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**VIVETTE MILSON-WHYTE, RAYMOND A. OENBRING, AND BRIANNE JAQUETTE
TO RECEIVE THE MLA'S MINA P. SHAUGHNESSY PRIZE FOR CREOLE
COMPOSITION: ACADEMIC WRITING AND RHETORIC IN THE ANGLOPHONE
CARIBBEAN**

New York, NY – 14 December 2020 – The Modern Language Association of America today announced it is awarding its thirty-sixth Mina P. Shaughnessy Prize to Vivette Milson-Whyte, senior lecturer in language, linguistics, and philosophy at the University of the West Indies, Mona; Raymond A. Oenbring, assistant professor of English and linguistics at the University of the Bahamas; and Brianne Jaquette, associate professor in the Department of Language, Literature, Mathematics, and Interpreting at Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, for their book *Creole Composition: Academic Writing and Rhetoric in the Anglophone Caribbean*, published by Parlor Press. The prize is awarded for an outstanding work on language, culture, literature, or literacy with strong application to the teaching of English.

The prize is one of eighteen awards that will be presented on 9 January 2021, during the association's annual convention, to be held online. The members of this year's selection committee were Mary McAleer Balkun (Seton Hall Univ.), chair; Jean Ferguson Carr (Univ. of Pittsburgh); and Bruce Horner (Univ. of Louisville). The committee's citation for the winning book reads:

Creole Composition: Academic Writing and Rhetoric in the Anglophone Caribbean, edited by Vivette Milson-Whyte, Raymond Oenbring, and Brianne Jaquette, is politically attuned, well researched, and cohesive. It is both ambitious and focused, casting a wide net around the conditions for the teaching of composition, the technology and equipment needed, and the problem and value of resistance. While the focus is almost exclusively on specific issues faced by those living and working in the Caribbean, the analyses have clear implications for the teaching of composition more broadly. *Creole Composition* is also a model for local communities to reflect on and study themselves, their teaching practices, their students, and their institutions and to do so in close dialogue with theories of language, pedagogy, rhetoric and composition, and social context.

The Modern Language Association of America and its 24,000 members in 100 countries work to strengthen the study and teaching of languages and literature. Founded in 1883, the MLA provides opportunities for its members to share their scholarly findings and teaching experiences with colleagues and to discuss trends in the academy. The MLA sustains one of the finest publication programs in the humanities, producing a variety of publications for language and literature professionals and for the general public. The association publishes the *MLA International Bibliography*, the only comprehensive bibliography in language and literature,

available online. The MLA Annual Convention features meetings on a wide variety of subjects. More information on MLA programs is available at www.mla.org.

The Mina P. Shaughnessy Prize was established by the MLA Executive Council in 1979 as a memorial to one of the most widely respected scholars and teachers in the field of writing. First presented in 1980, it is awarded under the auspices of the MLA's Committee on Honors and Awards.

Other awards sponsored by the committee are the William Riley Parker Prize; the James Russell Lowell Prize; the MLA Prize for a First Book; the Howard R. Marraro Prize; the Kenneth W. Milken Prize; the MLA Prize for Independent Scholars; the Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize; the Morton N. Cohen Award; the MLA Prizes for a Scholarly Edition and for Collaborative, Bibliographical, or Archival Scholarship; the Lois Roth Award; the William Sanders Scarborough Prize; the Fenia and Yaakov Leviant Memorial Prize in Yiddish Studies; the MLA Prize in United States Latina and Latino and Chicana and Chicano Literary and Cultural Studies; the MLA Prize for Studies in Native American Literatures, Cultures, and Languages; the Matei Calinescu Prize; the MLA Prize for an Edited Collection; the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prizes for Comparative Literary Studies, for French and Francophone Studies, for Italian Studies, for Studies in Germanic Languages and Literatures, for Studies in Slavic Languages and Literatures, for a Translation of a Literary Work, and for a Translation of a Scholarly Study of Literature; and the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Publication Award for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Studies. A complete list of current and previous winners can be found on the [MLA website](#).

From 1975 until her death in 1978, Mina P. Shaughnessy served as a dean and director of the Instructional Resource Center of the City University of New York. In addition to her work in humanistic research and in the advancement of the teaching of writing, she directed the basic writing program at City College, taught English composition and literature at Hunter College and Hofstra University, and supervised the editorial training program at McGraw-Hill. Her book *Errors and Expectations: A Guide for the Teacher of Basic Writing*, published in 1977, was hailed as a major work in the field. In 1978 the National Council of Teachers of English presented her with the David H. Russell Award for her research.