The 63rd annual SCMLA convention will now be held at the Renaissance Hotel in Dallas, Texas on October 26th – 28th, 2006. Originally SCMLA members were going to meet in Fort Worth for the 2006 “cultural roundup,” but because of projected renovations at the host hotel and lack of availability of other Fort Worth hotels, Dallas was the next best option. The Renaissance Hotel in Dallas, however, will offer a comfortable venue for the 67 regular and allied sessions and the 26 special sessions.

The idea of a cultural roundup reflects the western past and the cosmopolitan present of the Dallas/Fort Worth area where the frontier is a changing landscape, an appropriate location for us to take stock of our own disciplines’ cultural heritages and visions for our cosmopolitan future. Papers range from analyses of cultures within texts from the standpoint of gender, religion, race, ethnicity, and sexuality to explorations of how popular and canonical culture intersect.

Sponsored this year by Texas Christian University’s English department, the chair, Dan Williams, has graciously offered to continue the sponsorship even though the convention is now outside the city limits of Fort Worth. Jill Havens, Instructor and Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies in English, will serve as our local arrangements chair.

Complimentary scheduled evening shuttle service within a 5-mile radius of the hotel will be available, and area attractions include the West End Market Place, Highland Park Village, Oak Lawn, the American Airlines Arena, the Dallas World Aquarium, the Art District and the Downtown District, which offers the Dallas Museum of Art, the Nasher Sculpture Garden, and the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza.

Doug Steward, The Modern Language Association’s Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies in English, will offer an opening keynote address on Thursday evening before the SCMLA welcome reception. He will examine issues relating to intellectual freedom specifically after the economic difficulties many of our regional institutions have suffered due to the natural disasters of the past year. The Friday evening plenary session features Emily Toth, Professor of English and Women’s Studies at Louisiana State U. Professor Toth also appears as Ms. Mentor in the Chronicle of Higher Education. Find more about Professor Toth’s presentation on page 2.

For those members who were adversely affected by the 2005 hurricane devastation, there are membership waivers still available. Contact scmla@ou.edu for details.

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 our receptions, breakfasts, luncheons, and social hours. If you would like to contact the Renaissance before you receive the registration information, call 1-800-HOTELS-1 and ask for the SCMLA rate ($105 single & double).
Friday’s Plenary Address by Emily Toth
"I Sold It to the Movies, Sort Of"

Emily Toth (rhymes with both), Professor of English and Women's Studies at Louisiana State University, is the author or editor of ten books, including five on Kate Chopin, one of which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. Her first book, *The Curse: A Cultural History of Menstruation* (1976) is still in print after 30 years, although it was at first taken off the shelves as "unsuitable" in the Waco Public Library. Her third book, *Inside Peyton Place: The Life of Grace Metalious* (1981, 2000) has recently been bought by Sandra Bullock and Twentieth-Century Fox for a feature film about the short, scandalous, and tragic life of the novelist who wrote the original *Peyton Place*, published 50 years ago this fall. Emily Toth also writes the *Ms. Mentor* academic advice column on the Chronicle of Higher Education's Careers site on the Net [http://chronicle.com/jobs/news/archives/columns/ms_mentor/](http://chronicle.com/jobs/news/archives/columns/ms_mentor/) and before that wrote its prequel, *Ms. Mentor's Impeccable Advice for Women in Academia* (1997). She likes to share advice, gossip, humor, and new information.

Toth will give the SCMLA plenary address on Friday evening. Her presentation will be followed by the President’s Reception.

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**Convention Socials & Opportunities**

**French, German, & Spanish Receptions**

Once again the Edwin Mellen Press will sponsor a French, German, and Spanish hors d’oeuvre reception. On Friday afternoon from 4:00 to 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 one morning of the convention. Please pre-register on your convention registration form to participate.

**Mock Job Interviews**

The workshop for academic jobseekers that provides informal advising and mock interviews will take place on Saturday morning, October 28, 2006. 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 are also needed to conduct the interviews. Volunteer by contacting scmla@ou.edu.

