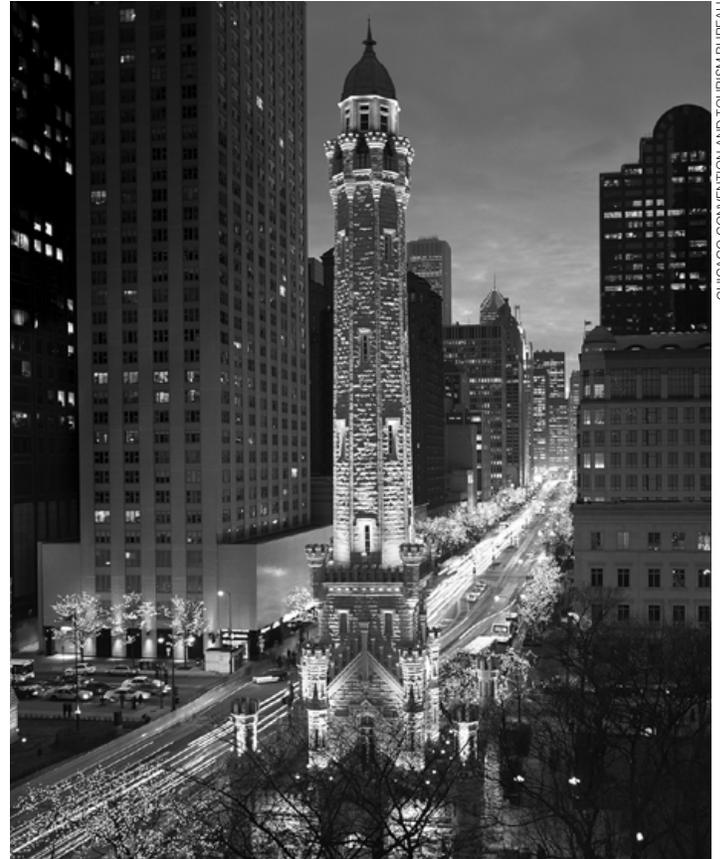


### MLA Releases Fall 2006 Language Enrollment Survey Results

The MLA has completed its analysis of the 2006 survey of enrollments in languages other than English, funded by the United States Department of Education. Overall enrollments in languages other than English expanded by 12.9% since 2002, when the last MLA survey was conducted. The data show an upward trend in the study of languages: more languages are being taught, and more students are enrolled in language classes. While the study of the most popular languages—Spanish, French, and German—continues to grow and represents more than 70% of language enrollments other than English, their dominance is slowly decreasing in the face of growing interest in other languages, particularly non-European languages such as Arabic (up 126.5%), Chinese (up 51.0%), and Korean (up 37.1%). Enrollments in American Sign Language increased by nearly 30% compared with 2002, making it the fourth most studied language on college campuses, ahead of Italian. The full report is available on the MLA Web site ([www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org)). □

Members are invited to comment on changes to the convention proposed by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Structure of the Annual Convention; see page 2.



CHICAGO CONVENTION AND TOURISM BUREAU

You can still register for this year's convention in Chicago. Visit the MLA Web site ([www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org)) for details, and see pages 6–9 for more information on the convention.

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CONVENTION

## Members Invited to Comment on Proposed Changes to the Convention Structure

The Executive Council charged the Ad Hoc Committee on the Structure of the Annual Convention with reconsidering the status, structure, and function of the MLA convention and with making recommendations for changes. Following a year of study that included soliciting feedback from the membership by means of surveys, meetings, and e-mail communications, the committee has identified several ways in which the current convention program structure inadequately addresses the fundamental goals of the association to foster, facilitate, and sustain intellectual community.

The committee has met four times and has presented two written interim reports to the Executive Council and one to the Delegate Assembly. With the council's approval, the committee presented two recommendations to the Delegate Assembly on 29 December 2006 and requested that the assembly endorse the recommendations. The first recommendation was to start the convention each year on the first Thursday following 2 January; the second was to eliminate paper reading at evening sessions (8:45–10:00 p.m. on the first day and 9:00–10:15 p.m. on the third day of the convention). The assembly's vote on both recommendations was overwhelmingly positive, and the Executive Council is taking the necessary steps to implement them for the 2010–11 academic year (there would be no December 2010 convention; the convention would be held 6–9 January 2011).

The committee has also developed two new proposals for improving the convention, and the Executive Council has endorsed the proposals, which will be presented to the Delegate Assembly for discussion at the assembly's December 2007 meeting. The first improvement concerns reallocating guaranteed convention sessions in response to the structural gridlock that has taken hold of the convention program. The second concerns introducing two new kinds of formats for convention sessions. Both proposals aim to better match the structure of the MLA convention with the interests of the diverse membership by whom and for whom the convention was created.

To prepare for the discussion during the Delegate Assembly meeting, the ad hoc committee seeks comments from the membership on its two new proposals. Members may view the full text of the proposals and enter comments between mid-November and early December at the MLA Web site ([www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org)). □

## New Benefit for MLA Members: Direct Access to the Job Information List

Starting this year, if your department is a member of the Association of Departments of English (ADE) or the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages (ADFL), you will be able to search the *Job Information List (JIL)* directly from the MLA Web site once you have logged in with your MLA membership user name and password. You can access this new feature in just a few steps:

1. Log in at <http://www.mla.org>.
2. Follow the link to the *Job Information List* under the "Quick Links" section of the home page.
3. Select the edition of the *JIL* (English or foreign language) that you'd like to search.

Free access to search the online MLA *Job Information List* continues to be a benefit of departmental membership in the ADE and ADFL. If the department information in your MLA member record is incomplete or incorrect, you'll be given the opportunity to update your profile and check on your department's membership status. You can also access the *JIL* by becoming an ADE or ADFL affiliate member for \$40. Visit [http://www.mla.org/jil\\_subscribe](http://www.mla.org/jil_subscribe) for details. □

WEB SITE NEWS

## List of Chicago Convention Sessions Available Online

Beginning in November, a searchable list of convention sessions will be available online for MLA members at the Web site ([www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org)). This list will contain all the sessions in the November (Program) issue of *PMLA* and will be searchable in many ways, including by location, subject heading, and participant name.

The *MLA Convention News and Program Update* will be available online as a PDF in mid-December. □

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *MLA Newsletter*, 26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10004-1789.

GOVERNANCE

## Elections Committee Seeks Candidates

At the end of 2008, the seats of twenty special-interest and thirty-five regional Delegate Assembly representatives will fall vacant. The MLA Elections Committee will meet in January 2008 to begin the process of identifying candidates for these open special-interest and regional seats. Those elected in 2008 will serve in the assembly from 2009 through 2011 and must attend the meetings of the assembly in 2009, 2010, and 2011.

The Elections Committee is charged not only with nominating candidates and overseeing the elections but also with ensuring that the various groups within the MLA find representation in the Delegate Assembly. Committee members are therefore interested in hearing from all MLA members who are willing to be candidates in next year's Delegate Assembly elections. Members whose names are already on file at the MLA office need take no additional action at this time. Others who would like to be considered should write to the Elections Committee, c/o Carol Zuses, at the MLA office ([czuses@mla.org](mailto:czuses@mla.org)). □

## The Humanities at Work in the World

The Presidential Forum sessions at this year's convention in Chicago are devoted to the theme "The Humanities at Work in the World." The project is to consider—and display—reasons why the work of humanists is subtly yet powerfully necessary in the great world outside the academy. I would like to take this opportunity to talk about some of the issues involved. I should make clear at the outset that colleagues participating in these sessions represent a wide spectrum of opinion (on everything) and were invited to speak at the forum for just that reason. My remarks below should not, then, be taken as necessarily representing their views.

