

The Society for the Study of Southern Literature



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NEWSLETTER

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From the Editor:

As we're all well aware, one of the recent critical trends involves contextualizing Southern literature internationally, particularly with eyes looking southward toward Central and South America, including the Caribbean. To my thinking, such reconfigurations have come none too soon, for they compel us to rethink notions and perspectives about Southern—and more generally, regional—literature that, in having been accepted for so long, often get taken for granted and go unquestioned. If nothing else, as scholars and readers of Southern literature, we're less provincial than we used to be, and certainly less narrow than many of our more with-it critics accuse us of being.

That's one way of looking at it. Here's another: our nation's recent history, particularly the war in Iraq, compels us, as concerned citizens in a democracy, to think internationally, to learn more about regions of the world whose futures are now integrally bound up with ours. I've read more on the Middle East and Afghanistan in the last three years than I have in the previous 20; and I continue to read, as I've been doing for a number of years, about African culture and history. All of this has nothing to do with Southern literature—or does it? In my own small and untrained way, I find myself doing what the scholars who are recontextualizing Southern literature are doing—thinking about issues of region and regional literature in ways that cross oceans and continents, oceans and continents that we all need to be crossing, imaginatively if not literally, if we are ever to understand our place in and relationship to the rest of the world.

I remember after September 11th how hard it was to think about Southern literature and culture. It all seemed so trivial in the face of that disaster. Of course, as I knew then and know now even more, studying the literature and culture of the South is only trivial when you decide it is, which for me means when you completely isolate what you're reading and studying about region from the new international backdrop by which we now live. There's lots still to learn, lots of connections still to be made. Happy journeys and happy holidays.

Bob Brinkmeyer

A Message from the SSSL President:

Outgoing President's Report

As my term as president of the SSSL comes to its close, I'd like to say something in my last column in the *Newsletter* about what the Society's done over the past two years and what still lies before us. When I became president at the beginning of 2003, several projects seemed to me to be worth some sustained attention. While I don't know that we've advanced on all these fronts as far as we might, I'm satisfied that we've at least made some significant progress.

In the last couple of years we've tried to give the SSSL a presence on the internet that is useful to our membership and informative to those who might want to know more about us and possibly join us. I'm sure there is more that we might do (I almost said might could do, but I don't want to sound too provincial in my final presidential pronouncements) to enhance the value of the SSSL website to our membership and the scholarly world. But the impetus for these innovations needs to come from the membership. The platform is now in place, and we have a reliable and available webmaster to do the technical tasks. What we need now is your input.

Befitting the re-invigoration of our website, we've put the Society's *Newsletter* on-line, making it easily available to anyone who uses the internet, while providing an electronic archive of current and recent *Newsletters*. Now the Society doesn't have to contend with the substantial expenses of printing and mailing the *Newsletter* that we traditionally had to defray. But now that people around the world can read our *Newsletter* with ease, are we making the most of the *Newsletter's* new electronic form?

Thanks to Mary Weeks-Baxter, our new Chair of the SSSL's Bibliography Committee, we now have a re-organized and re-energized committee to do the essential bibliographical work of the Society. Throughout my career in southern literature, I've relied on the SSSL's ongoing bibliographies, as I'm sure most of our membership has as well. The on-line SSSL Bibliography <<http://www.missq.msstate.edu/sssl/>>, which our colleagues at Mississippi State have fashioned into a dynamic and flexible research tool, will be all the more valuable to us as Mary and her committee are able to update it. We all need to support Mary in her work.

Six months ago the Modern Language Association informed me that this year the Society's status as an Allied and Affiliated Organization was due for review. I'm happy to note that the report I sent the MLA in March has secured once again our traditional status as an Allied and Affiliated Organization of the MLA.