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**South Central Review**

As the official journal of the South Central Modern Language Association, the *South Central Review* strives not only to feature scholarship of organization members but to address current issues of importance to our field. Recent and upcoming issues of South Central Review feature essays by Barbara Ehrenreich, Henry Rousso, Juan Goytisolo, Paul Berman, Brenda Wineapple, Pascal Bruckner, Linda Leavell, Susan Suleiman, Michael Mewshaw, and many others. Recent and forthcoming Special Issues examine “Memory and Nation in Contemporary Mexico,” “Natalie Barney and her Circle,” “The Legacies of Reaction,” “Biography as Literature,” “Torture,” and “Literature and Science.” An issue on “Hard Boiled Detective Fiction” is also in preparation. Members of the SCMLA receive 3 copies of the *South Central Review* and are invited to visit the website at [http://euro.tamu.edu/scr/](http://euro.tamu.edu/scr/). The main editorial board consists of Richard J. Golsan, Texas A&M University, Melanie Hawthorne, Texas A&M University, Howard Marchitello, Texas A&M University, and Nicholas M. Lawrence, Texas A&M University.
2006 Sustaining Departmental Members

SCMLA is proud to announce its Sustaining Departmental Members for 2006. 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)

Angelo State U (English)

Baylor U (English)

Belmont U (Humanities)

DeVry U (General Education)

Hardin-Simmons U (Literature & Languages)

Henderson State U (English, Foreign Languages & Philosophy)

Louisiana State U (English)

Mississippi Valley State U (English and Foreign Languages)

McNese State U (English and Foreign Languages)

Southern Methodist U (Foreign Languages and Literatures)

Southwestern Oklahoma State U (Language Arts)

Texas A&M U (English)

Texas A&M U (European and Classical Languages, & Cultures)

Texas Tech U (English)

U of Arkansas (Foreign Languages)

U of Houston - Downtown (English)

U of Memphis (English)

U of Mississippi (English)

U of Oklahoma (Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics)

U of Tulsa (English)

U of Vanderbilt (Spanish & Portuguese)

Wayland Baptist U (Languages & Literature)

SCMLA Deadlines 2006 - 2007

SEPTEMBER
01 Deadline for SCMLA office receipt of 2006 Conference Paper Prize submissions.
OCTOBER
04 Deadline for 2006 convention hotel reservations at the Renaissance Hotel, Dallas.
16 Deadline for 2006 convention pre-registration and ballots to SCMLA office.
NOVEMBER
20 Deadline for SCMLA office receipt of items to be included in the Winter Newsletter, including Regular/Allied and Special Session Calls for Papers for 2007.
FEBRUARY 2007
02 Deadline for Humanities Research Center/SCMLA award. Apply directly to the HRC. See Grant/Award brochure or website for address information.
09 Deadline for receipt of SCMLA Research and Travel Award, Huntington Library/SCMLA Award, and the Graduate Student Grant applications to the SCMLA office.
19 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.
19 Deadline for SCMLA office receipt of Final Proposals for Special Sessions, Memphis.
MARCH
16 Proposers of approved Special Sessions will be notified.
16 Deadline for receipt of Book Prize nominations.
16 Deadline for submission of Papers/Abstracts for Memphis 2007 to Regular/Allied Section Chairs.
APRIL
06 Deadline for SCMLA office receipt of Final Program copy for all 2007 sessions.
06 Deadline for requesting audiovisual equipment for Memphis 2007.
MAY
14 Deadline for San Antonio 2008 Special Session Calls for Papers for inclusion in the Summer Newsletter.
14 Deadline for SCMLA office receipt of items to be included in the Summer Newsletter.
14 Deadline for 2007 convention participants to become members of SCMLA.
Memphis 2007
Special Session Calls for Papers

The following Special Session has been proposed, but not yet approved, for the 2006 SCMLA Convention to be held in Memphis, Tennessee, November 1-3. The 2007 theme is "Currents." Send papers or abstracts to the addresses by the deadline dates listed. Direct questions about these proposed sessions should be addressed to the session organizers. Complete panels, whether or not they are listed here, must be submitted on an SCMLA Special Session form by February 19, 2007. Forms are available from the SCMLA office, scmla@ou.edu. Proposals related to the convention theme are encouraged but not required. All proposed sessions will be refereed by the Program Committee, and accepted proposals will be notified in March 2007. Please note: Detailed proposals with full descriptions of each paper are strongly encouraged. Special Session proposals need not be listed in the Call for Papers in this Newsletter to be eligible for consideration, and you can still post a Call on our website: print out and return the “Memphis Call Form” from the website, or contact Piers Frazier at scmla@ou.edu for details.

