



MLA ANNUAL CONVENTION • SEATTLE • 5-8 JANUARY 2012

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PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF DANIEL SCHWEN.

Seattle to Host the 127th Convention

In January 2012, for the first time, an MLA convention will be held in Seattle. The question on many members' minds is why we've waited so long. Apart from its beautiful situation (that's Mount Rainier in the picture above), the city is home to the University of Washington, including the Simpson Center for the Humanities, and to hundreds of MLA members.

Seattle is celebrated for its farm-to-table cuisine, its regional wines, and—of course—its coffee. The city's diverse museum offerings include the Frank Gehry-designed EMP Museum, dedicated to popular music; the Seattle Art Museum, which encompasses the Seattle Asian Art Museum and the Olympic Sculpture Park; the Frye Museum, specializing in nineteenth- and twentieth-century European painting; and the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture. When you register, be sure to check out the special excursions that will be going on during the convention, including sustainable-food events and architectural tours. Seattle can be navigated on foot but also has an excellent mass-transit system, and many of the city's cultural attractions and best restaurants are near the convention hotels.

So come and join friends and colleagues from 5 to 8 January 2012 for the MLA's first-ever convention in the Pacific Northwest.

2011 MLA Elections

The 2011 MLA elections for second vice president, Executive Council, Delegate Assembly, and division and discussion group executive committees will be conducted both online and on paper. All 2011 MLA members who have provided an e-mail address will be notified by e-mail when balloting becomes available at the Web site in mid October. All other 2011 members will receive a letter with instructions for obtaining a paper ballot.

Online ballots must be submitted before 12:00 midnight (EST) on 10 December; paper ballots must be received at the MLA office on or before 10 December to be counted. Members who vote online do not have to complete the ballot in one session but may exit the system and return as many times as necessary to finish voting.

Online voters have easy access to candidate information within the ballot system. Members who request a paper ballot will receive a printout of the candidate information along with the ballot.

Both ballots provide a means for members to suggest candidates for the 2012 division and discussion group executive committee elections.

If you are an eligible online voter and do not receive an e-mail notification by 21 October, please check your spam folder before contacting the coordinator of governance. Requests for paper ballots must reach the coordinator of governance (Carol Zuses, MLA, 26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10004-1789; telephone: 646 576-5103; fax: 646 576-5107; governance@mla.org) by 11 November.



In Defense of Learning: The Seattle Convention

This is a crucial time for us all, advocates of language and literature study, to stay strong and to reaffirm both our participation in the MLA and our commitment to the profession. For many years, we have been facing profound challenges, including a dismal job market and the ongoing casualization of the academic workforce, as more and more college teaching is assigned to instructors without prospects of tenure. In recent years, however, especially since the crisis of 2008, we have faced a rising chorus of strident attacks: mean-spirited public assaults on the humanities, painful reductions of second-language-learning opportunities and program closures, and across-the-board denigrations of teachers and teaching. We are confronting nothing less than a determined counterenlightenment intent on diminishing the cultivation of independent thought. The MLA

has been a leader in opposing this program of cultural repression—I draw your attention to our new statement on language learning (“Learning Another Language: Goals and Challenges”) and to the MLA recommendations for fair treatment of non-tenure-track faculty members, which were developed by the Committee on Contingent Labor in the Profession. These documents are important steps forward. Still, in the current atmosphere in which humanistic learning is under siege, we cannot let our determination flag. Let me therefore ask you to join your colleagues at the 2012 MLA convention, where we will proudly gather under the banner “Language, Literature, Learning.” These are our core values. Come to Seattle to defend them.

