, 8,831 searches were conducted using the database.

In 2011 staff members in foreign languages in the Office of Programs participated in sessions at meetings of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, and the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association. Staff members from the office represented the MLA at a meeting of the Foreign Language Standards Collaborative Board and at a conference entitled *What Future for the Less Commonly Taught Languages?*, held at Columbia University.

ADFL

In 2010–11, the ADFL had 838 member departments. The joint ADE-ADFL Summer Seminar Midwest was hosted by Northwestern University. It attracted 36 ADFL attendees, including 17 participants in the new chairs workshop. The seminar featured plenary sessions on “The Humanities at the Crossroads: New Directions—from Undergraduate Study to the Dissertation,” “The Future of the Academic Workforce,” “Legal and Personnel Issues for Department Administrators,” and “Institutional Frameworks for Interdisciplinary Study.” ADFL Seminar West was hosted by the College of Humanities of Brigham Young University and the College of Humanities of the University of Utah. There were 55 attendees, including 17 participants in the new chairs workshop and 4 participants in the workshop for program reviewers. Topics featured in the plenary sessions included issues on assessment, interdisciplinarity and study abroad, personnel and the law, flagships, resource centers, opportunities for funding, global studies and departmental structures.

The electronic *ADFL Bulletin* featured a cluster of articles on close reading and articles on strategies for promoting the study of literature, academic freedom, the German major, curricular change and the major, dual enrollment as a key to internationalization, weaving *Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century* into higher education, hybrid courses, foreign language housing, and strategizing the job search.

The following topics were chief among those raised on the chairs’ electronic discussion list: transfer credit for study abroad, language courses accepted as writing-intensive courses, program closings at colleges and universities, language requirements and waivers for international or heritage students, assessment and placement exams, teaching loads, institutional support for publication costs, online courses and distance learning, reformulating language majors, reframing languages and humanities as “information and communications,” and contingent faculty issues.

Advocacy Efforts and National Coalitions

On issues affecting the humanities, the MLA works with colleagues in the National Humanities Alliance (NHA). I currently serve on the NHA’s board of directors and executive committee and am the MLA’s voting representative at the alliance’s annual meeting.

The NHA plays the lead role in advocating for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The NEH receives funding through the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies spending bill and is currently operating at (roughly) the fiscal year 2011 (FY 2011) enacted budget level of \$154.7 million. For FY 2012, the budget proposal released by the Obama administration in February 2011 requested funding of only \$146.3 million for the NEH—an \$8.4 million (or 5.4%) cut from the FY 2011 level. On 13 July, the House Appropriations Committee approved a draft FY 2012 Interior spending bill (H.R. 2584) with funding of only \$135 million for the NEH, \$19.7 million less than the current level and \$11.3 million below the president's request for FY 2012. This level of funding represents a disproportionate decrease of 13% for the NEH compared with the overall Interior bill, which was reduced by 7% from FY 2011 levels. Floor consideration of H.R. 2584 began on 25 July but was suspended without a final vote on the bill. The cochairs of the Congressional Humanities Caucus, Tom Petri (R-WI) and David Price (D-NC), led a bipartisan “strike the last word” effort to protect the NEH from further cuts and provide members the opportunity to speak on the floor in support of the humanities. Before consideration of the bill was suspended on 25 July, the House defeated (284-126) an amendment introduced by Tim Huelskamp (R-KS) which would have zeroed out funding for the NEH. On 27 July, Paul Broun (R-GA) offered an amendment to cut NEH funding by an additional \$13.5 million; a vote on that amendment was never held. The Senate Appropriations Committee has not yet marked up its version of the FY 2012 Interior bill.

The NHA and its members began the year by urging Congress to provide funding for the NEH of at least of \$167.5 million, the amount appropriated in FY 2010. The alliance worked closely with Congressional Humanities Caucus and Senate Cultural Caucus members to garner this level of support for the NEH through two Dear Colleague letters circulated in April and May. After the debt ceiling agreement was reached—an agreement that has placed severe limits on federal spending—the alliance adjusted its position to reflect the final FY 2011 enacted level of \$154.7 million for the NEH. With further across-the-board decreases expected for FY 2012, holding the line against further cuts is going to be a tough fight for the NEH and other agencies. Phone calls, e-mail messages, and in-person visits by members of the NHA, the MLA, and other groups—which have been vital so far this year—continue to be needed.

