SCMLA
64th Annual Convention
“Current(s)”
November 1-3, 2007 in Memphis

The 64th annual SCMLA convention will be held at the Hilton Memphis situated off Ridgeway Center Parkway near I-240 and Poplar.

The departments of English at the University of Memphis and Rhodes College will co-sponsor the gathering with Reginald Martin from the University of Memphis as Local Arrangements Chair. This year’s theme is “Current(s),” and highlights will include the plenary address by Rita Felski entitled “The Uses of Literature: An Un-manifesto.” Felski is the William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of English and Chair of Comparative Literature at the University of Virginia and author of Beyond Feminist Esthetics, The Gender of Modernity, Doing Time: Feminist Theory and Postmodern Culture, and Literature After Feminism, as well as the editor of Rethinking Tragedy. Her account of the uses of literature is forthcoming as a Blackwell’s manifesto in 2008.

The Hilton will provide space for 69 regular and allied sessions as well as 13 special sessions. Pi Delta Phi, the national French Honor Society, will hold their annual meeting with us this year and we welcome them. “Current(s)”—a theme suggested by the nature of Memphis known for the folkloric presence of the Mississippi river, the heady energy of rock and roll, and the mellow ebb and flow of the blues—may provide inspiration to members in the formulation of their papers: for instance, with the notion of “current(s)” interpreted as the forces of movement and of time passing, represented in the swirling waters of the Mississippi, the longest river in the U.S. The allusion to “currency” may also attract notice among authors who wish to explore the dynamics of literary worth and cultural value, perceived as a medium of intellectual exchange in the contemporary marketplace of ideas.

Complimentary shuttle service from the airport to the Hilton will be available as well as shuttle service within a 5-mile radius of the hotel. Because the hotel is located in what is known as “Germantown,” there are many restaurants within this radius that will offer other dining opportunities (see pages 6 & 7 for more information).

Registration packets will arrive in late August or early September and will include hotel reservation information as well as the conference registration form that will allow you to reserve your space at receptions, breakfasts, luncheons, and socials. However, this year, for the first time, members will be able to register, pay dues, vote, and make hotel reservations on-line. Find links and more information on how to pay by credit card on page 6 and on-line at www.ou.edu/scmla. If you would like to contact the Hilton, Memphis before you receive the registration information, call (901) 684-6664 and ask for the SCMLA rate ($104 single & double: reservation code SO1031).
Pi Delta Phi (National French Honor Society)

The Executive Committee of Pi Delta Phi, the National French Honor Society for colleges and universities, is pleased to hold its Annual Meeting in conjunction with the SCMLA. This will be the second year that Pi Delta Phi will convene at regional meetings of the MLA, with the hope of making better contacts with faculty of colleges and universities throughout the USA that already have chapters of the honor society on their campuses and of introducing themselves to faculty who may be unaware of Pi Delta Phi.

The National French Honor Society, a member of ACHS (Associated College Honor Societies), was founded at UC Berkeley, in 1906. Currently 336 chapters, most of which are active, exist at American colleges and universities that offer majors in French. The Pi Delta Phi website, www.pideltaphi.org, has detailed information about membership criteria and the process of establishing a new chapter; Pi Delta Phi will be present at SCMLA in Memphis, also, to provide information and answer any questions. Membership is open to undergraduate and graduate students who satisfy the requirements.

Pi Delta Phi exists to recognize the accomplishments of university-level students who have excelled in French and Francophone studies and to support efforts to promote the literary and cultural accomplishments of the French-speaking world.

With regard to Pi Delta Phi’s commitment to forward an appreciation for French, the honor society offers annually four scholarships for summer-study in France or Canada, for which mock interviews will take place on Saturday morning, November 3, 2007. The workshop is sponsored by the South Central Association of Departments of Foreign Languages and Departments of English. If you are interested in scheduling a mock interview, please contact Grady C. Wray, Executive Director of the SCMLA, at scmla@ou.edu. Volunteers may also be needed to conduct the interviews. Volunteer by contacting scmla@ou.edu.

Pi Delta Phi Events at Memphis

Afternoon Tea
2:15pm-3:35pm
Friday, November 2, 2007

Public Meeting
11:00am-12:30pm
Saturday, November 3, 2007

Convention Socials & Opportunities

French, German & Spanish Receptions

Once again there will be a French, German, and Spanish reception on Friday afternoon from 4:00-5:30. The French, German, and Spanish representatives will host a reception for members to share ideas and information pertinent to their disciplines. Please mark your registration form in the convention packet to participate.