Twentieth-Century Holocaust Drama. Papers accepted on American, British, or European theater of the Holocaust. Send abstracts and vitae to Gene A. Plunka, Department of English, The University of Memphis, Memphis, TN 38152; gaplunka@memphis.edu

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. The candidates are as follows:

Vice President:
Deborah McCollister & Frieda Blackwell

German Representative:
Donovan Anderson & Erika Nelson

At-Large Representative:
Stephanie Turner & James Kelley

English Representative:
Dan Ransom & Nancye McClure

Members are invited to submit nominations and self-nominations for the 2008 election of the American Literature Representative, French Representative and the At-Large Representative as well as Vice President. Candidates for these positions should be ready to serve three-year terms and to meet twice a year, in the Spring (in February or March) and on the first day of the Fall convention. Executive Committee members are required to serve on various subcommittees.

Future Conventions

2007
Memphis, Tennessee
November 1 - 3

2008
San Antonio, Texas
November 6 - 8

Awards

Available Prizes for 2007

• 2 Research Abroad Awards
• Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center/SCMLA Award
• Huntington Library/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.

2006 Prize Winners

Katherine Arens
Dept. of Germanic Studies, U of Texas - Austin

Harry Ransom Research Center Fellowship
SCMLA/Mellon Award

Reminder:

All SCMLA Conference Paper Prize submissions are due on September 1, 2006. 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.
**South Central Modern Language Association**

**Call for Special Sessions - Memphis, Tennessee 2007**

**Theme:** Memphis “Currents” - SCMLA 2007

We are pleased to announce that the 64th annual convention of the SCMLA will take place in Memphis, Tenn. There, serving as the backdrop for our convention is the general theme of “currents”—a theme suggested by the nature of this city 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. As a rich metaphorical figure, “currents” may provide inspiration to scholars in the formulation of their papers and session proposals: for instance, with the notion of “currents” 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. Further encouraged is the treatment of the thematic and theoretical currents of thought that stem from the freshest and, indeed, most current of ideas in linguistic and literary studies, as is the exploration of the motif of electrical currents, a topos that may spark interest among the more imaginative amongst us. We invite you to participate in our Memphis convention, surrounded by the vibrant diversity so characteristic of the cultural and topographic landscape of this multifaceted city.

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

SCMLA invites Special Session proposals for the Memphis 2007 conference, November 1 - 3, 2007 at the Hilton Hotel. You may focus on the conference theme -- Memphis “Currents” -- but proposals on any topic are welcomed.

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 20, 2006 for posting in the Special Sessions Call for Papers section of the Winter 2006 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 19, 2007) in mind when choosing a due date. **Please note you may also submit proposals by email to scmla@ou.edu.**

Upon receipt of the Call for Papers Form, you will be sent a Final Special Session Proposal Form, to be returned by February 19, 2007. 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 Memphis 2007 will be notified in March 2007.

**Session Title**

**Description (limit to 30 words)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abstracts or Papers Required?</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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</thead>
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Name of proposer and school address to receive papers. 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.

**Proposer Name**

**Department & School**

**Address**

**Optional Info: Phone**: ; **Fax**: ; **Email**

**NOTE:** Session call will include address and email only (or Fax/phone if email is not provided)
Report of the Executive Committee, Spring 2006