At the end of September, with the 1 October start of FY 2012 approaching and work on 2012 appropriations incomplete, the House and the Senate passed a continuing resolution to keep the federal government running through 4 October. Additional House action was required on a second continuing resolution to fund the government through 18 November. The House approved the measure on 4 October, and the president signed the bill on 5 October. A third continuing resolution, which provides funding through 16 December, was approved by the House and the Senate on 17 November; the president signed the bill on 18 November. The NEH and most federal agencies and programs will continue to operate through 16 December at FY 2011 levels, minus a 1.5% cut across the board.

This year the MLA once again sponsored Humanities Advocacy Day, an annual event coordinated by the NHA. The purpose of the event is to promote federal support for scholarly research, education, public programs, and preservation in the humanities. On 7–8 March, I attended the NHA's 2011 Annual Meeting and Humanities Advocacy Day in Washington, DC. Over the two-day period, more than 200 individuals took part in a range of activities that

included advocacy training, an NEH grants workshop, panel presentations, a keynote luncheon, policy briefings, a Capitol Hill reception, and visits to Congressional offices. Humanities Advocacy Day provides the MLA and other national organizations a crucial opportunity to deliver a unified message to Congress and the administration on funding needs and priorities for the NEH and other federal agencies, such as the Department of Education, which houses international education and foreign language training programs (Title VI/Fulbright-Hays); the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC); the Javits Fellowships; and the Institute for Museum and Library Services.

The NHA also provides congressional testimony as needed, helps organize events on Capitol Hill that promote an understanding of the importance and vitality of the humanities, confers the Sidney Yates Award for Distinguished Public Service to the Humanities, and keeps its members informed about the status of the appropriations process. Additional information about the NHA's work is available at the NHA Web site, www.nhalliance.org.

On issues affecting languages and international studies, the MLA works with colleagues in the Joint National Committee for Languages (JNCL) and the Coalition for International Education (CIE).

The JNCL represents more than 300,000 professionals and has over 60 members, including national, regional, and state organizations encompassing most areas of the K-16 language field. The JNCL holds its annual Delegate Assembly meeting in Washington, DC, where members promote public awareness of language issues. The MLA normally sends a representative to the JNCL Delegate Assembly each year; however, the MLA was not represented at the 2011 meeting.

The CIE is made up of more than 30 national higher education organizations. It informs policy makers, education and private sector officials, and the media about national needs in international and foreign language education and focuses on promoting and supporting Title VI/Fulbright-Hays programs. The MLA became a member of the CIE in June 2011, and I participated (by teleconference) in the CIE's annual meeting on 6 October.

Department of Education programs of interest to the language community include the Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP), Title VI programs for international education and foreign language studies in higher education, the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), and English Language Acquisition State Grants (formerly Bilingual and Immigrant Education).

The White House released the president's detailed budget for the 2012 fiscal year in February 2011. In September, after an eventful spring and summer dominated by discussion of deficit reduction, the Senate Appropriations Committee completed its work on the appropriations bill that funds the Department of Education. As of the beginning of December, the House subcommittee responsible for education funding had not completed work on its appropriations bill.

Both the president and the Senate proposed to eliminate funding for FLAP as an individual program and instead consolidate it along with seven other programs emphasizing

higher education partnerships and content-based activities into a new program called Effective Teaching and Learning for a Well-Rounded Education. However, neither the Senate nor the president requested funding in 2012 for the new program, which has not yet been authorized. This proposal represents a significant decrease from the \$26.9 million appropriated for FLAP in 2011.