Breakfasts

The South Central College English Association and the Women’s Caucus will once again hold professional breakfasts on Friday and Saturday mornings. The SCCEA will meet on Friday at 7:30, and the Women’s Caucus will meet on Saturday at 7:45. Please pre-register on your convention registration form to participate.

Mock Job Interviews

The workshop for academic jobseekers that provides informal advising and detailed information about membership criteria and the process of establishing a new chapter; Pi Delta Phi will be present at SCMLA in Memphis, also, to provide information and answer any questions. Membership is open to undergraduate and graduate students who satisfy the requirements.

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SCMLA 2007 Conference Paper Prizes

Deadline: September 3, 2007

Members with appropriate papers scheduled for the Fall 2007 conference are encouraged to compete for our four conference paper prizes, jointly sponsored by the SCMLA. Please submit your paper to: SCMLA, U of Oklahoma, 104 Fourth Street, Norman, OK 73019-6410 by September 3, 2007. For more info on all SCMLA prizes go to: www.ou.edu/scmla/grants.html

Gender Studies (Sponsored by the Women’s Studies Program at Texas Tech University) / $250
Historical Literary and/or Cultural Studies / $250
Bill L. and Gerre D. Andrist Hispanic Gender Studies Prize / $500 in 2007
Literal Magazine Hispanic Studies in Spanish Prize (Submission must be in Spanish) / $500 in 2007
SCMLA is proud to announce its Sustaining Departmental Members for 2007. If your university is not listed here, please contact SCMLA@ou.edu or www.ou.edu/scmla to become a member.

Abilene Christian U (English)
Baylor U (English)
Belmont U (English)
Brookhaven Coll., Dallas (Corporate & Continuing Education)
Hardin-Simmons U (Literature & Languages)
Louisiana State U (English)
Louisiana State U (Foreign Languages & Literatures)
Mississippi Valley State U (English & Foreign Languages)

McNeese State U (English & Foreign Languages)
Southwestern U (Spanish)
Southwestern Oklahoma State U (Language Arts)
St. Mary's U (English)
Texas A&M U (English)
Texas A&M U (European & Classical Languages & Cultures)
Texas Christian U (Modern Languages & Literatures)
Texas Tech U (Classical & Modern Languages and Literatures)
U of Houston - Downtown (English)
U of Memphis (English)
U of North Texas (English)
U of Oklahoma (English)
U of Oklahoma (Modern Languages, Literatures, & Linguistics)
U of St. Thomas (Modern & Classical Languages)
U of Texas - Austin (Germanic Studies)
U of Tulsa (English)
Vanderbilt U (Spanish & Portuguese)
Wayland Baptist U (Languages & Literature)
Xavier U of Louisiana (English)

SCMLA Deadlines 2007 - 2008

SEPTEMBER 2007
03 Deadline for SCMLA office receipt of 2007 Conference Paper Prize submissions.

OCTOBER 2007
05 Deadline for SCMLA office receipt of 2007 convention pre-registration and ballots
10 Deadline for 2007 convention hotel reservations at the Hilton, Memphis

NOVEMBER 2007
19 Deadline for SCMLA office receipt of items to be included in the Winter Newsletter, including Regular/Allied and Special Session Calls for Papers for 2008.

DECEMBER 2007
14 Nominations/Self nominations for SCMLA officers and representatives to H. Baer.

FEBRUARY 2008
01 Deadline for Humanities Research Center/SCMLA award. Apply directly to the HRC. See Grant/Award brochure or website for address information.
08 Deadline for receipt of SCMLA Research and Travel Award and the Graduate Student Grant applications to the SCMLA office.
18 Deadline for SCMLA office receipt of Final Proposals for Special Sessions, Memphis.

MARCH 2008
01 Deadline for application for Newberry Library/SCMLA award. Apply directly to the Newberry Library. See Grant/Award brochure for address information or go to www.ou.edu/scmla.
14 Proposers of approved Special Sessions will be notified.
14 Deadline for receipt of Book Prize nominations.