We are now approaching the 20th anniversary of the publication of *The History of Southern Literature* by the LSU Press. One of the questions I've been asked, but can't answer, is what sort of follow-up is contemplated for *The History*. Since the SSSL can't simply decree an updating of the *The History of Southern Literature*, the leadership of the Society needs to know from its members what sort of successor to *The History* they would like to see. And who would like to oversee the creation of this successor? So far, I've heard from a handful of folks who would like to see the SSSL undertake a significant new publication, particularly if it would update *The History*. But I haven't heard from anyone who wants to take the lead in actually deciding what sort of new publication the Society might want to produce. Again, if this is a matter of concern to the members of this organization, the leaders of the Society need to hear from all of you as to how you'd like to address this matter, and particularly what you'd be willing to contribute to move us from occasional discussion to purposeful action toward a concrete result.

Any of the officers of the SSSL, including, of course, everyone on the Executive Council, welcomes your replies and inquiries. Best wishes for a fulfilling end of the year.

Bill Andrews

UNC-Chapel Hill

UPCOMING EVENTS & CALLS FOR PAPERS

As usual, SSSL is sponsoring two sessions at this year's MLA Conference. The Tuesday session will include a brief presentation ceremony for this year's winner of the C. Hugh Holman Award for Scholarship. The conference will be held in Philadelphia, December 27-30.

Sexuality and the Grotesque in Southern Literature and Film

Tuesday, 28 December, 3:30–4:45 p.m.

Presiding: Riché D. Richardson, University of California, Davis

1. "Getting the Gags: History, Sexuality, and Grotesque Humor in Blanche McCrary Boyd's *The Revolution of Little Girls*," Susan L. Edmunds, Syracuse University.
2. "Look Away, Look Away: Patricia Highsmith's Southern Otherness," Nathan G. Tipton, University of Memphis.
3. "Queering the Gothic in Ellen Douglass's *A Lifetime Burning*," Deborah Wilson, Arkansas Tech University.

The Borders of Southern Literature

Thursday, 30 December, 1:45–3:00 p.m.

Presiding: Barbara Ladd, Emory University

1. "The Red Atlantic: Nationalist Cross-Dressing and Native Cultural Authority in the Florida Captivity Narrative of Jonathan Dickinson," Eric Gary Anderson, George Mason University.
2. "Confederate Cuba," Caroline Field Levander, Rice University.
3. "Life and Death in the Dirty South: Urban Ritual Grounds in Tayari Jones's *Leaving Atlanta*," Jürgen Ernst Grandt, University of Georgia.

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There will be a Special Session of the **Walker Percy Society** at the American Literature Association Annual Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, on May 25-29, 2005.

Send proposals, abstracts, or 20 minute papers on any aspect of Percy's writings to:

Prof. John F. Desmond
Department of English
Whitman College
Walla Walla, WA 99362

desmond@whitman.edu

Deadline: No later than December 15, 2004.

Delta Blues Symposium XI: Imagining the Delta

The Department of English and Philosophy at Arkansas State University (Jonesboro campus) announces its eleventh annual Delta Blues Symposium, to be held 7-9 April 2005. The theme for Delta Blues Symposium XI is "Imagining the Delta." Presentations are encouraged from scholars and students of the humanities and social sciences-especially anthropology, art history, economics, folklore studies, geography, history, literature, musicology, political science, and sociology. Topics which focus on the Symposium's theme may examine the ways in which the seven-state Mississippi River Delta has been imagined in mass media, history, and various forms of expressive culture; continues to be presented and represented; and is defined by those who foresee the Delta's future. We especially encourage presentations on Delta writers who have previously appeared at symposia, including Lewis Nordan, Ellen Douglas, Ellen Gilchrist, Steve Yarbrough, Beverly Lowry, Yusef Komunyakaa, Arthur Flowers, and Michael Harper.

Although we especially encourage presentations that deal with "Imagining the Delta," we welcome proposals for papers and panels which deal with any aspect of the region or with the blues, perhaps the region's most famous export. Delta Blues Symposium XI will be a particularly important installment in this series of conferences as we begin our second decade. Featured participants on the program include novelist John Dufresne, folklorist Henry Glassie, and bluesman Little Milton.

Program proposals may be for individual presentations or for panels. These should be sent as 100-word abstracts. We also urge participation by creative writers and other artists. Please send samples of previous work for our consideration. The submission deadline is 14 January 2005. The registration fee of \$25.00, which covers Symposium expenses and brings a one-year subscription to *Arkansas Review*, will be collected after proposals have been accepted. Note that this fee is waived for currently enrolled students.