The president proposed \$128 million for Title VI programs, but the Senate requested only \$75.7 million, the amount appropriated in 2011. Programs authorized under Title VI of the Higher Education Act include Centers for International Business Education, Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships, Institute for International Public Policy, Language Resource Centers, and Fulbright-Hays training grants and seminars abroad. Unfortunately, a number of Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs for FY 2011 were canceled (e.g., Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program, American Overseas Research Centers, Fulbright-Hays Training Grants--Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad, International Research and Studies). Funding for Title VI in 2012 is likely to remain at last year's level. The CIE is working on maintaining funding at the 2011 level.

The president's proposal for FIPSE funding was \$150 million, but again the Senate proposed to maintain the 2011 appropriation of \$19.6 million. For English Language Acquisition State Grants, the president proposed \$750 million in funding, but the Senate put forward the same appropriation as in 2011, \$733.5 million.

As noted above, most federal programs are currently operating at FY 2011 levels, minus a 1.5% percent across-the-board cut.

The MLA is a founding member of the Coalition on the Academic Workforce (CAW), which is an informal coalition with no headquarters or staff. CAW's purpose is to discourage the excessive use of part-time, adjunct, and temporary faculty members in higher education and to help ensure that they receive fair treatment. Representatives of twenty-two associations generally participate in meetings and activities. CAW's Web site (www.academicworkforce.org) contains data, reports, and surveys from its member associations. Links are provided to the coalition's member organizations and statements they issue on the use of contingent academic labor. The MLA continues to maintain responsibility for this Web site; responsibility for convening CAW meetings has shifted from the MLA (I served as coconvener for a number of years) to the American Association of University Professors and the College Art Association. In fall 2010 CAW conducted a survey of contingent faculty members (see Office of Research and ADE, above), the results of which were presented at the 2011 conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education.

The MLA is a member of the American Council of Learned Societies. The principal administrator from each of the constituent learned societies serves as a member of the Conference of Administrative Officers (CAO). The CAO functions as the primary vehicle for maintaining and enhancing relationships among the constituent learned societies and between the societies and the ACLS. The CAO meets twice a year to discuss substantive issues in the humanities as well as practical and organizational aspects of society management.

MLA Membership and Association Administration

Membership Trends

Terrence Callaghan, director of operations, reports that MLA membership enrollment decreased by 5.0% in 2011. The total number of MLA members at the close of the 2011 membership year was 28,931 (it was 30,449 in 2010), of whom 18,163 (62.8%) were regular members, 7,039 (24.3%) were student members, and 3,729 (12.9%) were life members. A total of 1,468 (5.1%) members paid dues at income levels above \$100,000 in 2011, up from 4.4% in 2010.

In 2011 the membership dues schedule was changed for the first time since 2002. In that year the Delegate Assembly added three new higher-income categories, but left unchanged the dues amounts for the preexisting categories. Prior to 2002, there had been no increase in dues for an existing membership category since 1993. In the new structure, the increases from category to category have been recalibrated, incorporating slightly larger increases as a member's salary increases. There is a \$10 increase between categories at the low end of the structure, progressing gradually to a \$25 increase between classes at the high end. The dues amount for the highest dues category is \$280. In the new dues structure, the New Regular Member category (class F)—originally intended as an intermediate rate for members transitioning from student to regular dues but which was more expensive than the lowest regular-member category—was removed from the regular dues structure but was maintained for use as a promotional category (for encouraging new memberships at the convention, for instance).

Movement of new regular members into regular dues categories showed a slight decrease in 2011: 33.6% of 2010 new regular members renewed in regular dues categories in 2011, whereas 39.9% of 2009 new regular members renewed in 2010. Student member renewals also showed a slight decrease—53.1% of 2010 student members paid student dues in 2011, whereas 56.9% of 2009 student members paid student dues in 2010. The movement of student members into regular dues categories remained stable in 2011—14% of 2010 student members renewed in dues categories other than student in 2011. In 2011, 2,459 (33.3%) 2010 student members did not renew their membership; in 2010, 2,118 (29.0%) did not renew. We will continue to focus attention on new and student members as we pursue our efforts both to retain members and attract new ones.