Our convention is a demonstration of resistance to the rollback of the humanities and a statement of support for literary culture. We stand for the importance of writing and for the urgency of international perspectives, and we have organized a program to show off both. At this, our first convention in Seattle, we will host public discussions with celebrated authors from the United States and Canada. These distinguished guests include Charles Johnson, author of *Middle Passage* (winner of the National Book Award in 1990); Ruth Ozeki, famous for *My Year of Meats*; David Shields, whose recent *Reality Hunger* was described by Chuck Klosterman as “the most intense, thought-accelerating book of the last ten years”; Richard Van Camp, whose children’s novel *The Lesser Blessed*, translated into German, won the *Jugendliteraturpreis* at the 2001 Frankfurt Book Fair; and the renowned Chinese poet Xi Chuan. I also hope you will attend some of the Creative Conversation sessions involving Harry Burton, Frank Corrado, Speight Jenkins, and others. This is rich literary fare in an exciting city. I hope you will join us there, but don’t forget why. Our opponents prefer parochial nationalism and diminished literacy. We have the better values. The convention is a chance to stand up for them.

Itself a kind of genre, the convention has been undergoing an important evolution. While most of the schedule belongs to specialized sessions with the familiar format, many sessions are now structured as roundtables that can generate lively discussion among panelists and with the audience. I urge you to avail yourself of these opportunities for active participation. The MLA is also expanding the opportunities for new media, and I expect there will be plenty of blogging and tweeting. As the modalities of scholarly communication change and develop, so will the forms of our professional structures, allowing for more and more diverse participation.

On the topic of participation, let me also remind you that a key governance body of the MLA, the Delegate Assembly, meets at the convention. While only elected representatives may vote in the Delegate Assembly meeting, any MLA member who is registered for the convention can attend as an observer and has the right to speak. I encourage you to check out the Delegate Assembly on Saturday afternoon (1:00 p.m., 6B, Washington State Convention Center)—if not for the whole session, then at least for part of the discussion. Watch your representatives at work. Speak your mind. We will be stronger as an association if more members understand and participate in our governance. (A highlight of the Delegate Assembly is the open discussion hour, dedicated to current issues facing the profession. You can propose discussion topics for the Delegate Assembly Organizing Committee by writing to Carol Zuses [czuses@mla.org] by 19 October.)

The presidential theme, “Language, Literature, Learning,” displays to the public and reaffirms to ourselves the rich nexus of intersecting goals that defines our scholarly world. Whether we specialize in English or another field, the study of language and of literary works of art is central to our scholarship. Literature has a special connection with language, and learning is inseparable from our professional lives—many convention sessions related to the presidential theme will explore the complex relations among these three terms. I was very gratified that members demonstrated their enthusiasm for the theme by submitting an exciting array of proposals. I especially hope to see you at the Presidential Forum on Friday morning (10:15 a.m., Metropolitan A, Sheraton), when we will address the topic by examining the triad—language, literature, learning—in the light of ongoing changes in identity, performance, and media. Three linked sessions (which will all take place in Metropolitan A, Sheraton) will each zero in on urgent questions of broad import: “What Makes Language Literary?” (6 Jan., 1:45 p.m.) will examine the claimed affinity between literature and language. “Language and Learning”

On the MLA Web Site

News from the MLA

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MLA Committee Meetings



(7 Jan., 10:15 a.m.) brings together controversies in current educational policy (e.g., No Child Left Behind and the Race to the Top) with debates about second language acquisition. “Democracy, Language, and Literature” (7 Jan., 1:45 p.m.) will look at literary culture and protest movements in contemporary China, Cuba, Egypt, and Iran and test the frequently made assertion that the humanities provide a special path to democratic citizenship.

That is, admittedly, an ambitious topical stretch, and I have not even tried to summarize the range of related sessions. Yet there’s method to this madness. With the theme “Language, Literature, Learning” we assert our mission as teachers and scholars to cultivate language abilities—nurturing our students to be good readers and writers and conveying to them an appreciation of the intelligence inherent in literature—and to assert to the public that the learning we impart in the classroom can contribute to a lifetime of thoughtfulness for our former students, whatever their career paths. Education turns the tongue-tied

student in the first-year language classroom into the informed citizen in the voting booth. To our obscurantist opponents who would dismantle the humanities and who demonize teachers, we reply, Our students deserve more learning, more literacy, and more enlightenment.