Proposals may be sent via post or e-mail to the following address:

Delta Symposium Committee
Department of English and Philosophy
PO Box 1890
Arkansas State University
State University, AR 72467
delta@astate.edu <delta@astate.edu>

For further information see: www.clt.astate.edu/blues

Attention SSSL Members:

This year's election will be tallied electronically. Please send an email or fax to Jeff Abernathy (email: abernathy@augustana.edu or fax: 309-794-7422) in which you indicate the candidates for executive council for whom you wish to vote. You may vote for as many as four candidates.

SSSL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Martyn Bone is Assistant Professor of American literature at the University of Copenhagen. He was previously a lecturer in American Studies at the University of Nottingham, where he obtained his Ph.D. in 2001. He has published articles and review-essays on Southern literature in various books and journals, including *Journal of American Studies* and *Mississippi Quarterly*. His monograph, *Postsouthern Geographies: Capital, Land and Place from Percy to Bambara*, will be published by Louisiana State UP in 2005. He is currently researching the representation of the transnational South in the work of non-American writers, and has just published "The Transnational Turn in the South: Region, Nation, Globalization" in Russell Duncan and Clara Juncker, eds., *Transnational America* (2004).

Deborah Cohn is Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese at Indiana University - Bloomington. She has published articles and chapters in *Comparative Literature Studies*; *CR: The New Centennial Review*; *Faulkner in the Twenty-First Century: Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha, 2000*; *Latin American Literary Review*; *Southern Quarterly*; and elsewhere. She is co-editor with Jon Smith of *Look Away!: The U.S. South in New World Studies* (Duke UP, 2004). Her book, *History and Memory in the Two Souths: Recent Southern and Spanish American Fiction*, was published in 1999. She recently received a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship to work on a book entitled *Creating the Boom's Reputation: The Promotion of the Boom in and by the U.S.*

Leigh Anne Duck is Assistant Professor of English at the University of Memphis. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 2000, and is currently working on a book, *The Nation's Region: Southern Modernism, Segregation, and U.S. Nationalism*. She has published articles in *American Literary History*, *Journal of American Folklore*, and *Mississippi Quarterly*, as well as essays in *Faulkner in the Twenty-First Century* (UP of Mississippi, 2003) and *Look Away!: The U.S. South in New World Studies* (Duke UP, 2004). Her research interests include twentieth-century southern and U.S. literature and cultural studies, psychoanalysis, critical race theory, political theory and globalization.

Jennifer Greeson is Assistant Professor of English at Princeton University, where her teaching concentrates on American literature before 1865. Her work has focused on the role of representations of “the South” in the formation of U.S. nationalism. A book, *Our South: Region and United States Empire, from Independence to the Spanish-American War*, is forthcoming from Harvard UP, hopefully in Fall 2005; related articles have been published in *American Literature*, *The Yale Journal of Criticism*, and the collection *Messy Beginnings: Postcoloniality and Early American Studies* (Rutgers UP, 2003). A native of North Carolina, she received her doctoral training in the American and African American Studies Programs at Yale (Ph.D. 2001), and went on to a two-year residency at the Society of Fellows in the Humanities, Columbia University, where she organized the symposium “Rethinking Region in the Global Age” (Spring 2003). She has taught courses in southern literature at Yale, Columbia, and Princeton.

Bill Koon holds a Ph.D. from The University of Georgia (1973) and is Professor of English at Clemson University, where he teaches courses in American and Southern literature. He has long been active in the society and presented on Eudora Welty at the 2004 Conference in Chapel Hill. He edited the two-volume collection, *Classic Southern Humor* (Peachtree, 1984), and an anthology of Civil War fiction, *Old Glory and the Stars and Bars* (U of South Carolina P, 1995). His most recent book, *Hank Williams, So Lonesome* (UP of Mississippi, 2002), is generally recognized as the standard biography of Williams. Bill has twice chaired the department at Clemson, he was Senior Fulbright Lecturer in Southern literature to Austria, and he has directed an NEH Seminar in Southern literature.

