

# The Society for the Study of Southern Literature



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## NEWSLETTER

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### From the Editor:

First of all, surely I need to acknowledge the extraordinary events in the US this past week. As a colleague suggested to me the other day, Obama's election perhaps signals the real beginning of the 21st century. We are certainly caught up in the excitement here across the Pacific – the tension and anticipation at Sydney University last week was palpable throughout the day, with televisions across campus tuned into CNN. The H-South site has started what should prove a fascinating discussion on the ways in which we might now teach, speak and write about race.

Also, I want to thank all the generous contributors to yet another bumper issue of the Newsletter. We are all busy people, so I really am most appreciative of those of you who have sent me submissions. Thank you.

As you will see from the pages that follow, the SSSL continues to be a peripatetic society: within a six month period alone, it has hosted or will be hosting panels in Reno (RMMLA last month), San Francisco (MLA December) and Boston (ALA May). It is very heartening, I think, that the Society has such a strong presence in these large conferences, even if sometimes the audience might equal the panellists in number, as was Bob Brinkmeyer, Jon Smith and my recent experience at RMMLA.

I wish you all safe and happy holidays, and I look forward to hearing about the SSSL panels at MLA – they certainly look fascinating topics.

All the best,  
**Sarah Gleeson White**

## A Message from the SSSL President

Greetings from Williamsburg, where the autumn leaves are especially lovely this year because of the chilly nights we've been having for the past month. I'm nearing the end of my very busy two year stint as SSSL President, and at the beginning of the year I'll be turning the reins over to the very capable hands of John Lowe of Louisiana State University. Jeff Abernathy, who has toiled diligently for the past ten years as secretary treasurer, is stepping down as well, and Katie McKee of the University of Mississippi has graciously agreed to serve in that capacity for at least the next couple of years. Jeff and I both wish John and Katie all the best as SSSL gears up for its first post Katrina conference in New Orleans. Conference organizers Barbara Ewell and Rebecca Mark have already started the wheels turning, and I think we can be assured that our next SSSL conference, set for the spring of 2010, will continue to draw new SSSL members as scholars in the field explore the possibilities of expanding the theoretical, conceptual, and geographical boundaries of southern cultural studies in the 21st century.

So many graduate students were in attendance at the Williamsburg conference in April that the Executive Council agreed to implement our first travel grant competition, named at my request for two veteran members of the Society—Noel Polk, who recently retired from teaching at Mississippi State University but continues to edit *The Mississippi Quarterly*, and Peggy Whitman Prenshaw, who retired from Louisiana State University, where she held the Fred C. Frey Chair in Southern Studies, and who is now Scholar in Residence at Millsaps College. We based the competition for four travel grants of \$500 each on conference papers read at the conference, and over twenty graduate students, all of whom had to travel at least fifty miles to reach Williamsburg, answered our call for submissions, which were then weighed and considered by the SSSL program committee, which consisted of Eric Anderson, Suzanne Jones, Roberta Rosenberg, and me. I'm happy to announce that the 2008 winners of the Noel Polk travel grant awards are Katie Burnett of the University of Mississippi and Lauren E. LaFauci of the University of Michigan. Noah Mass of the University of Texas at Austin, and Alan Taylor of Boston University are the two winners of the Peggy Whitman Prenshaw travel grant awards. On behalf of the Society as a whole I'd like to extend our hearty congratulations to all four winners. We'll all be looking forward to reading their scholarship in the years to come.

I also have the great pleasure to announce the 2007 winner of the C. Hugh Holman prize, which is awarded by SSSL every year at MLA to the best book in southern studies published that year. The committee members, Edwin Arnold, Julia Eichelberger, and Sarah Gardner, had a veritable bumper crop of wonderful books to consider, and after extensive deliberations they chose Gary C. Ciuba of Kent State University for his 2007 volume *Desire, Violence & Divinity in Modern Southern Fiction*,

issued by Louisiana State University Press. Congratulations to Gary for producing a scholarly volume described by the committee members as “extraordinarily graceful and penetrating.”