14 Deadline for submission of Papers/Abstracts for San Antonio 2008 to Regular/Allied Session Chairs.

APRIL 2008
04 Deadline for SCMLA office receipt of Final Program copy for all 2008 sessions.
04 Deadline for requesting audio-visual equipment for San Antonio 2008.

MAY 2008
12 Deadline for 2009 Special Session Calls for Papers for inclusion in the Summer Newsletter.
12 Deadline for SCMLA office receipt of items to be included in the Summer Newsletter.
12 Deadline for 2008 convention participants to become members of SCMLA.
Executive Committee Elections 2007 & 2008 Nominations

Upcoming Elections

The Fall Convention Packet will include a ballot and information on the candidates for Executive Committee Officers. Ballots must be received by October 5, 2007 in order to be counted. You may also cast your vote on-line at www.ou.edu/scmla. The candidates are as follows:

Vice President:  
- John Morris  
- Sim Shattuck

At-Large Representative:  
- Linda McManness  
- Richard Pressman

American Literature Representative:  
- Brenda Gabioud Brown  
- Viki Pettijohn Craig

French Representative:  
- Anne Quinney  
- Logan Whalen

Nominations for Life & Honorary Members

If you would like to nominate anyone for an SCMLA Life or Honorary Membership, please contact:

Marita Nummikoski, University of Texas-San Antonio, Dept of Modern Languages, Literatures, & Linguistics, San Antonio, TX 78249-0644

Awards

Available Prizes for 2008
- 2 Research Abroad Awards  
- Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center/SCMLA Award  
- Graduate student Award  
- Newberry Library/SCMLA Award  
- SCMLA Book Award  
- Kirby Award

Please check the website at www.ou.edu/scmla for more information on these awards.

2007 Prize Winner

Larson Powell  
Research Abroad Award

2008 San Antonio, Texas  
November 6 - 8

2009 Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
October 28 - 31

Reminder:

All SCMLA Conference Paper Prize submissions are due on September 3, 2007. For more information please visit www.ou.edu/scmla

Paper Prizes:

Gender Studies; Historical Literary and/or Cultural Studies; Hispanic Gender Studies; Hispanic Studies in Spanish.

Please mail with 4 copies to SCMLA, University of Oklahoma, 104 Fourth Street, Baker, B64, Norman, OK 73019-6410.
Call for Special Sessions - San Antonio, Texas 2008

Theme: “Borders”

The SCMLA invites Special Session proposals for its 65th annual convention in San Antonio, TX, November 6 - 8, 2008 at the Sheraton Gunter. You may focus on the conference theme -- “Borders” -- but proposals on any topic are welcomed.

Close to the border between Mexico and the United States, San Antonio offers a fitting venue for discussions that cross borders in the many fields that SCMLA members represent: languages, literatures, linguistics, cultural studies, theory, etc., and it is hoped that many sessions can address this theme. While “borders” can represent current political debates on immigration, security, boundaries, and division, the theme also invites more expansive definitions. Not only do borders divide, but they can also unite and hinge together two separate areas or topics. They conjure up images of passage, embarkation, arrival, new challenges, and interchange, as well as blending, blurring, being “on edge,” “on the fringe,” and “in the margins,” to name only a few of the ways that borders affect us.

To propose a Special Session, you must be an SCMLA member in good standing; to issue a Call for Papers, return the form to the SCMLA office by November 19, 2007 for posting in the Special Sessions Call for Papers section of the Winter 2007 Newsletter. We will continue to post “Calls” on our website as they are received. The “Due Date” indicates the date by which you would like to receive abstracts or papers for consideration; please keep the final proposal deadline (February 18, 2008) in mind when choosing a due date. Please note you may also submit proposals by email to scmla@ou.edu.

Return Call to: SCMLA, U of Oklahoma, 104 Fourth Street, Baker, B47 Norman, OK 73019-6410; Phone: (405) 325-6011; FAX: (405) 325-3720; Email: scmla@ou.edu; http://www.ou.edu/scmla.

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NOTE: (Session call will include address and email only (or Fax/phone if email is not provided)

Proposers of Special Sessions (but not Regular Sessions) may read in their session. No one may present more than one paper or chair more than one session at the conference.