Tara McPherson is an Associate Professor of Gender Studies and Chair of Critical Studies in the Cinema School at the University of Southern California, where she teaches courses in contemporary popular culture and technology through the lenses of gender, race and region. Her writing has appeared in numerous journals and edited anthologies. Her *Reconstructing Dixie: Race, Gender and Nostalgia in the Imagined South* (Duke UP, 2003) received the 2004 John G. Cawelti Award for the outstanding book published on American Culture. Co-editor of the anthology *Hop on Pop: The Politics and Pleasures of Popular Culture* (Duke UP, 2003), she has launched a new electronic journal, *Vectors*, and is currently co-editing two anthologies and working on a book manuscript on racial epistemologies in the electronic age. Tara is among the founding organizers of *Race in Digital Space*, a multi-year series of conferences and art exhibits, supported by the Annenberg Center for Communication and the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations. She is a member of the Academic Advisory Board of The Academy of Television.

SELECTED RECENT SCHOLARSHIP IN SOUTHERN LITERATURE

JOURNAL ARTICLES

African American Review

Ganter, Granville. "‘He Made Us Laugh Some’: Frederick Douglass’s Humor." 37.4 (2003): 535-52.

Jackson, Cassandra. "‘I Will Gladly Share With Them My Richer Heritage’: Schoolteachers in Frances E. W. Harper’s *Iola Leroy* and Charles Chestnutt’s *Mandy Oxendine*." 37.4 (2003): 553-568.

Lane, Suzanne. "‘Black Thunder’s Call for a Conjure Response to *American Negro Slavery*.'" 37.4 (2003): 583-598.

McCoy, Beth. "Rumors of Grace: White Masculinity in Pauline Hopkins’s *Contending Forces*." 37.4 (2003): 569-81.

Rothberg, Michael. "Dead Letter Office: Conspiracy, Trauma, and *Song of Solomon*’s Posthumous Communication." 37.4 (2003) 501-16.

American Literary History

Boelhower, William. "Mapping the Gift Path: Exchange and Rivalry in John Smith’s *A True Relation*." 15.4 (2003): 655-82.

Clymer, Jeffory A. "Martin Delany’s *Blake* and the Transnational Politics of Property." 15.4 (2003): 709-31.

Lerer, Seth. "Hello, Dude: Philology, Performance, and Technology in Mark Twain’s *Connecticut Yankee*." 15.3 (2003): 471-503.

American Literature

Jones, Norman W. "Coming Out through History’s Hidden Love Letters in *Absalom, Absalom!*" 76.2 (2004): 339-366.

Kane, Thomas H. "Mourning the Promised Land: Martin Luther King Jr.’s Automortography and the National Civil Rights Museum." 76.3 (2004): 549-577.

Levander, Caroline. "‘Let Her White Progeny Offset Her Dark One’: The Child and the Racial Politics of Nation Making." 76.2 (2004): 221-246.

Mississippi Quarterly

Benson, Melanie R. "‘Disturbing the Calculation’: The Narcissistic Arithmetic of Three Southern Writers." 56.4 (2003): 633-45.

Bost, Suzanne. "West Meets East: Nineteenth-Century Southern Dialogues on Mixture, Race, Gender, and Nation." 56.4 (2003): 647-56.

Bucher, Christina A. "Perversely Reading Kate Chopin’s ‘Fedora.’" 56.3 (2003): 373-88.

Duck, Leigh Anne. "Rethinking Community: Post-Plantation Literatures in Postmodernity." 56.4 (2003): 511-19.

Francis, Jacqueline. "Painting the South with a Northern Eye." 56.4 (2003): 597-617.

Handley, George B. "On Reading South in the New World: Whitman, Martí, Glissant, and the Hegelian Dialectic." 56.4 (2003): 521-44.

Henninger, Katherine. "Zora Neale Hurston, Richard Wright, and the Postcolonial Gaze." 56.4 (2003): 581-95.

Lawson, Lewis A. "From Tolstoy to Dostoyevsky in *The Moviegoer*." 56.3 (2003): 411-19.

McWilliams, Mark B. "The Human Face of the Age: The Physical Cruelty of Slavery and the Modern American Novel." 56.3 (2003): 353-71.

