

American Literature Association Symposium on American Fiction October 2-4, 2008

**Location: DeSoto Hilton Savannah
15 East Liberty Street,
Savannah, Georgia**

**Conference Director: Olivia Carr Edenfield
Georgia Southern University**

Acknowledgments

The Conference Director, Olivia Carr Edenfield, wishes to express her appreciation to the many people who organized sessions and contributed to the development of this conference. Thanks, too, to the support of the author societies who formed panels. Their presence at the symposium is crucial to the study of American fiction. Special appreciation goes to Alfred Bendixen, Executive Director of the American Literature Association, for his guidance, faith, and constant patience and support. I wish also to thank my mentor, Dr. James Nagel, for his expertise in program planning and for his support of me and all of his UGA students. We are indebted to Andre Dubus III for making time out of his extremely busy schedule to share his time and work with us. Particular thanks to my students Laine Bradley and Ashley Akins for their help with many things, most notably their energy and good will. I thank my university, Georgia Southern, particularly the Department of Literature and Philosophy and the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Dean's Office, for its support of this conference. Both Alfred and I would like to extend our appreciation to Martin Waid and Stephanie Hansard with the DeSoto for their sound advice and guidance. Finally, I thank my family, whose love makes everything possible.

**Olivia Carr Edenfield
Conference Director**

Thursday, October 2, 2008

4:30 pm: Visit and Private Tour of Flannery O'Connor Birthplace, 207 E Charlton St.

8:30-10:00 pm: Opening Reception and Registration, Harbor View Room

Friday, October 3, 2008

Registration Desk 8:00 – 10:00 am
Main Lobby

8:20-9:50 Flannery O'Connor: Social Issues and Human Struggles **North Room**

Chair: Marshall Bruce Gentry, Georgia College & State University

1. "Travelers, Tourists, and Pilgrims: *Wise Blood* and Travel Literature,"
John D. Cox, Georgia College & State University
2. "O'Connor's Displaced Lynchings," Robert Donahoo,
Sam Houston State University
3. "Material Culture, Revelatory Imagery, and the Politics of Containment in
Flannery O'Connor's Short Fiction," Doug Davis, Gordon College
4. "The Erotic Imagination of O.E. Parker," Dianne Bunch,
Alcorn State University

8:20-9:50 Imagery and Point of View **Madison Ballroom**

Chair: Gloria Cronin, Brigham Young University

1. "Symbolic Action in Kate Chopin's 'The Awakening,'" Liam Purdon,
Doane University
2. "Hawthorne's Magic Immorality: Following the Hand in *The Blithedale*
Romance," Thomas Sowders, University of North Carolina Wilmington
3. "McCullers, Welty, Nabokov and the Boarding House Novel in American
Fiction, 1940-1955," Julieann Ulin, University of Notre Dame
4. "'A ripping good yarn': Language as Weapon in Anita Scott Coleman's
Fiction," Laura Barrett, Wilkes Honors College at Florida Atlantic
University

10:00-11:20 Historical and Bibliographical Insights

North Room

Chair: Paul N. Christensen, Texas A&M University

1. "Unwitting Provocateur: Mary Wilkins Freeman and American Academy of Arts and Letters," Keith Newlin, University of North Carolina Wilmington
2. "Twain's *Tom Sawyer*: Adult Literature or Children's Fiction?" Jerome Loving, Texas A&M University
3. "Fitzgerald to Cather: Authorial Attitude in Letters," Gautam Kundu, Georgia Southern University

10:00-11:20 Opera and American Literature

Madison Ballroom

Chair: Bradley C. Edwards, Georgia Southern University

1. "Consumed by Her Art: The Diva in Cather's Fiction," Carmen Trammell Skaggs, Columbus State University
2. "Operatic Poe-etics," Anne Williams, University of Georgia
3. "American Literature and Operatic Speech," David Dudley, Georgia Southern University

11:30-12:50 Sutton Griggs and the Philosophy of Black Fiction

North Room

Chair: Gretchen Long, Williams College

1. Ken Warren, University of Chicago
2. Finnie D. Coleman, University of New Mexico
3. Tess Chakkalakal, Bowdoin College

11:30-12:50 Visual Patterns and Twentieth-Century American Fiction

Madison Ballroom

Chair: Mary Carney, Gainesville State College

1. "Woman Redux: deKooning, Mailer and American Abstract Expressionism,"
Linda Miller, The Pennsylvania State University, Abington College
2. "Recovering Renaissance Imagery: Katherine Anne Porter's 'Pale Horse, Pale Rider' and Albrecht Dürer's Apocalyptic Engravings,"
Shayna Skarf, Brandeis University
3. "The Part and the Whole: Quilt Design in Glaspell's 'A Jury of Her Peers' and Walker's 'Everyday Use,'" Karen Weekes, The Pennsylvania University, Abington College