Executive Committee official minutes are pending approval by committee members at the Dallas Convention in October 2006. After approval, the official minutes can be found on the website www.ou.edu.scmla. Present: Hester Baer, Maria Duke dos Santos, Pamela Genova, Dene Grigar, Philip Hadlock, Jill Jones, Marita Nummikoski, Richard Pressman, Marjean Purinton, Karin Schestokat, Grady Wray & Piers Frazier (ex officio). Absent: Philip Hadlock (Friday only), Mary Jane Hurst, R.J. Golsan. Jones calls meeting to order. Genova moves to approve the agenda. Motion passed. Review of Fall 2005 EC meeting minutes. Spelling correction on page 4 of the spring 2005 minutes; ‘Kupnick’ to ‘Koepnick.’ Jones moves to pass minutes. Motion passed. Report of the Executive Director. Wray says that the SCMLA executive offices have a new address. Houston conference: Wray says the SCMLA will seek to have a clearer guideline on refunds for hotel in the future. Pressman suggests more of an incentive to pre-register (increasing on-site registration). An effort should be made to find out who registers when. Wray says that the breakfast attendance for Houston was very healthy and the Language Socials were also very well attended. Wray says he was pleasantly surprised by success of Houston conference. This was also echoed in the amount of special sessions held. Wray reports that for future conferences name tags and hotel maps will be increased in font size. In addition to this, Wray said he will strive to avoid sessions from competing with each other in the program. Baer says a German special session and regular session did compete in Houston. Dallas meeting: Wray reports on the cancellation of the contract of the Radisson in Fort Worth, which resulted in a site relocation to Dallas. The Fort Worth Plaza hotel, the possible replacement hotel, was deemed as unsuitable as the conference hotel. Cancellation clauses in hotel contracts have favored the hotel. New contracts will benefit both parties. Wray reports that the 2006 conference will be hosted by the Renaissance Hotel in Dallas, Texas. Wray also notes that all of the Dallas hotels offered the Association better contracts than the initial contract at the Radisson Plaza in Fort Worth. Wray states that the SCMLA will seek conference insurance from ‘Showstoppers’ for the Dallas conference. The Renaissance will also offer the SCMLA free transportation within a five-mile radius. The Local Arrangements Committee chair will be Jill Havens from Texas Christian University. Wray reports that overall from the area universities the SCMLA has $5000 sponsorship. The universities include Texas Christian University, University of North Texas, Texas Woman’s University and University of Dallas. Wray states that the SCMLA Roundtable breakfasts are typically not well attended and moves to eliminate them on the Saturday morning of the convention. Purinton states that people often are not motivated to get up that early on a Saturday morning. By consensus, the Executive Committee will try to cancel the SCMLA breakfast due to low attendance. Pressman would like to see some statistics on the SCMLA roundtable breakfasts. On another subject, Grigar suggests that we have an ‘open call’ so we can achieve a wider range of topics. Schestokat mentions that German Studies Association has a section called ‘orphaned papers’ which could be a strategy for the SCMLA graduate student papers. Baer says that such sessions are much more specialized unlike in the SCMLA sessions. Memphis 2007: Wray mentions that the Hilton offers free shuttle service to and from the airport and within a 3-mile radius. The spring meeting has been left as optional in the contract due to recent budgetary restraints. Wray suggests the committee should submit a theme for the Memphis conference by the Saturday morning of the spring meeting. San Antonio / Oklahoma City: Wray notes that the conference in 2007 will be a bit later than usual: November 6-8, 2007. Wray says that membership for 2005 totaled at 824. As of February 14, 2006 the current membership is 307. Jones adjourns the meeting for Friday. Saturday, February 18, 2006. Jones calls the meeting to order. Wray addresses the budget changes since the fall EC meeting in 2005. Johns Hopkins bill has been clarified and the new billing format will be once yearly after the fall meeting when the association has the most funds. Wray talks about the A/V needs for the conference. Last year’s A/V costs restricted the budget somewhat. Grigar suggests buying a couple of projectors for long-term usage and savings. Purinton would like to start a revolving sponsorship for the Texas Tech Women’s Studies Paper Prize, so that Texas Tech doesn’t carry the funds every year. Wray says the association has an investment in a Morgan Stanley account as well as an additional $5000 in a CD with the Bank of Oklahoma. The amount invested is getting to the point where the association could absorb a conference expense should the SCMLA need it. Wray draws attention to academic issues and more specifically academic freedom and ethical issues. Various articles are included in the contents of the meeting packet. Purinton talks about the universities hit by natural disasters that have relaunched their universities at the expense of many language and humanities programs which have been eliminated due to budgetary constraints. Hadlock and Pressman state that such discussions are easily forgotten and dismissed. More action needs to follow up discussions of concern. Jones states that such AAUP sanctions are slow to proceed. Wray suggests support for an Ad-hoc committee for such issues. Baer states that all the issues need to be untangled in order to address issues fully and successfully. Hadlock asks whether the ad-hoc committee does research into academic issues, which will then propose a protocol to the executive committee. Ad-hoc committee volunteers: Purinton, Grigar, Hadlock and possibly Pressman. Wray addresses EC job descriptions. Grigar suggests a blog which she will draw up so that members can more easily contact their SCMLA representative. Memphis theme decision: ‘Currents.’ Genova volunteers to write theme. Report of the Nominating Committee. Genova gives a brief overview of nominees for the committee elections in 2006. Vice Presidential Candidates: Deborah McCollister and Frieda Blackwell. Genova moves to approve these nominees for vice-president slot. Motion seconded. Motion approved. German Candidates: Donovan Anderson and Erika Nelson. Genova moves to approve these nominees for the German representative. Motion seconded. Motion approved. English Candidates: Dan Ransom and Nancye McClure. Genova moves to approve these nominees for the English representative. Motion seconded. Motion approved. At-large Candidates: Stephanie Turner and James Kelley. Genova moves to approve these nominees for the At-large representative. Motion seconded. Motion approved. Report of the Life and Honorary Membership Committee. Nummikoski has nothing to report. Discussion of committee members. Report of the Program Committee. Purinton talks about the special session status (19). Purinton suggests the committee review the document (regularized session procedures) on making a special session a regular session. Guidelines should change to possibly ‘healthy attendance.’ Purinton also says that a ‘housecleaning’ could be in order, and regular and allied sessions with poor attendance could be dropped. Jones and Genova state it is in the interest of the SCMLA that the sessions are kept.
Grigar moves to amend current policy (November 23, 1999 – Rules, Requirements, and Guidelines governing Regular, Allied, and Special Sessions) for EC members to let them have full participation in the annual conference with the exception of prize eligibility. Genova seconds. Amendment approved. Report of Grants and Awards Committee. Schestokat has not received any applications for the awards and prizes this year (Faculty Research Prize and Graduate Student Prize). Report of the Membership Committee. Wray reports that Hurst was not able to attend the meeting due to other commitments at Texas Tech University. Wray wishes to target new faculty members to universities in the region. Wray also wants to do an ‘area push’ for the conference sites. This can be done with personal letters to the individuals and department heads. Editor’s Report. Golsan had chair responsibilities at Texas A&M and could not attend the meeting. Golsan sent Wray an email saying that the journal is currently ready to do proofs for the current issue. President’s Report. Jones reports that the Book Prize will expect about 4 or 5 book nominations by the deadline on March 15, 2006. Jones reports on the selection for the plenary speaker and is open to any suggestions from Executive Committee members. Emily Toth is a good candidate for the speaker. Other. Genova raises issue of helping fund a prize of $250 which she proposed a year ago in Houston. Due to the lack of interest in the current prizes, Genova would like the money to go into a fund to help the SCMLA at the executive director’s discretion. Pressman suggests including a line on the membership form stating ‘contribution to further support the SCMLA.’