Perreault, Jeanne. "The Body, the Critics, and 'The Artificial Nigger.'" 56.3 (2003): 389-410.

Richardson, Riché. "Southern Turns." 56.4 (2003): 555-79.

Ring, Natalie J. "Inventing the Tropical South: Race, Region, and the Colonial Model." 56.4 (2003): 619-31.

Schmidt, Peter. "Walter Scott, Postcolonial Theory, and New South Literature." 56.4 (2003): 545-54.

Waligora-Davis, Nicole A. "Phantom Limbs." 56.4 (2003): 657-74.

Yeager, Patricia. "Southern Orientalism: Flannery O'Connor's Cosmopolis." 56.4 (2003): 491-510.

The Southern Literary Journal

Adams, Timothy Dow. "Telling Stories in Dorothy Allison's *Two or Three Things I Know For Sure*." 36.2 (2004): 82-99.

Butterworth, Keen. "Projections and Reflections in *Audubon: A Vision*." 36.1 (2003): 90-103.

Champion, Laurie. "'I Keep Looking Back to See Where I've Been': Bobbie Ann Mason's *Clear Springs* and Henry David Thoreau's *Walden*." 36.2 (2004): 47-58.

Gleeson-White, Sarah. "A Peculiarly Southern Form of Ugliness: Eudora Welty, Carson McCullers, and Flannery O'Connor." 36.1 (2003): 46-57.

Harrison, Suzan. "Repudiating Faulkner: Race and Responsibility in Ellen Douglas's *The Rock Cried Out*." 36.1 (2003): 1-20.

Hovis, George. "'I Contain Multitudes': Randall Kenan's *Walking on Water* as Collective Autobiography." 36.2 (2004): 100-125.

Kaeuper, Geoffrey. "New Dominance in the Old Dominion: Steadying William Byrd in *The Secret History of the Line*." 36.1 (2003): 121-39.

McGill, Robert. "The Life You Write Might Be Your Own: Epistolary Autobiography and the Reluctant Resurrection of Flannery O'Connor." 36.2 (2004): 31-46.

Mitchell, Douglas. "'The Conflict is Behind Me Now': Shelby Foote Writes the Civil War." 36.1 (2003): 21-45.

Morris, Gregory. "*Boy With Loaded Gun*: The Confessions of Lewis Nordan." 36.2 (2004): 59-81.

Pierce, Yolanda. "Her Refusal to Be Recast(e): Anne Burton's Narrative of Resistance." 36.2 (2004): 1-12.

Ramsey, William M. "Jean Toomer's Eternal South." 36.1 (2003): 74-89.

Robinson, Owen. "Interested Parties and Theorems to Prove: Narrative and Identity in Faulkner's Snopes Trilogy." 36.1 (2003): 58-73.

Smith, Jon. "Hot Bodies and 'Barbaric Tropics': The U.S. South and New World Natures." 36.1 (2003): 104-120.

Turner, Elizabeth Hayes. "John Phillip Santos and the Creation of Sacred Memories." 36.2 (2004): 126-44.

Whitted, Quiana J. "'Using My Grandmother's Life as a Model': Richard Wright and the Gendered Politics of Religious Representation." 36.2 (2004): 13-30.



The Southern Quarterly

Cohn, Deborah. "William Faulkner's Ibero-American Novel Project: The Politics of Translation and the Cold War." 42.2 (2004): 5-18.

Costello, Brannon. "Playing Lady and Imitating Aristocrats: Race, Class, and Money in *Delta Wedding* and *The Ponder Heart*." 42.3 (2004): 21-54.

Denman, Stan. "Political Playing for the Soul of the American South: Theater and the Maintenance of Cultural Hegemony in the American Bible Belt." 42.3 (2004): 64-72.

Ford, Sarah. "The Death of the Author: Eudora Welty's Canonical Status." 42.3 (2004): 86-94.

Haddox, Thomas F. "Making Patriarchy Work for You: Jill Conner Browne's Southern, Retrofeminist Conduct Manuals." 42.3 (2004): 133-129.