In addition, I want to call your attention to SSSL’s two MLA sessions in San Francisco in December. Session Number 51, on “Psychoanalysis, Segregation, and the Sign,” will be held on Saturday, December 27, from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. in Golden Gate 3 at the Hilton. Presided over by Leigh Anne Duck, the session includes the following presenters: Elizabeth F. Abel of the University of California, Berkeley, on “Skin, Text, Image: The Rhetoric of Racial Signs”; Brian J. Norman of Loyola College on “Jim Crow Signs in Post Civil Rights American Fiction”; and John T. Matthews of Boston University on “My Mother Is a Fetish: Death, Desire, and Disavowal in Faulker’s South.” Hortense Jeanette Spillers of Vanderbilt University will respond to the papers. The second SSSL session is Number 167, on “Obscenity Law and Censorship in the U.S. South,” scheduled for Sunday, December 28, 8:30 to 9:45 a.m., in Golden Gate 3 in the Hilton. Chaired by Barbara Ladd of Emory University, the session includes the following presenters: Robert A. Jackson of the University of Virginia on “The Pictorial Press and the Pruning Knife: A Brief History of Southern Film Censorship”; Erick Bachman of the University of California, Santa Cruz, on “‘You Just Ache to Get Down and Lick Something’: *Commonwealth v. Gordon, God’s Little Acre*, and Smut”; and Jeremy Groskopf of Georgia State University on “A Tempest in a Tub: The Atlanta Better Films Committee and the ‘Passive Censorship’ Experiment.” Abstracts of the second session will be available after December 15 at [www.wm.edu/english/sssl](http://www.wm.edu/english/sssl)

Our sessions for MLA 2009 in Philadelphia should be just as exciting, thanks to Barbara Ladd and Thomas Haddox, who have issued calls for papers. (See the Calls for Papers section over).

All in all, it looks as though we have a number of exciting possibilities for exchange and debate in southern cultural studies in the next couple of years to come. I look forward to participating in those exchanges—just as I look forward to the leadership that John Lowe and Katie McKee will be providing us in the next few years to come. I’ve enjoyed meeting all of you and talking about your projects in my capacity as SSSL president, and now that my term is coming to a close, I’ll be able to direct my full attention, undiluted by presidential responsibilities, to the papers, articles, edited collections, and monographs that you’re all producing with such commendable energy.

Here’s hoping that the end of the term will treat you gently.

**Susan V. Donaldson**

College of William and Mary

## SSSL Executive Committee Nominees (2009–2011)

### Nominating Committee:

Melanie R. Benson, University of Hartford (Chair)

Jim Watkins, Berry College

Keith Cartwright, University of North Florida

### Candidate Bios:

#### 1. MICHAEL BIBLER

Michael Bibler is originally from South Carolina and lived in New Orleans and Virginia before moving to the UK, where he is Lecturer of 19th Century American Literature at the University of Manchester. His book *Cotton's Queer Relations: Same Sex Intimacy and the Literature of the Southern Plantation, 1936–1968* is forthcoming in 2009 from University of Virginia Press. He is also co editor of *Just Below South: Intercultural Performance in the Caribbean and the U.S. South* (Virginia, 2007) and of a new scholarly edition of Arna Bontemps's 1939 novel *Black Thunder*, arguably the first novel about the Haitian Revolution by an African American (forthcoming 2009 from LSU Press). He has published in *Southern Cultures and Mississippi Quarterly* and has contributed articles to the *New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*.

#### 2. DAVID A. DAVIS

David A. Davis is Assistant Professor of English and Southern Studies at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. He co edited *North Carolina Slave Narratives* (UNC Press 2005), and he has published essays in *African American Review*, *Mississippi Quarterly*, *Southern Literary Journal*, *Southern Quarterly*, and other journals. He is currently editing a new edition of Victor Daly's novel *Not Only War* and revising a monograph on World War I and southern modernism.

#### 3. THOMAS HADDOX

Thomas Haddox is associate professor of English at the University of Tennessee (Knoxville). He is the author of *Fears and Fascinations: Representing Catholicism in the American South* (Fordham UP, 2005) and of numerous articles on southern and U.S. writers (including, most recently, Alice Randall and John Barth) in such journals as *American Literature*, *Modern Language Quarterly*, *Mosaic*, *Mississippi Quarterly*, *Modern Fiction Studies*, and *Southern Quarterly*.