Contributions

The MLA has a number of restricted funds that support particular activities. Contributions to the various funds totaled \$96,685 in the 2011 membership year. This represents an increase of 4.4% over 2010 giving. The number of individuals making contributions declined by 7.1%. In 2010, 2,664 individuals contributed to the various funds; in 2011, this number dropped to 2,474.

The Endowment Fund saw an increase of 20.2% in contribution dollars. Contributions to the Endowment Fund in 2010 totaled \$28,471; in 2011, the total amount of contributions was \$34,228. The number of individuals contributing to the Endowment Fund increased by 2.9%, with 441 contributors in 2010 and 454 contributors in 2011.

Contributions to the Professional Education Assistance Fund for Graduate Students decreased by 12.7% in 2011. Contributions totaled \$31,875 in 2010 and \$27,839 in 2011. The Professional Education Assistance Fund for Non-Tenure-Track Faculty Members and Unemployed Members received \$14,857 in contributions in 2011, a decrease of 1.2%. The number of individuals contributing to this fund decreased by 10.5%.

The Fund for the Promotion of the Profession received \$6,319 in contributions in 2011, an increase of 14.4%. The number of contributors to this fund increased by 29.4%. In November 2010, e-mail messages soliciting contributions to this fund were sent to life members, past leading donors, and members in the five highest dues categories. In spring 2011, letters were mailed to the nonrespondents in the same group of members. The fund that supports the Phyllis Franklin Award for Public Advocacy of the Humanities received \$7,405 in contributions in 2011, an increase of 33.9%. The number of contributors to this fund increased by 7.4%. The increase can be attributed to solicitations following the presentation of the fourth Phyllis Franklin Award to Terry Gross in a ceremony held in October 2010. Contributions to the Good Neighbor Fund totaled \$6,037 in 2011, a decrease of 2.8%; the number of contributors to this fund decreased by 10.4%

Those individuals who generously donate \$200 or more to the various MLA funds are listed at the MLA Web site on the Leading Contributors page. Individuals who contribute \$500 or more are given special recognition on the Leading Contributors Web page. Contributions of over \$500 amounted to \$23,450 in 2011, a 37.1% increase over 2010. Contributions of \$200 to \$499 totaled \$18,670, a 9.7% decrease compared with 2010. Leading Contributor contributions totaled \$42,120 in 2011, an increase of 11.5% over 2010.

Information Technology Center

In anticipation of the high volume of traffic to the MLA Web site for the *JIL* search during its launch week, the IT staff added two additional servers to the Web server farm and to the load balancer, bringing the number of servers to five. Users reported no latency or performance issues with the site.

In renewing the MLA's disaster-recovery contract this year, the Finance Committee approved several changes that were recommended by IT: the number of critical servers was increased to meet our current needs, and it was determined that the MLA would not need a designated site with preconfigured workstations in the event of an emergency (the MLA network is accessible from any remote location.) The staff also implemented a disk/cloud-based backup and recovery system that is faster and more reliable than the hardware backup devices that had been in use. Encrypted backup data is now transmitted daily to a secured appliance that is hosted at the SunGard facility.

Since the *MLA International Bibliography* is no longer produced in print form, the IT staff has been working with the bibliography staff on a new citation database to enhance the major constituents of the classification. Instead of classifying citations into five volumes, indexers will use ten newly designed templates for classification. In addition to improved productivity and consistency in indexing, the new system will provide enhanced search capabilities for users.

In collaboration with the member and customer services staff, the IT staff modified several existing systems to support the MLA's book storage and distribution services. All book orders, as well as requests for desk copies, exam copies, and review copies, are now transmitted electronically to our distributor for shipment.

The IT staff collaborated on the Web-based system that will let department chairs enter and edit information about their convention interview locations and will allow MLA job center staff members to access and edit this information. A new Web-based Delegate Assembly proposal system will facilitate an informal exchange of information on motions or resolutions that members are preparing to submit.