Joiner, Dorothy. "Betty Rivins Edwards: *Food, Ritual, and the Southern Experience*." 42.2 (2004): 60-64.

McMullen, Jennifer. "Gail Godwin's Message: To Those Who Want Wholeness." 42.3 (2004): 95-112.

Mickelson, Donald J. "'You Ain't Never Caught a Rabbit': Covering and Signifyin' in Alice Walker's 'Nineteen Fifty-Five.'" 42.3 (2004): 5-20.

O'Connor, Jacqueline. "Moving into the Rooming House: Interiority and Stage Space in Tennessee Williams's *Fugitive Kind* and *Vieux Carré*." 42.2 (2004): 19-36.

Patterson, Laura Sloan. "Sexing the Domestic: Eudora Welty's *Delta Wedding* and the Sexology Movement." 42.2 (2004): 37-59.

Peek, Charles A. "'That Evening Sun(g)': Blues Inscribing Black Space in White Stories." 42.3 (2004): 130-50.

Piacentino, Ed. "'The common humanity that is in us all': Toward Racial Reconciliation in Gaines's *A Lesson Before Dying*." 42.3 (2004): 73-85.

Unrue, Darlene Harbour. "Katherine Anne Porter's 'Magic': Levels of Meaning in a Neglected Masterpiece." 42.3 (2004): 55-63.

The Southern Review

Essays:

Fraser, Russell. "Painting by Numbers in Paul Valéry." 40.1 (2004): 158-71.

Graf, Stephen. "Lawn Darts." 40.3 (2004): 568-84.

Smith, Lee. "Return to Ship Island." 40.1 (2004): 153-57.

Spiegelman, Willard. "Landscape and Identity: Charles Wright's Backyard Metaphysics." 40.1 (2004): 172-96.

Strout, Cushing. "On Lewis Simpson's Idea of Tradition: A New Englander's Story." 40.3 (2004): 585-601.

Wyatt-Brown, Bertram. "Ted, Sylvia, and St. Botolph's: A Cambridge Recollection." 40.2 (2004): 352-68.

Do you have ideas for future Newsletters? If so, let us hear from you!

We welcome your ideas and suggestions for the Newsletter, and we thank all those who have contributed to past issues. What would you like to see in future issues? We are especially interested in articles, essays, book reviews—any piece of writing you'd like to submit for consideration. Just drop us a line at the University of Arkansas, Kimpel Hall 333, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701, or email us at sssl@uark.edu.

MEMBERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Please let us know about your books, articles, awards, presentations, or other distinctions, so that we may place you “in the spotlight” for our next issue. Email us at: sssl@uark.edu

Martyn Bone has recently published articles on the representation of Atlanta in Tom Wolfe’s *A Man in Full* (in Suzanne Jones and Sharon Monteith, eds., *South to a New Place*, 2002) and Toni Cade Bambara’s *Those Bones Are Not My Child* (*Journal of American Studies*, August 2003). For *Mississippi Quarterly*, he has written review-essays on Willie Morris, Ellen Douglas, and Harry Crews (Winter 2002-2003) and the Agrarians (Summer 2003). Martyn is currently working on the transnational South. In April 2004, he presented a paper at the British Association of American Studies conference in Manchester: “It Ain’t Where You’re From, It’s Where You’re At: The Transnational Turn, the New Southern Studies, and Patrick Neate’s *Twelve Bar Blues*.” He has since published “The Transnational Turn in the South: Region, Nation, Globalization,” in Russell Duncan and Clara Juncker, eds., *Transnational America* (2004). In August 2003, Martyn took up a teaching post at the University of Copenhagen; in spring 2004, he taught an undergraduate course entitled “Reinventing the Southern Renaissance.” He wrote about the course, and about Southern literary studies in Denmark, as part of a broader survey of Southern literary studies aimed at Danish teachers of English (“The Invention and Reinvention of Southern Literary Studies, 1953-2003,” *AngloFiles*, May 2004).