#### **4. GEORGE HANDLEY**

George Handley is Professor of Humanities at Brigham Young University where he has taught since 1998. He received his BA in Comparative Literature from Stanford University in 1989 and his MA and PhD in Comparative Literature from UC Berkeley in 1995 and also taught at Northern Arizona University. A scholar of literature of the Americas and of ecocriticism, he is the author of *Postslavery Literatures in the Americas* (Virginia 2000) and *New World Poetics: Nature and the Adamic Imagination in Whitman, Neruda, and Walcott* (Georgia 2007) and the co editor of *Caribbean Literature and the Environment* (Virginia 2006) and *America's Worlds and the World's Americas* (Ottawa 2006). He has published articles on literatures of the US South and the Caribbean in *Mississippi Quarterly*, *Callaloo*, *American Literature*, *Global South*, and *Forum for Modern Language Studies*, and in several edited books. He has served on the Executive Board and as Program Chair for the International American Studies Association.

#### **5. LISA HINRICHSEN**

Lisa Hinrichsen is an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Arkansas where she teaches courses on American literature, African American literature, literary theory, and the literature of the American South. She has contributed essays to the *Southern Literary Journal*, the *Journal of Modern Literature*, *Essays in Criticism*, and *Etudes Faulkneriennes*, and she is currently finishing a manuscript on the roles trauma, fantasy, and misrecognition play in modern and contemporary southern literature. For the past two years she has worked with the SSSL as the book review editor for H Southern Lit.

#### **6. VALÉRIE LOICHOT**

Valérie Loichot is Associate Professor of French at Emory University where she is also an affiliate of Comparative Literature and Latin American and Caribbean Studies. She is the author of *Orphan Narratives: The Postplantation Literature of William Faulkner, Édouard Glissant, Toni Morrison, and Saint John Perse* (University of Virginia Press, New World Studies, 2007). She has published numerous essays on Caribbean literature and culture, postcolonial and racial theories, and the Plantation Americas (Guadeloupe, Martinique, San Lucia, Haiti, and the U.S. South) in journals such as *Callaloo*, *Mississippi Quarterly*, *The Journal of Caribbean Literatures*, *The French Review*, *French Cultural Studies*, *Meridians*, *The International Journal of Francophone Studies*, among others. She is currently writing a book on the poetics and politics of consumption in the Creole Cultures of the Caribbean and Louisiana. She is also completing two essays: one on Lafcadio Hearn and creolization, the other on racial representations of Barack Obama in the French media.

## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

### SSSL Bibliography

SSSL members might find the following statistics to be of interest:

- the number of visits to the SSSL Bibliography website now averages well over 350,000 per year.
- since the SSSL Bibliography went on line in 2003, over a million queries have been entered.
- the number of entries in the SSSL Bibliography totals 21,649.
- currently, 40% of visitors are from outside the United States.

The numbers above indicate that the Bibliography is widely used and is an important source of information for not only scholars of Southern Literature, but also students and general readers.

The SSSL Bibliography Committee is attempting to ensure that our coverage is as complete as possible. If you find gaps in coverage (for example, in the coverage of your own work), then please let us know. If you are willing to write annotations of missing sources, we'd certainly appreciate that as well. You can submit directly through the Bibliography website by clicking on "Want to contribute? Send us your annotations!" located on the home page or via e mail to me at [mweaksbaxter@rockford.edu](mailto:mweaksbaxter@rockford.edu)

Annotations for the Bibliography can be written in complete sentences or in fragments and should be roughly 3 sentences in length. Direct quotations may be included in the annotation. We ask that all bibliographical information follow MLA Style.

Finally, if you are interested in working on the Bibliography Committee, we also have a couple of openings. I'd be glad to send you additional details about what we do. Just e mail me at the above address.

**Mary Weaks Baxter**

Chair, SSSL Bibliography Committee

### The Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association

The Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association's Executive Board voted unanimously in October 2008 to grant affiliate member status to the Society for the Study of Southern Literature. Beginning next year, SSSL will sponsor the RMMLA regular session on Southern Literature and will have the option of holding business meetings or other activities at the annual convention. The existing regular session was begun in 2003 as a special topic project by Tara Powell of the University of South Carolina and later approved as a permanent regular session in 2005. The chairmanship has heretofore been passed along by the process of an election held among each year's panellists, which is the RMMLA tradition. Previous chairs in addition to Tara have included Pamela Washington, Rosalie Murphy Baum, Judy Sneller, and Andrew Leiter.