The presidential sessions in Chicago will be a modest attempt to show in specific ways how the often-misunderstood study of language and literature transforms such abstractions as "the meaning of life" into living reality in the world outside the classroom and lecture hall. We are focusing on the extra-academic impact of humanist scholars to show that their work actually changes the landscape below our ivory towers. We will hear from scholars who have created links between their work and the world of film and opera (Wendy Steiner); who have helped create changes in the perception of psychoanalysis and the law (Peter Brooks); and who have illuminated the complexities of sexuality, Shakespeare, and relations between humans, their pets, and their houses (Marjorie Garber). In addition, there will be a report from a leader in the world of finance who has metamorphosed his personal delight in the arts into a festival celebrating literature and other arts for the whole city of Chicago, a celebration of ideas that has become a defining feature of that city (Richard Franke). Another speaker will describe how his wrestling with abstruse Russian thinkers resulted in different ways to conceive national histories, ideas that have affected how education ministries produce textbooks in Eastern Europe (James Wertsch).

For those attending this year's convention, there will be an opportunity to meet with these speakers in a conversation format the morning after the Presidential Forum. Another conversation later in the morning will add new voices to the dialogue. A distinguished public intellectual from Mexico (Carlos Monsivais), a leading journalist and author (Alex Beam), an innovative academic administrator (David Marshall), and two eloquent scholar activists (Bruce Robbins and Robert Barsky) will exchange ideas about the complex utility of the humanities with one another and the audience.

The background for these talks is a nexus of three topics: humanities, work, and world. Oceans of ink have been spilled debating the meaning of each of these concepts, but for the purposes of our meeting in Chicago certain preliminary definitions are more pertinent than others. Whatever else they may be, the humanities are not the social, exact, or biological sciences. They are unique not only because they put human beings at the center of their concern. Sociology, medicine, and other disciplines outside the humanities also devote themselves to human beings. Those disciplines do so, however, by conceiving human beings as types or groups. By contrast, the humanities comprise inquiries that conceive as their subject human beings who are persons, individuals. They are concerned with making sense out of lives that are theirs alone, as Anthony Kronman, the former dean of the Yale Law School, has argued in his eloquent new book, *Education's End: Why Our Colleges and Universi-*

*ties Have Given Up on the Meaning of Life* (New Haven: Yale UP, 2007). Of course, none of us continually meditates the meaning of our lives, which is why "the meaning of life" seems so funny when posed by Woody Allen or Monty Python. As Kronman points out, it's the very profundity of the question that gives the edge to humor about it. All of us at some point in the midst of quotidian hurly-burly—at the the kind of moment we call a crisis—seek answers deeper than everyday existence or mere instrumental knowledge can provide. It is the kind of moment Bob Dylan—moved by Dostoevsky and by Milton's "Massacre in Piedmont"—experienced in a Greenwich Village library in 1961, as he chose to abandon what he calls his culture's "passion for dumbness" (Wittman and Wright).

Dylan, of course, is an autodidact and original. The question for us is how university courses can provide aid in such Pauline moments as the one he experienced in Ray Gooch's Greenwich Village home library. How can any collectivity, much less a discipline, meaningfully engage unique persons? How can an institution enter into dialogue with subjects defined precisely by their individual differences? No social construct can do so directly, of course, but indirectly the various disciplines that compose the humanities exist to provide techniques and examples that over the millennia have proved to be of service in answering the question of my life's meaning when—inevitably—it has arisen.

The question of my life's meaning requires that it bridge the enormous gap between my unrepeatable place in existence and all the details of chance, time, and place—the world, in a word—through which I have passed in forging that particularity. The work of the humanities is, then, a complex act of remembering and witnessing to provide materials that are useful in creating links between my "here-ness" and the world's "there-ness."

Members of the MLA understandably are drawn to those aspects of remembering and witnessing that derive from the study of language and literature. It is helpful in our studies to remember that we differ not only from the social and exact sciences but also from other disciplines usually brought together under the general heading of the humanities, such as philosophy, history, or study of the fine arts. What sets us apart is our devotion to language, the complex system of signs and meanings that secretly legislates the study of languages and their embodiment in texts.

Language is not only the MLA's middle name. It is the iron necessity to bind sound and meaning that motivates the triune nature of the sign as it brings the two together in any performed utterance. While this formulation may strike some members as hopelessly abstract, my purpose for adducing the central role of language in all that we do in both English and foreign language departments is to particularize the category that unites us as a profession by setting us apart as a discipline. Another way to specify this thirdness at the heart of language is to think of it—as most do in everyday life—as "meaning." The close reading of grammar, syntax, and extrasentential forms in language textbooks or difficult poems and novels is always an exercise in the pursuit of meaning. Insofar as that is true, we are constantly swept up in the widening gyre of the hermeneutic circle, a figure that always turns out to be more

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closely approximated by the lemniscate (or, as they say in Texas, “lazy eight”) figure for infinity in mathematics.

Across the millennia such work was at the heart of the university. But it will come as news to no one in the MLA that the role of the textual humanities in the United States has changed over the course of the last 150 years. The change resulted from a different idea of what scholarship should be, an idea that first emerged after the Civil War and has gathered increasing authority ever since. It emphasized research above all other values. The rise of professional societies (such as the MLA in 1883), the increasing emphasis on disciplinary certification (the PhD becomes the norm), the fragmentation into ever more specialized departments, the growth of graduate schools and research, and the production of new knowledge became the template for all work in the American academy. The specialization that has defined academic life since the research model of scholarship became dominant in American universities clouds understanding

of what textual humanists do. One of the most troubling effects of specialization has been to cast the educational ideal of addressing the meaning of life in a negative, nonprofessional light. We hope our sessions in Chicago will complicate this view.

The MLA convention is, of course, different things to the many different constituencies attending. It is the sometimes intimidating setting in which graduate students search for jobs, the showcase for those who are presenting their latest research, and a wonderful occasion to meet old friends and make new friends. But for all these constituencies, the convention is also a chance to meditate on some of the larger issues that often are forgotten in our daily campus round of classes and meetings. For all these reasons, I hope to see you in Chicago.

Michael Holquist

#### WORK CITED

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## E D I T O R ' S C O L U M N

### Three, Two, One, Launch: The New Convention Approaches

It's hard to believe that this year's Chicago convention is the third-to-last convention that will take place from 27 to 30 December. Assuming that the change in convention dates proposed by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Structure of the Annual Convention and endorsed by the Delegate Assembly and the Executive Council is approved by the membership, the change will be implemented in 2010. This means that there will be no 2010 convention in December, and the first rescheduled convention will be held 6–9 January 2011. I might also call it a “new convention,” because we are planning to change many aspects of the meeting, not just the dates. As you will note in reading this *Newsletter*, innovations are already being introduced into the convention structure, and more will make their appearance between now and the 2011 launch (see article on p. 2). I want to preview some of those innovations and to signal what is potentially the most radical change of all: a plan to reallocate the guaranteed convention sessions to which a number of entities—MLA divisions, discussion groups, and committees as well as allied and affiliate organizations—are now entitled.

What will the new convention in 2011 look like? The goal of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Structure of the Annual Convention is to make our annual meeting an occasion for greater professional and personal interchange and a venue for more diverse kinds of sessions and events aimed at a broader cross section of the membership. One of the most notable convention innovations has already been developed: a themed Presidential Forum, now in its second year. The idea started with Marjorie Perloff, who led a highly successful forum initiative in 2006 in Philadelphia called “The Sound of Poetry, the Poetry of Sound.” By threading many sessions around the theme with the collaboration of divisions, allied and affiliate organizations, and discussion groups, Perloff created a noticeable buzz at the convention and inspired many people to participate who do not regularly attend. Michael Holquist has developed a new theme this year, “The Humanities at Work in the World” (his column on p. 3 discusses the Presidential Forum and related sessions), a fascinating perspective on the value of our work for those out-

side the ivory tower. A brochure listing all the interrelated sessions may be viewed on the MLA Web site ([www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org)) and will be available at the convention in Chicago. The Presidential Forum theme is, in my view, an enticing aspect of the convention that encourages members (and reporters) to follow a thread throughout the four-day meeting.