12:50-2:10 LUNCH (Center Room)

2:10-3:40 Women's War Fiction

North Room

Chair: Karen Weekes, Pennsylvania State University, Abington College

1. "Mary Boykin Chesnut and the Confederate Memorial Movement,"
Wendy Kurant, North Georgia College & State University
2. "'An Unknown World': Piranesi Mysteries in Edith Wharton's Writing,"
Mary Carney, Gainesville State College
3. "'It's strange what you don't forget': Dreaming of the Battlefield in Women's War Fiction," Lisa Hinrichsen, University of Arkansas

**2:10-3:40 Contemporary Fiction: Cormac McCarthy and Breece D’J Pancake
Madison Ballroom**

Chairs: Rick Wallach, University of Miami, and Olivia Carr Edenfield, Georgia Southern University

1. “The Road to Extinction: McCarthy’s Landscape of Loss,”
Dianne C. Luce, independent scholar
2. “‘Apocalypto Redux: McCarthy’s *The Road* and the Post-Apocalyptic Genre,”
Scott Yarbrough, Charleston Southern University
3. “‘Mama Swears It’s the Mark of the Beast’: Theology in Breece D’J Pancake’s
‘The Mark’ and Flannery O’Connor’s ‘A Temple of the Holy Ghost,’”
Brad McDuffie, Nyack College
4. “Defining the Sweat and Blood Aesthetic: Pancake D’J Pancake and the Old,
Weird America,” Damian Carpenter, Texas A&M University

**3:50-5:10 Perspectives on Faulkner
North Room**

Chair: Hugh Ruppensburg, University of Georgia

1. “Androgyny and the Ovidian Subtext in William Faulkner’s *Sanctuary*,”
Nicole Camastra, University of Georgia
2. “Faulkner Draws de Kooning: Race in the Black and White Narrative of
Abstract Expressionism,” Candace Waid, University of California Santa
Barbara
3. “Ledgers, Logic, and Legal Fictions in *Absalom, Absalom!*”
Angela Green, University of Georgia

**3:50-5:10 Perspectives on Melville
Madison Ballroom**

Chair: Carmen Skaggs, Columbus State University

1. “The Discipline and Punishment of ‘Master and Man’: Reversals of Power in
Herman Melville’s *Benito Cereno*,” Joseph Fruscione, Georgetown
University
2. “*The Confidence Man* and P.T. Barnum’s American Museum,”
Bradley C. Edwards, Georgia Southern University
3. “The Speculative Economy of Bachelorhood in Melville’s ‘Benito Cereno,’”
Leslie Petty, Rhodes College

5:00-6:00 Book Signing with Andre Dubus III: E. Shaver Bookstore, 326 Bull Street (on the corner of the DeSoto)

5:30-7:30 Key Note Address and Reception

Harbor View Room

Andre Dubus III will read from and discuss *The Garden of Last Days*

Saturday, October 4, 2008

Registration Desk 8:00-10:00

(Main Lobby)

8:10-9:30 Travels and Journeys

North Room

Chair: Laine Bradley, Georgia Southern University

1. "You Must Go Home Again: The Native American Plot,"
Paul N. Christensen, Texas A&M University
2. "Road Kill: Travel and Identity in Patricia Highsmith's *The Talented Mr. Ripley* and Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*," Tiffany Gilbert,
University of North Carolina Wilmington
3. "The Short Stories of Maria Cristina Mena: Re-defining American
Travelogues on Mexico," Nora L. Wiechert, Washington State University
4. "Deracination as Theme in Thomas Wolfe's 'The Lost Boy,'"
Walton Young, Truett-McConnell College

8:10-9:30 Artistry and Visuality

Madison Ballroom

Chair: Ashley Akins, Georgia Southern University

1. "'Dressed with an idea' and 'arming herself for the battle of life': Fleda
Vetch's Artistry in Henry James's 'The Spoils of Poynton,'"
Amber Nicole Shaw, University of Georgia
2. "The Hard-Boiled Touch: Haptic Visuality and *The Maltese Falcon*,"
Rashna Richards, Rhodes College
3. "New Awakenings: The Significance of Easter Lilies in Kate Chopin's
Fiction," Natalie M. Khoury, University of Georgia

9:40-11:00 Emergence of American Fiction

North Room

Chair: Tomasz Warchol, Georgia Southern University

1. "On *Edgar Huntly's* Hybridity," Jason Richards, Rhodes College
2. "Colonial Nationalism and Cooper," Edward (Ned) Watts, Michigan State University
3. "A New Source for Poe's 'Purloined Letter,'" Richard Kopley, Penn State, DuBois