Jones moves to adjourn. Motion passed.

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**Convention Hotel Information**

Our convention hotel for 2006 is the Renaissance Hotel in Dallas. The hotel is conveniently located just off of I-35 close to Downtown Dallas. The SCMLA has a group room rate of $105 for a single and a double.

**RESERVATION NUMBER: 1800-HOTELS-1**

**SCMLA Convention Reservation Deadline Date:**

**OCTOBER 4, 2006**

All conference participants must reserve their rooms with the Renaissance Hotel by the above date in order to receive the conference rate of $105 per night.

**Pre-convention packets will be mailed in August**

**RESERVATIONS:**

PLEASE STATE THAT YOU WANT THE ‘SCMLA RATE’ WHEN MAKING YOUR RESERVATION.

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**Renaissance Contact Information:**

Renaissance Dallas Hotel
2222 Stemmons Freeway
Dallas, Texas 75207, USA
Reservations:
1800-HOTELS-1
Area airports and directions to the Renaissance:

Dallas Love Field
(214) 670-6073
Hotel Direction: 5 mi W
Driving Directions: Right on Mockingbird to I-35 south toward downtown. Exit Wycliff, turn left, go under bridge, hotel is on your left.
Estimated taxi fare: 15 USD (one way)

Dallas/Fort Worth - DFW
(214) 574-8888
Hotel Direction: 16 mi NW
Driving Directions: South airport exit to 183 E. to I. Exit Wycliff, make left at Wycliff, hotel on left.
Estimated taxi fare: 30 USD (one way)