The ad hoc committee is bringing two proposals to the Delegate Assembly this year. Many members told the committee that they would welcome more activities like workshops at the annual convention—especially ones that focus on the job search, tenure and promotion, classroom strategies, and professional issues such as journal editing, working in new media, grant writing, and interacting with state and federal legislative processes. The ad hoc committee responded this year with a proposal that makes the case for adding two new session types—workshops and poster sessions—to the traditional two, paper-reading sessions and roundtable discussions. To try out the idea, several workshops will be offered this year in addition to the long-standing pre-convention workshops on the job search (see articles on pp. 8–9 for details). Past MLA president Sander Gilman and Marina Gilman will give a 135-minute workshop, “Successful Lecturing with a Healthy Voice.” This will be a practical and entertaining way for members to learn how to put together an engaging presentation or lecture and how to deliver it with proper vocal technique. For more information, see “Chicago Convention to Feature a Workshop on Effective Lecturing” in the Fall 2007 *MLA Newsletter* (13). Job seekers in particular should take advantage of this no-cost workshop to begin preparing for what may very well make you or break you during the job search: the on-campus talk. Members of the Council of Editors of Learned Journals have organized a workshop for new journal editors (see article on p. 7). Anyone who aspires to take on professional work of this nature—and those who have experience they are willing to share—should find this workshop valuable. Two grant-funding workshops will also be held, one run by a staff member from the National Endowment for the

Humanities and the other by a staff member from the Social Science Research Council.

The MLA Committee on Information Technology (CIT) is collaborating with the ad hoc committee to bring two electronic poster sessions to this year's convention. Members of the CIT were the first to offer electronic poster sessions at the convention several years ago, and they report that attendees find the format stimulating—and different, in a welcome way. In the social and natural sciences, poster sessions are a regular feature of meetings, and the humanities are catching on to the possibilities this format can offer (one-to-one conversations with researchers, for example). The first poster session (317 in the Program) focuses on electronic literature and includes presentations on E-poetry in fractal space, on the development of critical tools for electronic literature, and on specific electronic literary and multimedia projects such as “RolandHT” and “Esc for Escape.” In the second poster session, “Textual Visualization” (361), the presenters will provide information and insight on a wide range of tools for visualization offered by online scholarly resources such as TAPoR (Text Analysis Portal for Research) and Zotero. The panelists have already started an interesting blog related to this poster session, [textualvisualization.blogspot.com](http://textualvisualization.blogspot.com), where attendees can learn about the issues before attending the session at the convention. We are grateful to all those who have helped the ad hoc committee stage workshops and poster sessions in 2007, and we are eager to receive feedback from attendees.

The ad hoc committee's second proposal, to reapportion guaranteed sessions, is described in detail on the MLA Web site; I cannot do justice to all the arguments for this change in this short column. Let me simply say two things, which I hope will encourage members to read the entire document online. First, although the number of guaranteed sessions for some entities would decrease by one, the number of additional claims on the program that each entity could make would increase by at least two. And some of those additional sessions can be tailored to a special block of time in the evenings for social and

networking events that would be listed in the Program. Second, the proposed restructuring fosters collaborations among divisions, discussion groups, allied and affiliate organizations, and MLA committees. If enacted, these changes have the potential to make the convention more responsive both to shifts in the disciplines and to the needs of members.

The ad hoc committee believes that the proposed January dates for the convention will bring us one step closer to a more humane annual meeting, one in which social interaction increases. The committee also believes that the convention must have more year-round dimensions for members (currently the calls for papers are the primary activity that connects us after December). To that end, we will be posting some materials on the MLA Web site in the next several weeks so that attendees can get a better sense of what they will experience at the annual meeting. Starting in early 2008, we plan to launch online forums for divisions and discussion groups, which we hope will foster exchanges of all kinds. Eventually, the committee would like to see the Web site become a virtual convention, allowing for explorations of work past and for previews of events to come.

Even though 2011 seems far off, I can already see the new convention taking form. You can continue to help in the process of refining the changes the ad hoc committee has proposed by adding your comments to the Web site and by attending meetings at the convention. The ad hoc committee will hold an open hearing again this year, on 29 December at 10:15 a.m. (session 447 in the Program). The committee's interim report will be presented at the Delegate Assembly meeting on 29 December, and any MLA member can attend (there is a section for observers) and speak. You can also communicate your thoughts directly to your divisional, regional, and special-interest delegates (please see the September [Directory] issue of *PMLA* for a complete listing of delegates). It will be an even more exciting time to be an MLA member three years from now, thanks to the willingness of all of us to rethink and revise the structure of our annual meeting.

Rosemary G. Feal



The Committee on Disability Issues in the Profession met 27–28 September 2007. Standing (left to right): Eden Koren Osucha, Sally J. Chivers, Kristen C. Harmon, and Marian E. Lupo. Seated (left to right): Kevin Finn, Carol Poore, and Encarnación Juárez-Almendros (chair). Susan Schweik is not pictured.

## Proposals for the 2007 Delegate Assembly Meeting Agenda

The following proposals were received at the MLA office by the 1 October deadline for consideration during this year's Delegate Assembly meeting in Chicago.

Whereas the 2007 AAUP "Freedom in the Classroom" report identifies dire challenges to academic freedom, and

Whereas contingent faculty are most vulnerable to non-reappointment from exercising their academic freedom, and

Whereas reliance on contingent faculty has grown significantly in the last decade, such that up to 78% of faculty in state college systems are part-time,

Be it resolved that the MLA support the Faculty and College Excellence campaign, a legislative initiative concerned with securing pro rata pay / benefits / job security for PT faculty, a higher proportion of FT faculty, and / or other pay equity / academic excellence reforms.

*submitted by Margaret Hanzimanolis on behalf of the Radical Caucus in English and Modern Languages*

Whereas some Zionist organizations and individuals have urged that faculty, writers and speakers who criticize Zionism and Israeli policies be denied tenure, disinvented to speak, speak only when "balanced" by a pro-Zionist speaker, or be fraudulently called "anti-Semitic"; and

Whereas this constitutes a serious danger to academic study and discussion in the USA today,

Resolved that the MLA reassert and defend the Academic Freedom and the Freedom of Speech of faculty and invited speakers to criticize Zionism and Israel.

*submitted by Grover Furr on behalf of the Radical Caucus in English and Modern Languages*

Whereas, upon criticism of Professor Ward Churchill for his remarks concerning the 9/11 attacks, the University of Colorado initiated proceedings against him, and investigations of his scholarly work, and removed him from his directorship of the Ethnic Studies Dept. and subsequently from his tenured teaching position, and

Whereas such acts of retribution threaten free expression in the university setting, particularly against those in historically marginalized disciplines,

Be it resolved that the Modern Language Association condemns this action of the President and Regents of the University of Colorado.

*submitted by Kamala Platt on behalf of the Radical Caucus in English and Modern Languages*

Whereas the MLA ad hoc Committee on Diversity and Tolerance delivered its final report in September 2004; and

Whereas "the [executive] council thanked the members of the committee for their report and congratulated them on the seriousness and thoroughness of their report and recommendations"; and

Whereas when the report was published in *Profession 2005*, the recommendations section was not included; and

Whereas the four members of the former ad hoc Committee on Diversity and Tolerance sent a letter protesting the exclusion of the

recommendations section on the grounds that the Committee was charged with making recommendations and that they should be seen by the membership of the MLA; and

Whereas the Committee was informed that this letter, which contained the Committee's recommendations, would not be published; and

Whereas the refusal to publish a letter signed by all the members of the Committee constitutes an impediment to the free exchange of ideas to which the MLA is committed in principle; and

Whereas MLA members have a right to read a letter addressed to them by the members of a committee, and the committee members have a right to communicate with MLA members through the *MLA Newsletter*;

Whereas the final report, including its appendices, contains ideas that the Committee thinks would be valuable for MLA members to have and that permission to publish the results of San Francisco State's "Task Force on Inter-group Relations" was obtained in order to make some excellent ideas available to MLA members;

Therefore, be it moved that future committee reports should not be edited (except for minor matters of style) without consultation with the members of the committee; and

Be it further moved that the letter dated March 8, 2006 sent by the members of the Committee on Diversity and Tolerance be published as soon as possible in the *MLA Newsletter*; and

Be it further moved that the report of the ad hoc Committee on Diversity and Tolerance, in its entirety, along with its appendices, be posted to the MLA website and that final reports of MLA committees generally be posted to the MLA website in order to make the work and conclusions of committees accessible to MLA members, such reports being edited or abridged if necessary in consultation with committee members.