If we are not for ourselves, who will be? It’s up to us to make the case for the indispensability of language and literature study. That’s the Seattle agenda. See you there.

Russell A. Berman

Works Cited

Committee on Contingent Labor in the Profession. “Professional Employment Practices for Non-Tenure-Track Faculty Members: Recommendations and Evaluative Questions.” *Modern Language Association*. MLA, June 2011. Web. 5 Aug. 2011.
“Learning Another Language: Goals and Challenges.” *Modern Language Association*. MLA, 24 May 2011. Web. 5 Aug. 2011.

Comment on this column at www.mla.org/fromthepres.

Editor’s Column



Feeling at Home at a Big Convention

Although some people think that any large professional conference invariably means anonymity, high costs, and an overwhelming choice of activities, it doesn’t have to be this way. In fact, the large conference might just be your best bet for a satisfying professional experience that opens new doors while also making you feel comfortably at home.

Let’s think a moment about the many advantages of the big conference. The negotiating ability of a large association such as the MLA yields comparatively low hotel and registration rates in venues likely to be attractive to attendees and those who accompany them. Big conferences often feature speakers you won’t find at smaller meetings. You also have the chance to go beyond

your academic specialization and engage in discussions far afield of your primary interests, which most attendees cite as a major draw. And then there are books, books, and more books (and the editors you want to meet) at a big conference such as the MLA Annual Convention.

So how do you make it comfortable? Many attendees begin well before January. They read the convention program and get in touch with people by e-mail. A popular route these days is to use the hashtag #MLA12 on *Twitter* to start conversations on particular sessions, suggest meet-ups, and share information. Graduate students have an additional home at the MLA convention: the graduate student lounge, where snacks often mysteriously appear along with visitors from the MLA Executive Council and staff.

The convention in Seattle will provide more social opportunities than ever before, thanks to some wonderful cultural excursions (including tours of the EMP Museum and the Seattle Central Library, a hands-on cooking class featuring sustainable seafood, and a wine and oyster tasting reception) and Creative Conversation sessions with Charles Johnson, Xi Chuan, Richard Van Camp, and others. We’ve also scheduled the Presidential Address to start earlier on Friday evening, and we’ve placed the MLA Awards Ceremony in its own time slot on Saturday evening.

Moreover, the convention need not end once you’ve left Seattle. Our interactive program allows attendees to post comments and links to slides, papers, and other session

materials so that you can keep the discussion going after you’ve returned home.

Some scholarly associations make a substantial profit from their annual meetings. The MLA is not one of them. Since I’ve been executive director, we’ve hovered around the break-even point. Our goal is to provide a convention of outstanding quality while keeping costs as low as possible and giving special consideration for graduate students and under- or unemployed members. I hope you will come to Seattle this January and make the largest conference in the humanities your own.

Rosemary G. Feal

Comment on this column at www.mla.org/fromtheeditor.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF TIM THOMPSON.

About the Job Information Center

All candidates, departmental representatives, and interviewers who wish to use the facilities of the MLA Job Information Center must be registered for the convention. The center will be located in the Conference Center of the Washington State Convention Center. Job candidates will be able to locate their interviews at the center; there will be no telephone service for interview locations.

1. New Sign-In Procedures for Departments. Departmental administrators or representatives who plan to hold job interviews during the convention, whether in their hotel suites or in the interview area of the Job Information Center, can sign in online before and during the convention so that candidates with whom they have set up interviews will be able to locate them. Interviewers no longer have to come to the center in person unless they are interviewing there. Starting in early November, departments will be able to log in with a department ID and two-letter *JIL* submission password at www.mla.org/jil_dept to provide interview location information.