Upon receipt of the Call for Papers Form, you will be sent a Final Special Session Proposal Form, to be returned by February 18, 2008. Completed panels, whether or not they are listed in the Call for Papers, must be submitted on an SCMLA Special Session form by that date. This form will include a detailed description of your panelists’ papers. These proposal forms will be refereed by the SCMLA Program Committee. Proposers of Special Sessions accepted for San Antonio 2008 will be notified in March 2008.
Online Registration for Memphis and Membership Payment

SAVE TIME, REGISTER FOR MEMPHIS AND PAY DUES ON-LINE

This year, beginning in July, you will be able to register for the Memphis convention and pay your membership dues on-line.

You can pay for the following on-line via www.ou.edu/scmla:

- Memphis 2007 conference registration
- Memphis 2007 conference meals including the Friday business luncheon, the Women’s Caucus breakfast and the SCCEA breakfast
- 2008 membership dues

You will also be able to vote for new executive committee members, and for a minimal credit card fee increase and processing fee, you will not have to wait for the pre-convention mailing to send a check to the SCMLA for conference registration and membership. Also, there will be a link to the convention hotel for you to make your on-line hotel room reservation.

However, if you would like to continue to pay as you have in the past, you will still have the option of pre-registering and paying dues by sending a check to the SCMLA offices at the U of Oklahoma. Hard copies of the conference registration form will be sent to paid members in August, and pre-convention registration will be accepted until October 5, 2007. Members will receive an email in July from the SCMLA office with instructions on how to register for Memphis 2007 on-line.

To pay by credit card go to:

www.ou.edu/scmla

To pay by check send registration forms after August to:

Piers Frazier, SCMLA, U of Oklahoma, 104 Fourth Street, Norman, OK 73019-6410

Memphis Extras

- Shuttle Service to Beale Street

On Friday night, November 2, 2007 the SCMLA will offer a complimentary shuttle service to Memphis’ famous Beale Street (more info to come in registration materials and on-line)

- Pissaro Exhibition at the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art
- Tour of Rowan Oak, Faulkner’s Home in Oxford, Mississippi
- Restaurants within a 5 mile radius of the Hilton, Memphis

The Hilton provides transportation within a 5 mile radius of the hotel. If you would like transportation to a nearby venue, please check with the Front Desk earlier in the day.

Some of the restaurants within minutes of the Hilton, Memphis are as follows:

- BENIHANA JAPANESE RESTAURNT serves lunch specials as well as dinner.
- OWEN BRENNAN’S NEW ORLEANS STYLE FOOD
- RUTH’S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE
- SALSA MEXICAN RESTAURANT
- P.F. CHANG’S CHINESE BISTRO
- AMERIGO ITALIAN RESTAURANT
- CORKY’S BAR-B-QUE (GOOD RIBS)
- BUCKLEY STEAK HOUSE
- HOUSTON’S
- THE HALF SHELL BAR AND RESTAURANT
Hilton Complimentary Courtesy Airport Shuttle

A complimentary courtesy shuttle from the airport to the Hilton, Memphis leaves at least every hour on the hour. When you arrive, go to baggage claim and use Hilton's courtesy phone to arrange for a pick up or call the hotel directly (901.684.6664) to ask for the courtesy shuttle.

Convention Hotel Information

ROOM RESERVATIONS

Call 901-684-6664 or 1-800-445-8667

On-line reservations at [www.memphis.hilton.com](http://www.memphis.hilton.com)

**Reservation Code: SO1031**  
(Please use this code in order to obtain the $104 SCMLA rate)

**SCMLA Convention Reservation Deadline**  
**Date:**  
**OCTOBER 10, 2007**

All conference participants must reserve their rooms with the Hilton by the above date in order to receive the conference rate of **$104 single/double** per night.

**Pre-convention packets with conference registration materials will be mailed to members in August**

You may register on-line at [www.ou.edu/scmla](http://www.ou.edu/scmla)

-Hilton Contact Information:

939 Ridge Lake Blvd,  
Memphis, TN 38120  
Tel: (901) 684-6664
Directions to the Hilton by car

From I-240 either East or West, take the Germantown/Poplar exit 15A East (Highway 72). Once on Poplar Ave, prepare for a left turn. Turn left at the first traffic light onto Ridgeway Road. Stay in the left lane until you turn left at the second traffic light onto Ridge Lake Blvd. The hotel will be straight ahead on the left side.