*submitted by Laraine Fergenson, Barbara Foley, Keith Gilyard, Paul Lauter, and Susan O'Malley*

In addition to these new proposals from the membership, the 2007 Delegate Assembly will consider reports from the Delegate Assembly Organizing Committee, the Committee on Amendments to the Constitution, and the Ad Hoc Committee on the Structure of the Annual Convention and regular staff and committee reports on association activities.

MLA members are invited to attend the meeting of the 2007 Delegate Assembly during the convention in Chicago. Members may address the assembly on any of the issues on the assembly's agenda. The assembly meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, 29 December, in Grand Ballroom E and F of the Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel. Because the assembly meeting is open-ended—recent meetings have lasted four hours or more—even latecomers will have a chance to join in important discussions of association policies.

So that association members may engage fully with the issues to be discussed at the Delegate Assembly meeting, the necessary documents will be made available at the beginning of the meeting. □

CONVENTION**Annual Meeting in Chicago**

There is still time to preregister for the 2007 MLA convention in Chicago at reduced rates: Regular MLA members save \$25 and nonmembers save \$20 when they register by 1 December. The Program issue of *PMLA* (mailed to members in late October and available in a searchable format on the MLA Web site) gives an idea of the wide range of subjects that will be discussed in more than 775 sessions.

When you are not attending sessions, visiting the exhibit hall, or meeting with colleagues, you can take advantage of the museums, theaters, restaurants, and shopping that Chicago offers. Visit the MLA Web site ([www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org)) to register, to make your hotel and travel arrangements at discounted rates, and to read up-to-date information about the convention.

Most English sessions and the exhibits are in the Hyatt Regency. Most foreign language sessions are in the Sheraton Chicago. The Job Information Center and the child care center are in the Fairmont Chicago. Registration and information areas will open at 12:00 noon on 27 December. Members can obtain copies of the *MLA Convention News and Program Update*, which announces program changes, new exhibits, and MLA election results. (The first issue of the *Convention News* will appear on the MLA Web site around 20 December.) You can also purchase copies of the *Job Information List*, consult the "Who's Where" list for names and local addresses of colleagues, pick up brochures on local restaurants and tourist attractions, and make complimentary restaurant reservations.

The exhibit hall, in the Hyatt Regency, will open at 9:00 a.m. on 28 December. A complimentary shuttle-bus service will operate throughout convention meeting hours between the Hyatt Regency and the Fairmont Chicago location and the Sheraton Chicago. A complimentary transportation service for persons with disabilities will operate throughout the convention. □

CONVENTION**Workshop for New and Aspiring Journal Editors**

Authors submitting work to humanities journals tend to imagine the editors of those journals as gray-haired guardians in the publishing marketplace, but in fact many journal editors are young(ish) and fresh to their roles. New editors have much to learn about the multilayered work that goes into producing a journal—most of it typically acquired through experience on the job and through interaction with other editors. The Council of Editors of Learned Journals (CELJ), an allied organization of the MLA and the major professional forum for humanities journal editors, will offer a workshop at the convention for new and aspiring journal editors. The session, "Inside the Editorial Office: A Workshop for New Journal Editors" (615), will take place in the Hyatt Regency, Horner, on Saturday, 29 December, 7:15–8:30 p.m. Michael Cornett (*Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies*, Duke Univ.) will preside, and speakers include Nicholas Birns (*Antipodes*, New School Univ.); William Craig Howes (*Biography*, Univ. of Hawai'i, Mānoa); Zoran Kuzmanovich (*Nabokov Studies*, Davidson Coll.); William B. Thesing (*James Dickey Newsletter*, Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia); and Batya Weinbaum (*Femspec*, Cleveland Heights, OH). The following topics will be covered: developing a journal identity and mission statement, distributing labor in the editorial office, keeping records, vetting submissions, navigating issues common to acceptance and rejection decisions, establishing good relations with publishers and sponsoring organizations, and managing finances.

We invite new or aspiring editors to join our conversation and bring your burning questions; seasoned editors are invited to contribute to the pool of knowledge and experience. □

CONVENTION**Convention to Focus on the Humanities at Work in the World**

The Humanities at Work in the World is the theme for this year's Presidential Forum at the MLA Annual Convention. The theme will serve as the topic for the forum and two conversations growing directly out of it and as the subject of several other meetings. Two dozen or so related programs, sponsored by a broad spectrum of divisions, discussion groups, and allied and affiliated organizations, will participate. Each of these sessions will explore the ineluctability of techniques and approaches derived from the humanities as they inspire and enable work across a vast horizon of unexpected disciplines. Some of the most creative minds in our field—and in other professions as well—will reveal often unperceived connections between the work of the world and the work of the humanities. I think it will be an exciting as well as useful program and hope you will be able to join the dialogue in Chicago.

Michael Holquist

CONVENTION**Audio- and Videotaping Guidelines for Sessions**

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 the 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 (Wrigley, Bronze level, West Tower, Hyatt Regency; Parlor A, Lobby level, Sheraton Chicago). 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 was 15 October. □

CONVENTION

## Preconvention Workshops and Mock Job Interviews

The ADE and ADFL will sponsor several sessions at the MLA convention to help job candidates and interviewers prepare for the job search, including

- A Preconvention Workshop for Members of Search Committees (1)
- A Preconvention Workshop for Job Seekers: The Job Search in English (2)
- A Preconvention Workshop for Job Seekers: The Job Search in Foreign Languages (3)

These three preconvention workshops will be held in the Fairmont from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on 27 December and have been extended to two hours to allow more time for open discussion from the floor.

Other ADE- and ADFL-sponsored sessions for job seekers include

- Mock Interviews for Job Seekers in Foreign Languages (146)
- Career Opportunities in Two-Year Colleges (186)
- The Job I Got: The Job Search and the Pathway from Graduate Student to Adjunct and Tenure-Track Faculty Appointment (378)

For descriptions of these sessions, see the Fall 2007 *MLA Newsletter* and the convention program.

In addition, the ADE and ADFL will staff the Job Counseling Service located in the Job Information Center. Department chairs will offer their experience and expertise to job candidates (who should each bring a cover letter and a vita) in one-to-one counseling sessions. □

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CONVENTION

## Accommodations and Services for Persons with Disabilities

The MLA is committed to making arrangements that allow all members of the association to participate in the convention. Karin Bagnall in the MLA convention office handles arrangements for persons with disabilities ([kbagnall@mla.org](mailto:kbagnall@mla.org)). Meeting rooms in the headquarters hotels are accessible by elevator, and the doors are wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs. There will be desks in the convention registration and information areas at the Hyatt Regency (Gold level, East Tower), the Sheraton Chicago (Lobby level), and the Fairmont (International Ballroom Lobby, level 2), staffed by personnel who can provide assistance to convention attendees with disabilities. To reserve hotel rooms that are specifically equipped for persons with permanent or temporary disabilities, write or call Karin Bagnall by 15 November 2007. The convention housing form also includes a space for attendees to request particular equipment or accommodations.

**Shuttle Bus.** A complimentary transportation service for persons with disabilities will be available throughout convention meeting hours to transport attendees with disabilities. Arrangements should be made at the desk for persons with disabilities in the Hyatt Regency (Gold level, East Tower), the Sheraton Chicago (Lobby level), and the Fairmont (International Ballroom Lobby, level 2) as well as at the satellite desks located in the lobbies of the Hyatt Regency and the Fairmont. Further details and phone numbers will be posted in the headquarters hotel lobbies.