The 2008 RMMLA regular session, held in Reno on October 9, was organized by Tara and explored the geographical margins of southern literature, especially the west. Sarah Rose Gleeson White of the University of Sydney presented "Out of Place, Out of Form: William Faulkner, the West, and the Western," and Robert Brinkmeyer of the University of South Carolina spoke on "Space and Place in the Fiction of



Richard Ford.” Jon Smith of Simon Fraser University talked about his new project, “Canada, the U.S. South, and New World Studies: Broadening the *Look Away!* Model?”

Randy Jasmine of Dixie State College of Utah, who presented on the session in 2007 and served as Alternate Chair in 2008, will organize the 2009 session to be held October 8-9 in Snowbird, Utah. For information about this session or the RMMLA, see the organization’s website at [www.rmmla.org](http://www.rmmla.org), or email Randy at [jasmine@dixie.edu](mailto:jasmine@dixie.edu)

## Faulkner Conference Stimulates a “Return to the Text”

In the steamy heat of a Mississippi summer, academics and Faulknerphiles alike gathered at the University of Mississippi to offer homage to one of the South’s greatest writers. This year’s Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference centered upon the “returns of the text,” a topic that allowed for remarkably varied presentations. A paper by James B. Carothers, “In Conflict with Itself”: Faulknerian Context,” opened the week’s program, which offered workshops on teaching in addition to art exhibits and guided tours of local landmarks. A literary salon, Faulkner genealogy and dinners highlighting true Southern hospitality rounded off this amazing combination of entertainment and scholarship.

Over the course of the week the conference featured a dazzling array of important figures in Southern Studies including Thadious M. Davis, Ted Atkinson and Arthur F. Kinney. Joining us from “across the pond,” Martyn Bone and Owen Robinson dealt with textual connections to Nella Larsen’s *Quicksand* and to Faulkner’s New Orleans sketches. The University of Mississippi’s own Ethel Young Minor offered insight into racial liminality and Taylor Hagood’s analysis of Benjy Compson opened new doors into the workings of textuality. Four days of amazing presentations culminated in a picnic at Rowan Oak and the announcement of the university’s newest archival collection of Faulkner’s correspondence with William Bacher.

The 2009 Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference will take place July 19–23 and will focus on Faulkner and “Mystery.” More information and the Call for Papers can be found on the University of Mississippi’s Division of Outreach and Continuing Education website at [www.outreach.olemiss.edu/events/faulkner/](http://www.outreach.olemiss.edu/events/faulkner/)

**Tara McLellan**

University of Mississippi

## Southern Writers/Southern Writing Offers Exciting New Scholarship

Graduate students from across the United States gathered to share their promising new work at this summer’s Southern Writers/Southern Writing Graduate Conference at the University of Mississippi. The two day conference, chaired by Jill Anderson, featured a plenary lecture by John T. Edge, Director of the Southern Foodways Alliance, and offered panels on diverse topics ranging from Ghosts and Grotesques to Southern Memory and Place. Authors William Faulkner, Flannery O’Connor and Zora Neale Hurston

were widely represented in presentations as were more recent writers such as Edwidge Danticat and Willie Morris. At the closing luncheon Matthew R. Vaughn from the University of Tulsa was awarded the prize, generously donated each year by Dr. Colby Kullman, for best paper for his essay, “‘Though Thou Hast Not Thy Bliss’: Failed Seductions in Faulkner’s Early Novels.” The work of every presenter demonstrated incredible new opportunities for Southern Studies scholarship.