Interviewers who do not submit their information online must come to the Job Information Center to provide their interview locations. The sign-in desk will be open on 5 January from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., on 6 January from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., on 7 January from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and on 8 January from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

2. Counseling Service. The Job Information Center Counseling Service affords job seekers the opportunity to discuss individual employment problems with experienced departmental administrators. Counselors will be on hand to speak with interested candidates during selected hours from 10:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. on 6 and 7 January. Appointments can be arranged through the staff member on duty in the interview area. Each counselee should bring a cover letter and vita.

3. Interview Area. Tables in the interview area, which will be open from 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m. on 5 January, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on 6 January, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on 7 January, and from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on 8 January, will be assigned to departmental representatives on a first-come, first-served basis. Staff members will be on duty in the area to assist interviewers and candidates.

4. Vacancy Notices. A list of openings received too late to be included in the December *Job Information List* will be posted on bulletin boards in the center. Departmental representatives should submit detailed descriptions of any last-minute vacancies to an MLA staff member in the center.

5. Message Center. Open from 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m. on 5 January, from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on 6 January, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on 7 January, and from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on 8 January.

Sessions 2, 3, 4, 5, 93, 127, 159, 160, 209, 392, 419, 435, 460, and 496 should interest job seekers and administrators alike.

Registration Information

You can register and make travel arrangements for the 2012 convention in Seattle through the MLA's Web site (www.mla.org). Chairs whose departments were members of ADE or ADFL by 30 June 2011 received priority notification allowing access to convention registration in mid August. Please note that suites are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. The 2012 convention program will be accessible to both members and nonmembers through the MLA Web site (www.mla.org/convention) beginning in October.

MLA Exhibit Booth Activities

All convention registrants are encouraged to visit the MLA booth (located in the 300 aisle) in the exhibit hall of the Washington State Convention Center. The association will offer a 25% discount on all MLA titles during the convention and free shipping to domestic addresses. Orders must be placed at the exhibit booth to be eligible for the discount and free shipping. Please check the *Convention Daily* and the MLA Annual Convention *Twitter* feed for up-to-date information on exhibit booth activities.

Session Time Limits

Session presiders should remind participants that a session lasts for one hour and fifteen minutes and that at least fifteen minutes at the end of each session should be left for discussion.

When a session runs long, meeting facility staff members cannot prepare the room for the next session, and the speakers and attendees waiting to enter the room block hallways and doorways. Time-limit reminders will be on the head tables in all meeting rooms, and an aide will ask the presider to conclude if the session has gone substantially beyond the allotted time. If you are a speaker, please respect the time limits. If you are a presider, please allow at least fifteen minutes for discussion.

The *MLA Newsletter* (ISSN 0160-5720) is published four times a year (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter) by the Modern Language Association of America, 26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10004-1789. The *MLA Newsletter* is edited by the executive director of the association, Rosemary G. Feal. The managing editor is Judy Goulding. The cost of an annual subscription is \$8. The subscription price is included in the dues of all members of the association. Periodicals postage paid at Jefferson City, MO, and at additional mailing offices. All news items and letters should be sent to the *MLA Newsletter* at the above address. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *MLA Newsletter*, 26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10004-1789. MLA and the MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION are trademarks owned by the Modern Language Association of America.

New Formats for Convention Information

Information on sessions, facilities, exhibits, and other resources will be available to members and attendees in several new formats for the 2012 convention.

Online Program. The new online Program will be live on the MLA Web site in October. Users will be able to search and browse the Program by day, by participant, by subject, and by meeting time and to find sessions by keyword. Session details will include additional links to related information and to organizers' Web sites, and members can save sessions to their personalized convention schedules. The full Program will also be available as a downloadable PDF and in a streamlined form for mobile devices.

Convention Guide and Convention Daily. The *Convention Guide* provides essential information on convention services and facilities, a map of the convention area, and floor plans for the Sheraton Seattle, the Washington State Convention Center, and the exhibit hall. It will be distributed through the MLA Web site and on-site as a printed brochure. The *Convention Daily*, which will also be posted online, lists updates to sessions, special events in the exhibit hall, election results, and the winners of MLA prizes.