**Sessions.** Speakers are asked to bring five copies of their papers, even draft copies, for the use of members who wish to follow the written text. Speakers who use handouts should prepare some copies in a large-print format (fourteen- to sixteen-point). Speakers should indicate whether they want their papers and handouts returned. Sign language interpreters are available on request. To arrange for an interpreter, write or call Karin Bagnall by 15 November.

Please report any problems on-site to the MLA staff members in the headquarters offices at the Hyatt Regency (Wrigley, Bronze level, West Tower) or the Sheraton Chicago (Parlor A, Lobby level), and they will do their best to assist you. Hotel staff members may not be able to respond. □

CONVENTION

## Recommendations for Session Presiders

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 must be left for discussion. Therefore, presiders should tell presenters how much time they have to speak.

When a session runs long, the hotel staff cannot enter the room to prepare it for the next session, and the speakers and attendees waiting to enter the room block hallways and doorways, causing an unpleasant and potentially dangerous situation.

Copies of a brief statement signed by Rosemary G. Feal will be on the head tables in all meeting rooms to remind MLA members of the need to conclude their presentations on time. There is also a second statement that an aide will present to a presider when a session has gone substantially beyond the allotted time. This statement informs the presider that the time limit has expired and asks that the presider conclude the session as quickly as possible.

If you are a speaker, please respect the time limits. If you are a presider, please allow at least fifteen minutes for discussion. □

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CONVENTION

## Program Issue for Members with Visual Impairments

Members with visual impairments who would like to receive a copy of the November 2007 (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](mailto:jhicks@mla.org)). □

## CONVENTION

## Important Information about the Job Information Center

Once again the MLA will operate a Job Information Center at the annual convention.

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

There will be a combined center for English and foreign languages. The center, designed to assist both job candidates and interviewers, will be located in the Fairmont Chicago Hotel (International Ballroom, level 2). Job candidates will be able to locate their interviews at the center; there will be no telephone service for interview locations.

**1. Sign-In Desk 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, should sign in (indicating name, institution, hotel, and room number) at the Job Information Center so that candidates with whom they have set up interviews will be able to locate them. Although an interviewer's name may appear in "Who's Where," for security reasons hotel switchboards will not give out guests' room numbers—and are in any case extremely busy. A brief stop at the sign-in desk by a thoughtful interviewer can save much confusion and worry for candidates.

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

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

**3. Interview Area.** For the convenience of departmental representatives and candidates, there will be a combined interview

area for both English and foreign languages within the Job Information Center. Those administrators who wish to use the interview area should schedule interviews either by writing or telephoning candidates before the convention or by leaving messages at the message center; administrators should be aware that communication during the convention can be difficult. Tables in the interview area, which will be open from 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m. on 27 December, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on 28 December, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on 29 December, and from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on 30 December, 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, who will see that they are posted. Such notices may also appear in the February *Job Information List*, so that candidates who do not attend the convention may have an opportunity to apply.

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

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

Meetings 1, 2, 3, 146, 186, 378, 439, and 708 address the job situation; they should interest job seekers and administrators alike. □



CONVENTION

## 2008 Calendar of Dates and Deadlines for Special Sessions

Address all correspondence concerning special sessions to Stacey Courtney (MLA Convention Office, 26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10004-1789; [scourtney@mla.org](mailto:scourtney@mla.org)), who will direct it to the appropriate person or to the Program Committee. Except where otherwise indicated, the deadline is the close of business on the date listed. For more-specific information, please consult the guidelines published in the September 2007 *PMLA* (pp. 930–35).

- 4 JAN. Deadline for receipt of notices for the Spring 2008 *MLA Newsletter* announcing intent to propose a special session for the 2008 convention and inviting prospective panelists to convey their interest (submit announcements only if you wish to solicit speakers)
- 8 FEB. Spring 2008 *MLA Newsletter* mailed to members and available online
- 1 APR. Deadline for receipt of requests for audiovisual equipment for the 2008 convention
- 1 APR. Deadline for receipt of requests for waiver of membership requirements for panelists (foreign scholars and persons outside the disciplines of languages and literatures) in special sessions proposed for the 2008 convention
- 1 APR. To ensure that formal proposals for special sessions for the 2008 convention arrive at the MLA office in sufficient time for processing and submission to the Program Committee, they must be postmarked no later than 1 April or submitted at the Web site by 1 April; hand-delivered proposals must be received at the MLA office by the close of business on 1 April.
- 7 APR. Deadline by which organizers and panelists in special sessions proposed for the 2008 convention must be listed on the MLA membership rolls
- 15 APR. Deadline for receipt of requests for funds for speakers (if appropriate) in special sessions proposed for the 2008 convention
- LATE MAY Notification of the Program Committee's decisions mailed to members who submitted proposals for special sessions for the 2008 convention
- MID JUNE Notification of decisions on funding requests mailed to organizers who applied for funds for speakers
- EARLY- MID JULY Program copy proofs and information on date, time, and place of 2008 special sessions sent by the convention office to organizers
- LATE JULY Deadline for receipt of corrections for special session program copy proofs for the November 2008 (Program) issue of *PMLA*
- 25 JULY Deadline for receipt of notices for the Fall 2008 *MLA Newsletter* announcing intent to propose a special session for the 2009 convention and inviting prospective panelists to convey their interest (submit announcements only if you wish to solicit speakers)
- LATE AUG. Information on date, time, and place of 2008 special sessions to be sent by organizers to panelists
- 15 SEPT. Deadline for receipt of notices for the Winter 2008 *MLA Newsletter* announcing intent to propose a special session for the 2009 convention and inviting prospective panelists to convey their interest (submit announcements only if you wish to solicit speakers)
- LATE SEPT. Fall 2008 *MLA Newsletter* mailed to members
- LATE NOV. Winter 2008 *MLA Newsletter* mailed to members
- 27–30 DEC. 2008 MLA convention held in San Francisco

CONVENTION

## Submit Calls for Papers Online

Calls for papers for the MLA Annual Convention may now be submitted electronically through the MLA Web site under the Convention heading ([http://www.mla.org/submit\\_calls](http://www.mla.org/submit_calls)). Submissions must be received in the convention office by 4 January 2008 and be no more than thirty-five words in length, including the session title, a brief description, submission requirements (papers, abstracts, word or page limits), and a submission deadline (most are listed as early to mid March). Your name and contact information are not included in the word limit. □

CONVENTION

## Forum Proposals Welcome

Proposals of forums for the 2008 convention are welcome. 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, see the Sept. 2007 *PMLA*, pp. 934–35.) Those interested in proposing forums are encouraged to attend the open hearing of the Program Committee at the convention (Sunday, 30 Dec., 10:15–11:30 a.m., Columbian, Bronze level, West Tower, Hyatt Regency). The deadline for submission of proposals is 15 March 2008. The executive director welcomes inquiries ([execdirector@mla.org](mailto:execdirector@mla.org)). □

CONVENTION

## Calls for Papers for 2008 Convention in San Francisco

The 2008 convention will be held in San Francisco. Members should familiarize themselves with the guidelines for the MLA convention, which appear on the MLA Web site ([www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org)) and in the September 2007 *PMLA* (pp. 930–35), before writing to the organizers listed below. If not provided, organizers' addresses are available on the MLA Web site to MLA members and listed in the September 2007 *PMLA*. All participants in convention sessions must be MLA members by 7 April 2008. Organizers are responsible for responding to all inquiries. A member may participate as speaker or respondent only twice (e.g., by organizing and chairing a meeting, reading a paper, or serving as a speaker, panelist, or respondent in one or two sessions) at a single convention.

Calls for papers are limited to thirty-five words, including the session title but not the name or address of the organizer.