The Southern Writers/Southern Writing Conference will celebrate its fifteenth year with an even wider range of offerings, including guest speaker Dr. Scott Romine, author of *The Narrative Forms of Southern Community and The Real South: Southern Narrative in the Age of Cultural Reproduction*. The conference will take place July 16–18, 2009, just before the annual Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference. For more information, please email [swwgradconference@gmail.com](mailto:swwgradconference@gmail.com)

**Tara McLella**

University of Mississippi

## Richard Wright Centenary

*Sherita L. Johnson, Ph.D. University of Southern Mississippi*

This year marks the Centennial Celebration of Richard Wright’s birth. All year, all around the world, conferences and programs have been hosted in his honor. In the state of Mississippi, we have held numerous events for our “native son” in Natchez, Jackson and Hattiesburg. Hopefully after this year, Wright’s works will continue to be taught to younger generations. His fiction, non fiction, poetry, and autobiographical writing can be taught across disciplines and in many English courses. Here is how I have incorporated Richard Wright into three courses this year:

### 1. Southern Literature Survey

The idea of “the” South and Southern identity depends on how the region’s inhabitants express their southernness and how outsiders view the region too. This course will examine how southern writers from various locations and perspectives construct the South in their literary and political narratives. We will also discuss dominant perceptions of the South in America’s cultural imagination. In doing so, we will read selections from novels, poetry, short stories, speeches, and essays in this survey of southern literature. We may also view important films about the South that will supplement our literary studies.

#### *Required Texts*

Suzanne Disheroon Green, ed. *Voices of the American South* (Pearson, 2005)

Erskine Caldwell, *Tobacco Road* (University of Georgia Press, 1995)

Richard Wright, *Black Boy* (Perennial Classics, 1998)

Natasha Trethewey, *Native Guard* (Houghton Mifflin, 2007)

Note: *Black Boy* was taught following a unit on “Dirt and Depression” and “Our South(s) in Perspective” (multi ethnic selections); the goal was to view the development of Southern Literature and allow it to serve as a backdrop for the way in which Wright’s work is contextualized by it.



## 2. Studies in African American Literature: “Richard Wright, 1908 2008”

This year marks the centennial celebration of Richard Wright, Mississippi’s own “native son.” Wright is an acclaimed author of several novels, short stories, autobiography, and political commentary. This class is designed as an introduction to the life and literature of Richard Wright. Our study will focus on a few selections from his canon. Literary criticism, film, and a variety of other materials will be used to supplement our readings of the primary texts.

### *Required Texts*

Richard Wright, *Uncle Tom’s Children* (Harper Perennial Classics)

*Native Son* (Harper Perennial Classics)

“How ‘Bigger’ Was Born” (available on E Reserve)

A Composition Journal (for daily reflection)

Selections from Kenneth Kinnamon and Michel Fabre’s *Conversations with Richard Wright* (1993).

NOTE: This course was a compact introductory upper division course; the students viewed the documentary “Black Boy,” the film version of “Long Black Song” (in comparison to the text), and the 1980s’ version of “Native Son” (outdated but useful for comparative study). Students were encouraged to visit Wright’s hometown in Natchez, MS.

## 3. Senior Seminar: “Black Autobiography”

Designed as a genre study, this course surveys the development of autobiographical writings by African Americans and black people throughout the diaspora. We will examine the methods and motivations for writing about personal experiences that may also represent the black experiences of a larger, collective body. We will begin reading slave narratives and continue studying other classic works including autobiographies by important historical and literary figures such as Richard Wright, Anne Moody and Malcolm X. Recent best selling memoirs are also included in this course.

NOTE: After discussing the development of the genre, beginning with Equiano’s narrative and Jacobs’ *Incidents*, we move to a unit on “Mississippi Lives” reading a selection of WPA narratives (in *Prayin to Be Set Free*), *Black Boy*, and Anne Moody’s *Coming of Age in Mississippi*. Here students learn about individual experiences in the state and how location affects identity construction as well as autobiographical writing.

\*\* On September 14 2008, the University of Southern Mississippi hosted a public lecture featuring Julia Wright, which served as a nice capstone to all the centenary activities.

I offer this information to propose ways in which Wright might be incorporated in the curriculum. These are all undergraduate courses but I would one day like to teach a graduate course on “Richard Wright’s World,” looking at his later works, those written in exile, his travel writing, etc. comparing those to his earlier works written while he yet remained a “native son” in the U.S.