Services for Persons with Disabilities

The MLA is committed to making arrangements that allow all members of the association to participate in the convention. Karin Bagnall in the MLA convention office handles arrangements for persons with disabilities (kbagnall@mla.org). Meeting rooms at the convention are accessible by elevator, and the doors are wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs. There will be desks in the convention registration and information area at the Washington State Convention Center (South Lobby, level 4), staffed by personnel who can provide assistance to convention attendees with disabilities. There will also be a satellite desk in the lobby of the Sheraton Seattle. To reserve hotel rooms that are specifically equipped for persons with permanent or temporary disabilities, write Karin Bagnall by 11 November 2011. The convention housing form also includes a space for attendees to request particular equipment or accommodations.

Program. Members with visual impairments who would like to receive a copy of the November 2011 (Program) issue of *PMLA* in a usable format should write or call June Hicks in the executive director's office (646 576-5102; jhicks@mla.org).

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

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

Child Care Arrangements

Convention participants who would like to have child care during the convention should preregister for a possible on-site child care service through KiddieCorp. If a sufficient number of children are registered for child care by 31 October, a daytime child care center will operate in the Sheraton Seattle. If a sufficient number of children are not registered for the service by that date, the service will not be offered. To preregister, visit www.mla.org/childcare.

Preregistration requires a nonrefundable deposit of \$100 or \$75, depending on the type of service parents anticipate using. Registration for each child costs \$100 per day and \$75 per half day. Meals can be brought by parents or can be arranged with KiddieCorp for an additional cost. Deposits will be applied toward the total cost.

If offered, service hours will be

Friday, 6 January, and Saturday, 7 January

8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, 8 January

8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

In early November the MLA will inform families that have preregistered whether the service will be offered. The deposit will be refunded only if the service is not offered.

should prepare some copies in a large-print format (14- to 16-point). Speakers should indicate whether they want their papers and handouts returned. Sign language interpreters are available on request. The deadline to arrange for an interpreter is 11 November, though the convention office will make every effort to accommodate late requests. Members who require interpreters should write to Karin Bagnall as soon as possible.

Please report any problems on-site to the MLA staff members in the headquarters offices at the Sheraton Seattle (Fremont, 3rd floor) or the Washington State Convention Center (601, level 6), and they will do their best to assist you. Hotel staff members may not be able to respond.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF TIM THOMPSON.

Presidential Address and MLA Awards Ceremony

As part of an ongoing effort to provide more time in the evenings for informal gatherings and social events, the 2012 Presidential Address and the MLA Awards Ceremony will be held separately and will begin at 6:45 p.m. on consecutive evenings. The Presidential Address (380)—which includes the report of the executive director, Rosemary G. Feal; the announcement of the MLA Award for Lifetime Scholarly Achievement; a statement of appreciation to Patricia Yaeger, the outgoing editor of *PMLA*; and an address by Russell A. Berman, president of the MLA—will take place on Friday, 6 January. On Saturday, 7 January, Berman will preside over the MLA Awards Ceremony (611), which will feature the presentation of MLA prizes and remarks by the 2011 recipient of the MLA Award for Lifetime Scholarly Achievement, Fredric Jameson. Both sessions will be held in the Sheraton Seattle (Metropolitan A) and will be followed by receptions.

Sessions on Academic Employment

ADE and ADFL will sponsor several sessions to help job candidates and interviewers with interview protocols and job search procedures. ADE and ADFL also provide individual job counseling in the interview area of the Job Information Center. Department chairs will offer their experience and expertise in 25-minute one-on-one counseling sessions on 6 and 7 January. Job candidates who take advantage of the counseling service should bring a copy of an application letter and vita.