### Divisions

#### *Interdisciplinary Approaches*

##### CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

**Children's Literature and War.** Representations of war in children's literature from any period. Possible texts include fiction, nonfiction, poetry, film, and picture books. 350–500-word abstracts by 1 Mar.; Karin Westman ([westmank@ksu.edu](mailto:westmank@ksu.edu)).

**Princess Culture Industry.** Princesses are enormously popular in contemporary children's culture. Why? Papers might address literary sources, popular culture, marketing, changes to princess definitions, politics and ramifications of princess mania, etc. 250-word abstracts by 15 Mar.; Jane Cummins ([jcummins@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:jcummins@mail.sdsu.edu)) and Catherine Tosenberger ([ctosen@ufl.edu](mailto:ctosen@ufl.edu)).

**Return to Prince Edward Island: *Anne of Green Gables* at 100.** The past place, present importance, and possible future status of Montgomery's classic. 1–2-page abstracts or 8-page papers by 1 Mar.; Michelle Ann Abate ([mabate@hollins.edu](mailto:mabate@hollins.edu)).

### MLA Committees

##### COMMITTEE ON THE LITERATURES OF PEOPLE OF COLOR IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

**"New" Subjects of Race.** What effects have contemporary migrations to or in North America had on current analyses when new racial subjects have claimed existing catego-

ries? 350-word abstracts and vitae by 1 Mar.; Chandan Reddy ([ccreddy@u.washington.edu](mailto:ccreddy@u.washington.edu)).

### Special Sessions

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

**The Audiobook.** Papers addressing any aspect of audio recordings of literature: close listening, sound technologies, voice actors, etc. Abstracts by 1 Mar.; Matthew C. Rubery ([rubery@post.harvard.edu](mailto:rubery@post.harvard.edu)).

**Encounters between Science and the Avant-Garde (1900–30).** Investigations of the intersection of avant-garde literature/art and sciences such as biology, evolution theory, and medicine. Half-page abstracts to both addresses by 15 Mar.; Christine Kanz ([christinekanz1@mac.com](mailto:christinekanz1@mac.com)) and Arndt Niebisch ([arndt\\_niebisch@hotmail.com](mailto:arndt_niebisch@hotmail.com)).

**Fatherhood and the Comedia.** Seeking papers that focus on fathers, fatherhood, paternity, and/or masculinity in the theater of the Spanish Golden Age. 250-word abstracts by 10 Mar.; Michael W. Joy ([mjoy@nmu.edu](mailto:mjoy@nmu.edu)).

**Indigenous Languages as Modern Languages.** Papers that address the state of indigenous language research, pedagogy, resources, and influence in the academy and beyond. 250-word abstracts by 15 Mar.; Kelly Shannon McDonough ([mcdo0030@umn.edu](mailto:mcdo0030@umn.edu)).

**Reproduction Technologies and Contemporary Culture.** Intersections between contemporary culture (e.g., texts by Mulisch or Houellebecq or films such as *Matrix* or *ExistenZ*), and current reproduction technologies. 1-page abstracts by 1 Mar.; Christine Kanz ([christinekanz1@mac.com](mailto:christinekanz1@mac.com)).

**Subversive Francophone Narrators.** Reading contemporary Francophone novels is often hindered by the narrator. This session explores works whose subversive enunciation moves the focus away from the story and toward storytelling. Proposals by 1 Mar.; Benoît Trudel ([btrudel@uwo.ca](mailto:btrudel@uwo.ca)).

**Teaching Graphic Novels/Memoirs in Literature Classes.** Papers may discuss pedagogy, methodology, course plan, use of technology, genre, and students' responses. 1-page abstracts and 2-page vitae by 1 Mar.; Lan Dong ([baerchendong@yahoo.com](mailto:baerchendong@yahoo.com)).

### Allied and Affiliate Organizations

##### AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR ITALIAN STUDIES

**Intermedia Encounters: Beyond the Logic of Adaptation.** Papers that push boundaries of adaptation criticism, especially the way contemporary intermedia encounters contribute to the emergence of a new sense of time and

### Deadline for Audiovisual Requests

All requests for audiovisual equipment must be made by the chair of the session by **1 April**. Requests must be received by mail or by fax by 5:00 p.m. on this date. Because the need for audiovisual equipment is a major factor in the scheduling of meetings (and because the movement of equipment is both costly and hazardous), the deadline is firm. Participants should indicate their audiovisual needs when they respond to a call for papers and should check with the chair of the session or with the MLA convention office to be sure that the necessary equipment has been ordered by 1 April.

space. Proposals by 1 Mar.; Eugenio Bolongaro ([eugenio.bolongaro@mcgill.ca](mailto:eugenio.bolongaro@mcgill.ca)).

**Rethinking Multiculturalism in 20th- and 21st-Century Italian Literature, Philosophy and Film.** Travel writing, works focusing on migration (to, from, and within Italy) and colonial and postcolonial encounters. Proposals by 1 Mar.; Dana Renga ([Renga.1@osu.edu](mailto:Renga.1@osu.edu)).

##### AMERICAN NAME SOCIETY

**Two Open Sessions.** Fields may include literature, literary theory, philosophy, linguistics, geography, sociology, history. Panels may be organized on single authors or subjects. 150-word abstracts by 7 Mar.; Kemp Williams ([kempw@us.ibm.com](mailto:kempw@us.ibm.com)).

##### CHILDREN'S LITERATURE ASSOCIATION

**Children's Literature and the Legal System.** Intersection of children's books or media and legal systems: authors' portrayals of law; legal cases involving children's books; children's works intended to influence legal systems. 500-word abstracts by 15 Mar.; Ramona Caponegro ([caponegro@English.ufl.edu](mailto:caponegro@English.ufl.edu)).

**Representations of Disability.** Critical and theoretical approaches that examine disability as it is represented in children's and young-adult literature. 1–2-page abstracts by 1 Mar.; Keith Dorwick ([kdorwick@yahoo.com](mailto:kdorwick@yahoo.com)) and Jennifer Miskec ([jennifer.miskec@cnu.edu](mailto:jennifer.miskec@cnu.edu)).

##### LANGSTON HUGHES SOCIETY

**Langston Hughes, American Intellectuals, and the Loss of Civil Liberties in the McCarthy Era.** Connecting Hughes's writing with that of other intellectuals who fell into the 1950s McCarthy dragnet. 1-page abstracts and biographies by 7 Mar.; Dellita Martin-Ogunsola ([dellita@uab.edu](mailto:dellita@uab.edu)).

##### MARLOWE SOCIETY OF AMERICA

**Two Sessions.** Papers on any aspect of Marlowe studies or of other Renaissance dramatists (excluding Shakespeare) of the 1580s and 1590s. Detailed abstracts or  
(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

15-min. papers by 1 Mar.; Roslyn Knutson (rlkknutson@ualr.edu).

**MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE  
DRAMA SOCIETY**

**Performance and Medieval Colonialisms.** 1-page abstracts by 15 Mar.; Carolyn Coulson-Grigsby (coulsongrigsby@centenarycollege.edu).

**Renaissance Medievalisms in Performance.** Renaissance performance often constructed or reimagined the Middle Ages. Where can we find evidence of such medievalism in play texts or other aspects of the theatrical enterprise? 1-page abstracts by 15 Mar.; Carolyn Coulson-Grigsby (coulsongrigsby@centenarycollege.edu).

**EZRA POUND SOCIETY**

**Pound and the Chicago Renaissance.**

500–1,000-word abstracts by 7 Mar.; Burton Hatlen (Hatlen@maine.edu).