## CALLS FOR PAPERS

### **Society for the Study of Southern Literature 2009 American Literature Association Conference CFP**

**Deadline: December 15, 2008**

The Society for the Study of Southern Literature issues a call for papers for two sessions at the 2009 American Literature Association Conference in Boston. The conference will be held May 21–24, 2009, at the Westin–Copley Place. Proposed sessions are described below. Please email abstracts and either a cover letter or 2–page CV by December 15, 2008, to Tara Powell at [tfpowell@gmail.com](mailto:tfpowell@gmail.com), or send hard copies to:

Tara Powell  
Institute for Southern Studies  
University of South Carolina at Columbia  
Gambrell Hall 107  
Columbia SC 29208.

Emailed submissions preferred. For further information about these sessions or SSSL, please contact Tara Powell, or for information about the conference, consult the ALA website at [www.americanliterature.com](http://www.americanliterature.com)

#### **Session 1: Southern Literature and the Environment**

“Sense of place” and “closeness to the land” have long been considered two distinct, albeit not unique, characteristics of the regional literature of the American South. Contemporary scholars of southern literature have begun to suggest any particularly agrarian vision of southerners is fast becoming (or in some cases, has always been) a mythology. In the meantime, among the quickly–growing fields in literary studies is that of environmental writing,

and the ways in which the regional consciousness of such southern writers as James Dickey, John Lane, Walker Percy, Janisse Ray, Bland Simpson, and others have informed their visions on the natural world seem to suggest the opposite. How may environmental and southern studies intersect to illuminate either southern literature generally or the question of southern agrarianism in its many variants specifically? Possible paper topics include: readings of particular southern writers in relation to the environment; “southernness” and its relationship to nature writing and/or other ecocritical work; appropriate creative work; and regional work in relation to currents in American nature and environmental writing in general.

#### **Session 2: Southern Poetry and the Narrative Impulse**

Dave Smith has asserted that there is no contemporary “southern poetry” as such; Jim Applewhite argues southern poetry is distinguished by a paralyzing feeling of emotional submersion; Fred Chappell suggests that southern poems exemplify the power inherent in the “lens of particular place.” Though southern poetry anthologies generally contain substantially less poetry than prose, the South abounds with literature journals, is home to several fine poetry series, and has produced many of the century’s finest poetic voices. Storytelling, the oral tradition, and the narrative impulse are often described as hallmarks of southern fiction. Is this true of southern poetry as well? Recent collections by Fred Chappell, Michael Chitwood, Andrew Hudgins, Sonia Sanchez, Natasha Trethaway, and others, suggest it might. Possible paper topics include: discussions of particular poetic talents, “southernness” in the field of poetry and

poetry studies, narrative (or lack thereof) in poets associated with the South, and regional work in relation to currents in twentieth-century American poetry generally. Creative work that engages these issues is also welcomed.

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## **Society for the Study of Southern Literature MLA 2009 (Philadelphia; Dec. 27–30, 2009)**

### **1. Music and Writing in the U.S. South**

The Society for the Study of Southern Literature seeks proposals for 20-minute papers on the subject of Music and Southern Writing. Proposals welcome on the connections, intersections, and interactions between music and writing in the southern United States. Papers might address the nature of narrative and lyric in southern writing; oral traditions of song and chant; the role of the musician in southern literature; the blues (or jazz) aesthetic in literature; or southern writing and any aspect of musical expression. These suggestions are not meant to be exhaustive—other approaches are welcome. Please send abstracts of 300–500 words, along with any requests for a–v support, to Barbara Ladd ([barbaraladd@emory.edu](mailto:barbaraladd@emory.edu)) by **March 5, 2009**. Inquiries welcome.

### **2. The South and the Sublime**

The horrors and cruelties of slavery and genocide; gothic fantasies of unspeakable acts, perverse sexualities, and naked power; the brutalities and visions of incommensurability produced by isolation, poverty, ignorance, or religious fanaticism; even the uncanniness of the landscapes against which these things transpire—few things about southern literature and culture have proven

more durable (or more vehemently denied) than its association with the sublime. True or false, ideological projections or rigorous critiques, these intimations of sublimity continue to proliferate, taking newer or newly worked forms: the totality of global capitalism and what it so impersonally wreaks on southern peoples, places, and things; the dystopian vision of the South as “red America,” perpetually on the tipping point into fascism or bloodshed. Why are such representations so constant? What do they tell us about the South, and what political valences do they have?