ADE-sponsored convention sessions for job candidates. “Preconvention Workshop for Job Seekers in English” (5) will provide job candidates an opportunity to hear experienced representatives from different types of institutions describe work and career paths in their institutions and aspects of the job search. “Career Opportunities in Two-Year Colleges” (496) will provide information about the needs of and job opportunities at two-year colleges. In “The Job I Got” (127), recently hired graduates will discuss their approaches to finding employment in English departments.

ADFL-sponsored convention sessions for job candidates. Led by experienced department chairs who serve on the ADFL Executive Committee, “Preconvention Workshop for Job Seekers in Foreign Languages” (4) will describe work and career paths in BA-, MA-, and PhD-granting programs. In a second session, “Demonstration Interviews for Job Seekers in Foreign Languages” (160), 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.

ADFL also sponsors “Strategies for Search Committees in Foreign Languages” (3), which will give members of departmental search committees an opportunity to discuss the hiring process, including writing advertisements, reading vitae and dossiers, interviewing at the MLA convention and on campus, and negotiating job offers.

The preconvention workshops will be held in the Washington State Convention Center on 5 January.

Audio- and Videotaping Guidelines

The MLA Executive Council has approved guidelines for audio- and videotaping at the MLA Annual Convention. Audio- or videotaping of sessions is not permitted at the MLA convention without permission of all those present at a session. Only background taping is allowed, not taping of an entire session. The session organizer must have the consent of all the speakers at a session and must request permission to tape through the headquarters office before the session begins (Fremont, 3rd floor, Sheraton; 601, level 6, Washington State Convention Center). The session organizer will then announce to the audience that audiotaping or videotaping will take place during the session. The deadline for submitting requests to film the convention as part of a creative or documentary project is 17 October.

Travel Assistance

The Executive Council has voted to allot funds to provide convention travel grants to advanced graduate students, unemployed and non-tenure-track faculty members, and members residing outside the United States and Canada. To learn more about these awards and application requirements, including the required statements, visit the MLA Web site (www.mla.org/grants).

Members may apply for assistance at the Web site or by mail. Applications must reach the MLA by 1 November 2011 and should be addressed to Travel Assistance Program, MLA, 26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10004-1789 (fax: 646 835-4067). Fax transmissions may be used to meet the deadline, but they must be followed by signed applications. Applications by e-mail will not be accepted. For additional information or details on how to apply, please contact Annie Reiser (646 576-5141; areiser@mla.org).

Deadlines for the 2012 Convention

- 3 Oct. Early registration deadline for Jan. 2012 convention
- 7 Dec. Registration deadline for Jan. 2012 convention
- 17 Dec. Hotel reservation deadline for Jan. 2012 convention
- 5–8 Jan. 2012 MLA convention held in Seattle
- 6 Jan. Postmark deadline for registration refund requests for Jan. 2012 convention

2013 Convention

The 2013 MLA Annual Convention will be held in Boston from 3 to 6 January.

Calls for Papers

Calls for papers for the 2013 convention may be posted online until 21 February 2012 at www.mla.org/cfp_main. A call for papers is *not* a session proposal but a way to solicit paper submissions for creating a session proposal. Organizers are responsible for responding to all inquiries.

Calls for papers may be viewed online at www.mla.org/conv_papers through March 2012. Members should familiarize themselves with the guidelines for the MLA convention, which appear on the MLA Web site (www.mla.org/conv_procedures), before writing to the organizers listed in the calls for papers. All participants in convention sessions must be MLA members by 7 April 2012. A member may participate (e.g., by organizing and chairing a meeting, reading a paper, or serving as a speaker, presider, or respondent) only twice at a convention.

Forum Proposals

Convention forums are large public meetings on topics of broad interest; they may be organized by individual members, divisions, discussion groups, MLA committees, allied organizations, or the American Literature Section. For information on organizing forums, visit www.mla.org/conv_procedures. The deadline for online submissions is 1 April 2012. The executive director welcomes inquiries (execdirector@mla.org).