Special Project in 2011: Language Consultancy

The Executive Council established a working group in 2010 to explore how the MLA could be of greater assistance to language departments that seek to implement recommendations of the 2007 report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Foreign Languages. The group, headed by Catherine Porter, has planned a workshop for the 2012 convention in Seattle. The applications yielded sixteen individual participants and eight teams of two from the same departments. Nelly Furman and I give support for the project. Workshop participants will have an opportunity to review best practices in curricular structure and revision and to acquire leadership skills for effecting change within departments. The Language Consultancy Working Group will also address issues related to national and international language policy, funding, and instruction. As a component of my 2011–12 fellowship from the American Council on Education, I will work with faculty members and administrators at the Five Colleges, Inc., to explore productive ways to maintain strong and innovative language learning opportunities to students at the postsecondary level. Nelly Furman and I will continue to give presentations at national conferences on this topic and to meet with faculty members and administrators from a wide variety of institutions as we gather information that will allow us to assess needs and construct MLA resources accordingly.

Implementation of Delegate Assembly Actions

Amendment to the Delegate Assembly Bylaws

The assembly amended the first rule in the Appendix to the bylaws. That rule now reads: "Individuals wishing to be recognized by the chair must go to a microphone on the floor of the auditorium and must state name and institution and, if they wish, constituency represented (e.g., Shakespeare division, Middle Atlantic region, creative writing special-interest delegate, ex officio delegate from the DAOC) before addressing the assembly." The amended text has been incorporated into the Delegate Assembly Bylaws at the MLA Web site.

Resolution

The assembly approved one resolution, a statement of support for undocumented students seeking paths to legal status by attending institutions of higher education. In February 2011, the Executive Council reviewed the resolution, as required by the MLA constitution (art.

7.B.3). The council determined that the resolution did not pose constitutional, legal, or fiduciary problems, so the council authorized nonsubstantive copyediting changes to the wording of the resolution and forwarded it to the membership for the required ratification vote. The membership ratified the resolution in a vote that was completed on 1 June 2011. There were 27,037 eligible voters. Of those, 3,282 (12.1%) cast ballots, 2,906 (10.7%) voted in favor of ratification, and 294 (1.1%) voted against ratification. (Note: A small number [82] of those who cast ballots did not vote on the resolution.) The resolution has been posted at the MLA Web site (see http://www.mla.org/governance/mla_resolutions).

Constitutional Amendment

The assembly approved an amendment to article 11.C.7 of the MLA constitution, the intent of which was to raise the threshold for membership ratification votes on resolutions. In February 2011, the Executive Council reviewed the amendment, as required by the MLA constitution (art. 13.D). The council determined that the resolution did not pose fiduciary problems, but it found a flaw in the wording of the amendment that caused a misinterpretation of the amendment's intent. Since the constitution permits the council to make nonsubstantive modifications to the wording of an amendment as part of its review, council members remedied the problem by revising the wording of the amendment to eliminate any misinterpretation of the amendment's intent. The council then forwarded the revised amendment to the membership for the required ratification vote. The membership ratified the amendment in a vote that was completed on 1 June 2011. There were 27,037 eligible voters. Of those, 3,282 (12.1%) cast ballots, 2,902 (10.7%) voted in favor of ratification, and 220 (0.8%) voted against ratification. (Note: A small number [160] of those who cast ballots did not vote on the amendment.) The amendment has been incorporated into the text of the constitution that appears at the MLA Web site.

Additional Item: Resolutions Process Enhancement

In 2009 and 2010, the DA and the DAOC discussed a possible enhancement to the resolution process: a space on the MLA Web site where members interested in proposing resolutions could post their proposed resolutions for feedback from fellow members in advance of the 1 October deadline. This space was created over the summer and was made available to members on 12 September 2011. It allows members to seek informal comments on motions, resolutions, and emergency resolutions. It is called the Delegate Assembly Proposal Page (www.mla.org/da_prop_main), and it will be available year-round. In the future, a companion page for the formal submission of Delegate Assembly proposals will be created, a page that will allow members to deposit their supporting signatures for resolutions online.