**Pound and the Modernist as Decadent.** 500–

1,000-word abstracts by 7 Mar.; Burton Hatlen (Hatlen@maine.edu). □

MEETINGS

## 2008 ADFL Summer Seminars

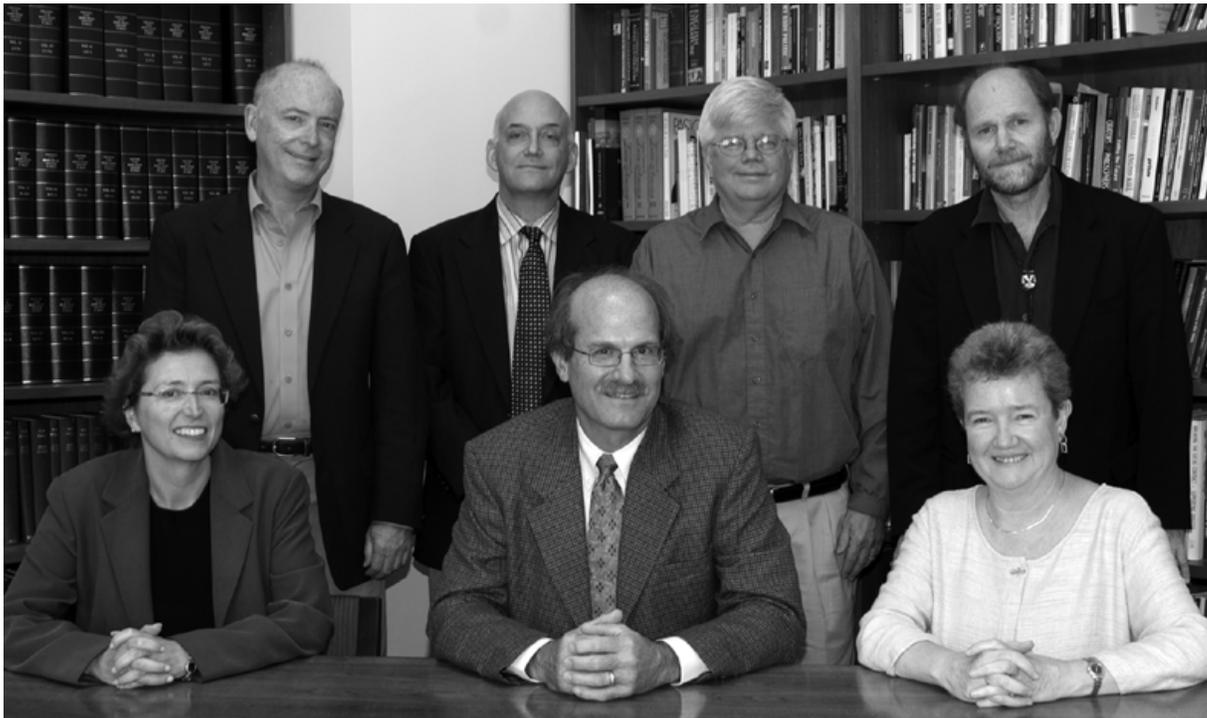
The ADFL Summer Seminars offer department chairs and program heads three days of intense professional exchange about life and work in departments of foreign languages. Plenary sessions and workshops address issues dealing with national trends and the nuts and bolts of departmental governance. Seminars also feature preseminar workshops for chairs newly appointed or just completing the first year of their appointment. Seminar West will be held 5–8 June at Stanford University, hosted by Elizabeth Bernhardt and the Stanford University Language Center. Seminar East will be held 22–25 June in Charlottesville, Virginia, hosted by Randolph Pope and the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Virginia. Speakers and topics will be announced in the *ADFL Bulletin*; at the ADFL Web site ([www.adfl.org](http://www.adfl.org)); and in a brochure detailing housing, meals, and excursions that will be mailed to ADFL members in early spring. For further information, please write or call Nelly Furman, Director, ADFL, or David Goldberg, Associate Director, at the MLA office (646 576-5132; [adfl@mla.org](mailto:adfl@mla.org)), or consult the ADFL Web site. □

BOOK NEWS

## Call for Contributions to Approaches Series

For the series *Approaches to Teaching World Literature*, the Publications Committee has approved development of two new titles, *Approaches to Teaching Austen's Mansfield Park*, edited by Marcia McClintock Folsom and John Wiltshire, and *Approaches to Teaching the Works of Henry Adams*, edited by John C. Orr and William Merrill Decker.

If you wish to contribute to either of these volumes, please visit [www.mla.org/approaches](http://www.mla.org/approaches) and follow the link to the relevant title. □



ROGER CARR / DAN ROOT

*The Committee on Scholarly Editions met 21 September 2007. Standing (left to right): Bruce R. Smith, Matthew Bailey, John Bryant, and John D. Niles. Seated (left to right): Jennifer Crewe, Donald R. Dickson, and Martha Nell Smith (cochair). Nicholas Halmi (cochair) is not pictured.*

## Profession 2008 Call for Papers

*Profession* is a journal of opinion about and for the modern language profession. With advice from the members of the *Profession* Advisory Committee, the editor selects articles covering a range of topics of professional concern, trying to give a voice to MLA members working in diverse subject areas and situations.

For *Profession 2008*, the members of the committee seek previously unpublished essays, of 1,800 to 5,000 words, on current intellectual, curricular, and professional trends and issues that are of importance to the field. The committee is interested in articles and case studies that probe and expand on the issues presented in the three committee reports published in *Profession 2007*: the report of the MLA Task Force on Evaluating Scholarship for Tenure and Promotion; the report of the MLA Ad Hoc Committee on Foreign Languages, which calls for changing how foreign language programs are structured; and "Affirmative Activism," the report of the ADE Ad Hoc Committee on the Status of African American Faculty Members in English. (The first two reports are also available at the MLA Web site, and the third can be found at the ADE Web site.) Suggestions for special topics and sections are also welcome.

Though *Profession* is a journal of opinion, authors should express their views in a scholarly mode—using analysis, documentation, and persuasion—to ensure that readers will be able to engage with their essays.

Letters to the editor and short comments on articles in *Profession 2007*, of no more than 800 words, will also be considered. *Profession* does not publish articles by the same author two years in a row. The postmark deadline for submissions is 17 March 2008. Documentation should conform to the *MLA Style Manual*. Address materials to the editor, Rosemary G. Feal, at the MLA office. □

### MEETINGS

## 2008 ADE Summer Seminars

Chairs, directors of graduate and undergraduate studies, and other administrators from English departments of all types gather annually at the ADE Summer Seminars. Attending seminars affords participants the opportunity to:

- establish support networks of trusted colleagues
- consult with one another in confidence
- pass on lore, tips, and lessons learned
- collaborate on the best responses to today's problems
- alert one another to emerging problems and opportunities in administration, curricula, and scholarship
- develop administrative know-how
- gather information to take back to their campuses
- gain wide perspective on their local situations
- lend their individual expertise in support of the ADE's authority to issue statements of best practices, statistical analyses, policy recommendations, and reports from the field and to the field

ADE Seminar East will take place 5–8 June in Morgantown, West Virginia, and will be hosted by Donald Hall (West Virginia Univ., Morgantown). ADE Seminar West will be held 23–26 June in Santa Fe, New Mexico; David Richard Jones (Univ. of New Mexico) and Neal A. Lester (Arizona State Univ.) will host.

Information about programs, registration, and accommodations will be announced at the ADE Web site ([www.ade.org](http://www.ade.org)) and in a brochure that will be mailed to ADE members in April. For further information, please write or call David Laurence, Director, ADE, or Doug Steward, Associate Director, at the MLA office (646 576-5132; [ade@mla.org](mailto:ade@mla.org)), or consult the ADE Web site. □

## ADE and ADFL Online Job Counseling

The Association of Departments of English and the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages offer an online job counseling service to give job seekers year-round access to the advice that senior department chairs have provided annually through both associations at the MLA convention. The Web sites currently include more than 140 responses to common questions about career planning, applying, and interviewing from chairs; from other administrators and faculty members; and from PhDs working in business, government, and nonprofits. Many of these responses have links to thirty-five articles from the *ADE Bulletin* and *ADFL Bulletin* archives that provide more detailed discussion of job seekers' concerns.