Patricia Bradley’s recent publications include “The Clown, the Acrobat and the Ring Master: Robert Penn Warren’s ‘The Circus in the Attic’ as Personal Myth.” in *rWp: An Annual of Robert Penn Warren Studies* (2003), and “Nathaniel Hawthorne in the Attic: Robert Penn Warren’s ‘The Circus in the Attic’ and Critical (Auto)Biography” in the *Nathaniel Hawthorne Review* (Fall 2003). Also, *Robert Penn Warren’s Circus Aesthetic and the Southern Renaissance*, by Patricia Bradley, was published by the University of Tennessee Press in September 2004.

J. Lasley Dameron was awarded the Traces Award by the United Membership of Retired Persons at the University of Memphis. The Traces Award recognizes a retired faculty member’s service to the University of Memphis along with research effort after retirement.

M. Thomas Inge, Blackwell Professor of the Humanities at Randolph-Macon College, was given by the college the Samuel Nelson Gray Distinguished Professor Award at ceremonies on April 21, 2004. The award was made for his outstanding contributions as an “imaginative scholar and a valued teacher devoted to the liberal arts and to interdisciplinary studies.” Inge graduated from Randolph-Macon College in 1959, and he had been a faculty member there since 1984. Inge recently read a paper on “Jean Renoir’s Southern Agrarian Fable” at the meeting of the European Association for American Studies at Charles University in Prague on April 3, 2004.

Kenneth Robbins’ new novel, *The City of Churches*, was published in May 2004, by NewSouth Books, Montgomery, AL. The novel fictionalizes events which were front page news in 1963 in this work which has been hailed by Nikki Giovanni as “a great effort. A rewarding story...” Booklist reports: “Robbins makes this epic historic moment human again--personal, confounding, terrifying, and necessary-- and reminds us of all we’ve overcome and all that we must yet achieve.” In addition to his fictional writings, Robbins’ stage plays continue to be performed with success, most recently *Sisters All* (a play about American nurses during the Battle of the Philippines, 1942), produced in Copenhagen, Denmark, and *Molly’s Rock* (a drama set in post Civil War South Carolina) produced by the Raven’s Theatre Company, Chicago, IL. Also, Dorothy Dodge Robbins and Kenneth Robbins continue their fascination with literary Christmases with *Christmas on the Great Plains* (Oct. 2004, University of Iowa Press), following their successful collection *Christmas Stories from Louisiana* (Oct. 2003, University Press of Mississippi).

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In Memory of Richard Calhoun, SSSL President 1986-88

Richard James Calhoun, 77, died at UNC Hospital March 18, 2004, of pneumonia, a complication of Parkinson's Disease. With him in his last hours were his devoted wife Doris, his son Martin Calhoun of Herndon, Virginia, and his daughter Carolyn Culhane of Vienna, Virginia. He was predeceased by his daughter Rebecca Hillman. Also bereaved are son-in-law Brian Culhane, daughter-in-law Marjie Calhoun, and grandchildren Alena and Alex Hillman, Meg Calhoun, and Gillian Culhane.

Born in Jackson, Tennessee, Prof. Calhoun spent his earliest years in Jackson, Mississippi. During World War II he served in the US Army Field Artillery and in the US Naval Preparatory School. He earned his B.A. from Peabody-Vanderbilt, his M.A. from Johns Hopkins University, and his Ph.D. in American Literature from UNC-Chapel Hill. He also attended the Kenyon School of English and the University of Chicago for studies in American literature and in literary criticism.

Prof. Calhoun taught at Jackson (AL) State University, Davidson College, and, for 34 years, at Clemson University, where he was Alumni Distinguished Professor of English. He taught as Senior Fulbright Lecturer at the Universities of Ljubljana and Sarajevo in Yugoslavia, the Universities of Aarhus and Odense in Denmark, and the University of Vienna in Austria. He also lectured on American writers in five European countries for the Arts America Program of USIA. He served his profession as an active member of the Modern Language Association, the South Atlantic Modern Language Association, the Society for the Study of Southern Literature, the Robert Frost Society, and the Philological Association of the Carolinas.