This panel seeks papers that address the changing, contested, but nevertheless persistent association of the South with different versions of the sublime. Papers that explore both the historical specificity of texts and contexts and the theoretical underpinnings of different sublimines are especially welcomed. Abstracts of 250–500 words, along with any requests for a–v support, due to Thomas Haddox at [thaddox@utk.edu](mailto:thaddox@utk.edu) by **5 March**.

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## **The Twentieth Anniversary Southern Writers Symposium at Methodist University February 27–28, 2009**

### **Featured Speaker, Lucinda MacKethan**

The Southern Writers Symposium is dedicated to bringing scholars, creative writers, and members of the reading public together for a lively interchange of ideas about southern literature and culture. Consisting of scholarly sessions, readings, talks, panel discussions, and performances, the Symposium is designed to provide a diverse group of registrants with information, ideas, inspiration, and entertainment.

In honor of its twentieth anniversary, the Southern Writers Symposium in 2009 will return to its roots with an emphasis on North Carolina writers. The Symposium will have an open-topic format this year, and there will also be papers presented on various aspects of southern literature. For further information, or to place your name on the mailing list, contact:

Emily Wright  
English Dept.  
Methodist University  
5400 Ramsey Street  
Fayetteville, NC 28311  
910-630-7551  
[ewright@methodist.edu](mailto:ewright@methodist.edu)  
or visit our website at  
[www.methodist.edu/sws](http://www.methodist.edu/sws)

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### ***North Carolina Literary Review***

The *North Carolina Literary Review* is seeking one or two more paper proposals for a panel on North Carolina Drama at Methodist University's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary Southern Writers Symposium, to be held in Fayetteville, NC, February 27–28, 2009, and to be considered for publication in our 2009 issue, which is featuring North Carolina Drama. Also, for our 2010 issue, featuring Appalachian literature, we are seeking papers on North Carolina writers. Submission deadline: August 1, 2009.

If you have a paper idea for either issue, please contact the editor: Margaret Bauer, at [bauerm@ecu.edu](mailto:bauerm@ecu.edu)

Membership in the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association now includes a subscription

to both the *North Carolina Historical Review* and the *North Carolina Literary Review*. For information about this organization, founded in 1900 and one of the oldest of its kind in the country, go to: <http://www.history.ncdcr.gov/affiliates/lit-hist/lit-hist.htm> Please consider joining “Lit & Hist,” which is committed to its mission of helping to preserve North Carolina's cultural heritage.

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### ***Shenandoah: The Washington And Lee University Review***

*Shenandoah: The Washington And Lee University Review* is pleased to announce the celebration of the journal's 60th anniversary with a special issue centering on the works of Flannery O'Connor. The editor seeks essays, poems, short stories, reviews, photographs and other artwork about, related to or in honor of the fiction and life of O'Connor. Any queries about particular submissions should be directed to [rodsmith@wlu.edu](mailto:rodsmith@wlu.edu)

### **Deadline: October 1, 2009**

A prize of \$1,000 will be awarded to the best O'Connor-related work published in the issue, which is planned for Fall 2010.

Materials should be addressed to:

O'Connor Issue  
*Shenandoah: The Washington and Lee University Review*  
Mattingly House  
2 Lee Avenue  
Washington and Lee University  
Lexington, VA 24450-2116

## SELECTED RECENT SCHOLARSHIP IN SOUTHERN LITERATURE

### ARTICLES

#### *Comparatist*

Anisimova, Irina. "Masks of Authenticity: Failed Quests for the People in *Quicksand* by Nella Larsen and *The Silver Dove* by Andrei Belyi." *Comparatist: Journal of the Southern Comparative Literature Association* 32.1 (2008): 175–192.

#### *Mississippi Quarterly*

Anderson, Eric Gary. "South to a Red Place: Contemporary American Indian Writing and the Problem of Native/Southern Studies." Special Issue: American Indian Literatures and Cultures in the South. *Mississippi Quarterly* 60.1 (2006–7): 5–32.

Benson, Melanie R. "Indian Givers: Reterritorializing the South in Contemporary Native American Literature." Special Issue: American Indian Literatures and Cultures in the South. *Mississippi Quarterly* 60.1 (2006–7): 101–28.

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