GREATER BOSTON CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

Deadlines for 2013 Convention Sessions

Except where otherwise indicated, the deadline is the close of business on the date listed. For specific information, consult the MLA Web site (www.mla.org/conv_procedures). Please address all correspondence concerning division and discussion group sessions to Karin Bagnall (kbagnall@mla.org), special sessions to Stacey Courtney (scourtney@mla.org), committee sessions to Maribeth Kraus (mkraus@mla.org), and allied sessions to Lorenz Tomassi (ltomassi@mla.org).

21 Feb.	Final submission date for receipt of Jan. 2013 convention calls for papers. Announcement of calls for papers is only available online. <i>Divisions must submit at least one call for papers per convention.</i>
1 Apr.	Deadline for receipt of forum proposals for Jan. 2013 convention
1 Apr.	Deadline for receipt of requests for waiver of membership requirements for participants in Jan. 2013 convention
1 Apr.	Deadline for Web submission of program copy from divisions, discussion groups, MLA committees, and allied organizations for Jan. 2013 convention
1 Apr.	Deadline for Web submission of proposals for special sessions for Jan. 2013 convention
1 Apr.	Deadline for Web submission of requests for audiovisual equipment for Jan. 2013 convention
7 Apr.	Deadline by which participants at Jan. 2013 convention must be listed on the MLA membership rolls
15 Apr.	Deadline for receipt of requests for funds for eligible speakers at Jan. 2013 convention
early June	Notification of Program Committee's decisions mailed to members who submitted proposals for special sessions and competitive sessions for Jan. 2013 convention
mid June	Notification of decisions on funding requests mailed to organizers who applied for funds for speakers
early to mid July	Proofs of program copy and information on date, time, and place of Jan. 2013 convention sessions sent to organizers
late July	Deadline for receipt of corrections to proofs of program copy for the Nov. 2012 (Program) issue of <i>PMLA</i> for Jan. 2013 convention
early Aug.	Session organizers may post calls for papers for 2014 convention. <i>Divisions must submit at least one call for papers per convention.</i>
late Aug.	Information on date, time, and place of the Jan. 2013 convention sessions to be sent by organizers to panelists
late Sept.	Fall 2012 <i>MLA Newsletter</i> (Convention Issue) mailed to members and posted online
early Oct.	Early registration deadline for Jan. 2013 convention
early Dec.	Registration deadline for Jan. 2013 convention
early Dec.	Hotel reservation deadline for Jan. 2013 convention
3–6 Jan. 2013	2013 MLA convention held in Boston
3 Jan. 2013	Postmark deadline for registration refund request for Jan. 2013

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Dated Material
Please deliver by 8 October

Membership Ratification Vote

In January 2011 the Delegate Assembly approved a constitutional amendment and a resolution that were submitted to the membership for ratification this past spring. All 2011 members as of 15 April were eligible to vote. Of the 27,037 eligible voters, 3,282 (12.1%) returned ballots. Voting results are presented below.

Members ratified the constitutional amendment that the assembly approved. The amendment, to article 11.C.7, changes the threshold for membership ratification votes on resolutions. To be ratified, resolutions must now be approved by ten percent of the MLA membership. The vote on the amendment was 2,902 yes and 220 no. The amendment has been incorporated into the text of the constitution at the Web site (www.mla.org/mla_constitution). The membership also ratified the resolution approved by the 2011 Delegate Assembly. The resolution is a statement of support for undocumented students who are seeking paths to legal status by attending institutions of higher education. The vote was 2,906 yes and 294 no. The preamble and text of the resolution can be found at the MLA Web site (www.mla.org/2011_resolutions).

In both instances, the number of members voting for approval was equal to 10.7% of the MLA membership.

Four New MLA Titles Released

- *Approaches to Teaching Faulkner's As I Lay Dying*
- *Approaches to Teaching the Poetry of John Gower*
- *Contemporary Galician Cultural Studies: Between the Local and the Global*
- *Teaching Law and Literature*

For complete information on these and other new titles, and to place orders, please visit www.mla.org/newtitles.