Beyond the classroom experience, what gave Calhoun the greatest satisfaction was the more than 20 years he served as editor of the *South Carolina Review*, the series of readings by contemporary poets he organized at Clemson, and the contributions he made in books, monographs, and papers read while promoting the excellencies of poets James Dickey, Robert Lowell, William Carlos Williams, Galway Kinnell, Richard Wilbur, and Randall Jarrell. Among his scholarly pursuits were the literary criticism in antebellum Southern periodicals and the autobiography of South Carolina man-of-letters William J. Grayson. During his last 10 years Calhoun was pleased to be a part of a Robert Frost circle of scholars and teachers, convened by the poet's granddaughter to revive an appreciation for Frost's skill at his craft and his complexity of thought.

Richard Calhoun served on the SSSL Executive Council from 1976-79 and 1982-85. He was SSSL President from 1986-88 and Vice-President from 1984-86.

Memorial contributions can be directed to either the *S.C. Review*, Dept. of English, Box 341503, Clemson University, Clemson, SC, 29634 or to Friends of the Ciompi String Quartet, Institute of the Arts, Box 90685, Duke University, Durham, NC, 27708.

MEMBERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT (continued from pg. 9)

Look Away! The U.S. South in New World Studies, edited by **Jon Smith** and **Deborah Cohn** and whose diverse contributors include such well-known SSSL and/or Faulkner Society members as **Robert H. Brinkmeyer** and **Debra Rae Cohen**, **Leigh Anne Duck**, **Richard King**, **John T. Matthews**, **Scott Romine**, and **Philip Weinstein**, was published by Duke University Press in June 2004. Smith was also awarded a 2005 Fulbright Senior Scholar grant to Universität Dortmund in Germany, where he will teach three graduate courses in American studies, including one seminar on the U.S. South in postcolonial contexts and another on Willa Cather and Eudora Welty.

INTERNATIONAL FAULKNER SYMPOSIUM NEWS

The William Faulkner Society of Japan held an International Faulkner Symposium June 12 and 13, 2004, at Chuo University in Tokyo. The theme for the symposium was "History and Memory in Faulkner's Novels." Papers on the program included:

Tanaka Hisao (Hiroshima University), "Memory, History, and 'Rememoration': Hightower and Quentin"

Michael Zeitlin (U. of British Columbia), "The Uncanny and the Opaque in Faulkner's Historical Memory"

Koyama Toshio (Kwansei Gakuin University), "'The Waste Land' and Reproduction: The Creation of *Flags in the Dust*"

Tanaka Takako (Nagoya City University), "Faulkner's Use of Funeral Processions in *As I Lay Dying* and *Go Down, Moses*"

Nicole Molinoux (University of Rennes), "The French Architect in *Absalom, Absalom!* and *Requiem for a Nun*"

Owada Eiko, "History and Memory in Faulkner's *Carcassonne* and *Black Music*"

Kang Hee (University of Daegu), "Memory/Past in *The Sound and The Fury*: Existential Trope for Desire and Loss/Discourse of Death"

Niro Takuya (Musashi University), "Sutpin's Design and the Problem of History"

Hiraishi Takaki (University of Tokyo), "From Darl Bundren to Quentin Compson: Faulkner's Clairvoyant Narrators"

Noel Polk (University of Southern Mississippi), "Reading Blood and History in *Go Down, Moses*"

Thadious M. Davis (Vanderbilt University), "The Race for Memory: Raced Property as Monument in *Go Down, Moses*"

Fujihira Ikuko (Chuo University), "The Theater for Forgotten Scenes in *Requiem for a Nun*"

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Print off this form and fill out the following information. Mail this form, with a check for \$10 made out to the Society for the Study of Southern Literature, to Jeff Abernathy, Dean of the College, Professor of English, Augustana College, 639 38th Street, Rock Island, Illinois, 61201.

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For Inclusion in the Upcoming SSSL Newsletter:

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Dr. Robert Brinkmeyer, SSSLN Editor
Department of English, University of Arkansas
333 Kimpel Hall, Fayetteville, AR 72701

Or E-mail to: [sssl@uark.edu]



DEADLINE FOR SPRING 2005 ISSUE: April 1, 2005

Please include your name and affiliation. Submit information in any of the following categories.

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- Calls for papers
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- Other items of interest to SSSL members

If you are organizing a panel for upcoming conferences/symposia, please provide complete information.