9:40-11:00 What Is Southern about Hemingway and Fitzgerald

Madison Ballroom

Chair: James H. Meredith, The Ernest Hemingway Foundation and Society

1. Ruth Prigozy, Hofstra University
2. Kirk Curnutt, Troy University Montgomery
3. E. Stone Shiflet, Capella University
4. Kathleen Robinson, Eckerd College and University of South Florida
5. Bryant Mangum, Virginia Commonwealth University

11:10-12:30 Memory, Memoir, and Mythical Space

North Room

Chair: Alfred Bendixen, Texas A&M University

1. "The Agitation of Memoir in the World of U.S. Fiction," Linda Wagner-Martin, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
2. "African American Memory, Mourning, and Masculinity in Colson Whitehead's *John Henry Days*," Eva Tettenborn, Penn State Worthington Scranton
3. "Willa Cather's Sante Fe Saints: The Desert Sublime in *Death Comes for the Archbishop*," Gloria Cronin, Brigham Young University

11:10-12:30 Contemporary Perspectives

Madison Ballroom

Chair: Selina Lai, The University of Hong Kong

1. "American Vietnam War Fiction in the Iraq War Era," Joan Boyd, University of Ulster, Northern Ireland
2. The Professor as Super(anti)hero in Contemporary American Academic Fiction," Jo Angela Edwins, Francis Marion University
3. "Boroughs and Neighbors: Traumatic Solidarity' in Jonathan Safran Foer's *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*," Matt Mullins, University of North Carolina Greensboro

12:30-2:00 Luncheon and Key Note: James Nagel, University of Georgia

Harbor View Room

"Reflections on Realism and Naturalism"

2:10-3:30 Realism and Naturalism

North Room

Chair: Keith Newlin, University of North Carolina Wilmington

1. "Creating the Real from the Naïve and Romantic: Mrs. Gerhardt and the Harper editing of *Jennie Gerhardt*," Annemarie Koning Whaley, East Texas Baptist University
2. "Performance Anxiety: Staging the Self in Edith Wharton's Fiction," Taylor Parson, University of North Carolina Wilmington
3. "Transforming History: The Economic Context of Frank Norris's 'A Deal in Wheat,'" Jon F. Dawson, University of Georgia
4. "'You Must Remember This': Reverie, Bereavement, and a Sense of Place in Theodore Dreiser's *A Hoosier Holiday*," Michael Wentworth, University of North Carolina Wilmington

2:10-3:30 Flannery O'Connor: Philosophy and Theology
Madison Ballroom

Chair: Robert Donahoo, Sam Houston State University

1. “*Tantum Ergo Ridiculum Sacramentum*’: O’Connor and the Meaning of Sacrament,” Henry (Hank) T. Edmondson III, Georgia College & State University
2. “Enoch Emery: The Boy with Wise Blood,” Susan Presley, Georgia College & State University
3. “Rayber Squared: Negotiating Self-Representation in *The Violent Bear It Away*,” Scott Daniel, Georgia College & State University

3:40-5:00 Postmodern Perspectives
North Room

Chair: Richard Flynn, Georgia Southern University

1. “The Politics and Poetics of Divorce in John Updike’s ‘Gesturing,’” Matthew A. Shipe, Washington University
2. “The Calamity of Accord: Compliance and Dissent in Bukowski’s *Ham on Rye*,” Kenneth K. Brandt, The Savannah College of Art and Design
3. “‘A Lamb in Wolf’s Clothing’: Postmodern Realism in A.M. Homes’s *Music for Torching* and *This Book Will Save Your Life*,” Mary Holland, SUNY New Paltz
4. “‘A Devouring Neon’: Don DeLillo and the Threat of Fame,” Matthew Luter, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

3:40-5:00 Southern Literature
Madison Ballroom

Chair: James Nagel, University of Georgia

1. “A Defense of Steve Zaillian’s 2006 Remake of *All the King’s Men*,” Hugh Ruppensburg, University of Georgia
2. “Tarred, Feathered and Ridden on A Rail: Historical Contexts for Mob Violence in Mark Twain’s *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*,” Steven Florczyk, University of Georgia
3. “Two-Eyed John’s Double Vision in Zora Neale Hurston’s *Jonah’s Gourd Vine*,” Julia P. McLeod, Western Carolina University

5:00-7:00 Closing Reception and Fiction Reading
Harbor View Room

Chair: David Dudley, Georgia Southern University

- Fiction Reading:
1. Kirk Curnutt, Troy State University
Selections from *Breathing Out the Ghost*
 2. Lucy Ferriss, Trinity College
Selections from *The Woman Who Bought the Sky*
 3. The fiction of Peter Christopher, Georgia Southern University
read by Carolyn Altman