The eight categories of the sites are:

- Planning a Career after Graduate School
- Developing an Academic Career
- Developing a Nonacademic Career
- When and Where to Look for an Academic Job
- CVs, Dossiers, Application Letters, Writing Samples, and Portfolios
- Interviews, Campus Visits, Job Talks, and Teaching Demonstrations
- Negotiating Special Situations
- Job Offers

The categories include questions ranging from "What would my job involve as a foreign language faculty member at an MA comprehensive university?" to "How should I handle a telephone interview?" and "How do I negotiate the terms of a job offer?" The site is designed to be flexible and to grow; anyone with suggestions for additional questions or responses should write to Steve Olsen at [solsen@mla.org](mailto:solsen@mla.org).

To access online job counseling, go to the *Job Information List* through the MLA, ADE, or ADFL Web sites and click on "ADE and ADFL Online Job Counseling." The counseling site is a service of the ADE and the ADFL and does not require a password. □



DAN ROOT

The Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Rights and Responsibilities met 24–25 September 2007. Standing (left to right): Linda Ray Pratt (chair), Karen Sánchez-Eppler, Miriam Cooke, and Julie A. Baker. Seated (left to right): Anjali Prabhu and Martin W. Ley. Michael Bérubé is not pictured.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

**How to Be Included in the *MLA International Bibliography***

My colleagues and I are eager to include your work in the bibliography. We invite you to send us information about your articles, essays, and books that appeared in 2007 and those from before 2007 that have not previously been indexed. With the 2000 edition, we have expanded the scope of the bibliography to include rhetoric and composition and the history, theory, and practice of teaching language and literature at the college level. We have also endeavored to improve our coverage of scholarship about Arabic, Persian, and Turkish languages and literatures.

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Bear in mind that the following kinds of writing are generally excluded from the bibliography: fiction, poetry, book reviews, unpublished dissertations, and entries in reference books.

The deadline for the receipt of material for the 2007 printed bibliography is 2 January 2008. Information received after that date will be considered for the 2008 edition. Address materials or questions to *MLA International Bibliography*, 26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10004-1789 (646 576-5053; fax: 646 458-0033; bibliography@mla.org).

Barbara Chen

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Rosemary G. Feal, Executive Director

D E A D L I N E S

## Fellowships and Grants

The following list includes fellowships and grants that have deadlines between 1 January and 31 March. More-specific information, such as eligibility, description of grants, number of grants awarded, and sources for further details, can be found in the September 2007 PMLA (pp. 1283–314).

### JANUARY

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 4 Center for Cultural Analysis, Rutgers University   | 1 University of California, Los Angeles, William Andrews Clark Memorial Library |
| 4 Yale University Agrarian Studies   | 1 Center for Jewish History Fellowships   |
| 5 American Research Center in Egypt  | 1 Children's Literature Association   |
| 5 National Foundation for Jewish Culture Dissertation Fellowships                                  | 1 Friends of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Libraries Grants-in-Aid      |
| 10 American Association of University Women Educational Foundation                                 | 1 IREX (International Research and Exchanges Board)                             |
| 10 John Carter Brown Library   | 1 Massachusetts Historical Society Fellowships                                  |
| 10 Newberry Library  | 1 Midwest Victorian Studies Association   |
| 10 United States Institute of Peace  | 1 Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center                                       |
| 12 Camargo Foundation  | 11 Linguistic Institute Fellowships   |
| 13 University of California, Los Angeles, Fellowship Program in Ethnic Studies                     | 12 Arizona State University Institute for Humanities Research                   |
| 13 Institute of Historical Research Mellon Fellowships for Dissertation Research in the Humanities | 15 American Institute for Maghrib Studies                                       |
| 15 American Academy in Rome  | 15 American Numismatic Society  |
| 15 American Antiquarian Society  | 15 University of Chicago Library Special Collections Research Fellowships       |
| 15 American Association of University Women Educational Foundation                                 | 15 National Women's Studies Association   |
| 15 Archaeological Institute of America   | 15 Phi Sigma Iota Awards in Foreign Languages                                   |
| 15 Gilbert Chinard, Harmon Chadbourn Rorison, and Edouard Morot-Sir Fellowships                    | 15 Swann Fellowship   |
| 15 Massachusetts Historical Society Fellowships  | 16 American Psychoanalytic Association Fellowship Program                       |
| 15 Phi Beta Kappa Society Mary Isabel Sibley Fellowship  | 28 Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture                                       |
| 15 Winterthur Research Fellowships in American Art, History, and Culture                           |   |
| 15 Yale Center for British Art   |   |
| 16 American Council of Learned Societies Fellowships and Grants                                    |   |
| 18 Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, Vanderbilt University                             |   |
| 26 Erasmus Institute   |   |
| 31 W. Ormiston Roy Memorial Fellowship   |   |

### MARCH

- 1 American Classical League
- 1 American Philosophical Society
- 1 Library Company of Philadelphia and Historical Society of Pennsylvania
- 1 Massachusetts Historical Society Fellowships
- 1 Newberry Library
- 15 American Handel Society Research Fellowship
- 15 Friends of the Longfellow House
- 15 IREX (International Research and Exchanges Board)

### FEBRUARY

- 1 American Council of Learned Societies Fellowships and Grants
- 1 University of California, Los Angeles, Center for Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Studies

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

**DECEMBER**

- 1 Preregistration deadline for the 2007 convention
- 10 Deadline for receipt of MLA election ballots (covering contests for second vice president, Executive Council, Delegate Assembly, and division executive committees)
- 12 Deadline for receipt of 2007 convention addresses for "Who's Where"

**JANUARY**

- 2 Deadline for receipt of offprints and books for inclusion in the 2007 *MLA International Bibliography*
- 4 Deadline for receipt of convention calls for papers for the Spring 2008 *MLA Newsletter*
- 11 Deadline for receipt of departmental administrators' job listings for the February 2008 *Job Information List*
- 18 Deadline for receipt of field bibliographers' submissions for inclusion in the 2007 *MLA International Bibliography*
- 31 Deadline for receipt of proposals for honorary members and fellows and for the MLA Award for Lifetime Scholarly Achievement

**MARCH**

- 1 Deadline for receipt of entries for the 2008 James Russell Lowell Prize competition for books published in 2007
- 7 Deadline for receipt of departmental administrators' job listings for the April 2008 *Job Information List*
- 15 Deadline for receipt of forum proposals for the 2008 convention
- 17 Postmark deadline for submissions for *Profession 2008*

**APRIL**

- 1 Deadline for receipt of entries for the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for a Translation of a Literary Work and the MLA Prize for a First Book for books published in 2007

- 1 Deadline for receipt of *MLA International Bibliography* fellowship applications
- 1 Postmark and Web submission deadline for program copy from divisions, discussion groups, MLA committees, and allied and affiliate organizations
- 1 Postmark and Web submission deadline for proposals for special sessions for the 2008 convention
- 1 Postmark deadline for requests for audiovisual equipment for the 2008 convention
- 7 Deadline for receipt of requests for waiver of membership requirements for participants in the 2008 convention; organizers and panelists at the 2008 convention must be listed on MLA membership rolls
- 15 Deadline for receipt of requests for funds for speakers at the 2008 convention
- 30 Deadline for receipt of applications for dues subsidies for residents of developing or soft-currency nations

**MAY**

- 1 Deadline for receipt of entries for the 2008 competitions for works published in 2007 for the Howard R. Marraro Prize, the MLA Prize for Independent Scholars; the Mina P. Shaughnessy Prize; the Kenneth W. Mildenberger Prize; the Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize; the William Sanders Scarborough Prize; the MLA Prize in United States Latina and Latino and Chicana and Chicano Literary and Cultural Studies; and the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prizes for Comparative Literary Studies and French and Francophone Studies; for works published in 2006–07 for the MLA Prize for a Distinguished Bibliography and the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Studies in Germanic Languages and Literatures; for works published in 2004–07 for the Fenia and Yaakov Leviant Prize in Yiddish Studies

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