

# **American Literature Association Symposium on American Fiction 1890 – Present**

**October 7-9, 2010**

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

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

## **Acknowledgments**

The Association expresses its deep appreciation to Alfred Bendixen, Founder and Executive Director of the American Literature Association, for his twenty-one years of service to the discipline. The Conference Director wishes to express her appreciation to the many people who organized sessions and contributed to the development of this conference. Thank you to the Department of Literature and Philosophy at Georgia Southern University for its support and, as always, a special thanks to my family and to James Nagel, my mentor and friend.

**Thursday, October 7, 2010**

**Registration: 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
DeSoto Lobby**

**Visit and Private Tour of the Flannery O'Connor Birthplace: 5:30 p.m.  
DeSoto Lobby: The group will meet at 5:30 in the DeSoto lobby and will walk  
together to 207 E. Charlton Street. A \$5.00 donation is requested.**

**Friday, October 8, 2010**  
**Registration 8:00 – 9:00 am**

**The Chippewa Room is open for breaks during the day**

**Plenary Roundtable: 9:00 – 10:10 (Pulaski Room)**  
**The State of the Discipline of American Literature**

Moderator: Alfred Bendixen, Texas A&M University

Allen Josephs, University of West Florida

James Nagel, University of Georgia

Stone Shiflet, Capella University.

H. R. Stoneback, State University of New York New Paltz

**Session One A: 10:20 – 11:40 (Lafayette Room)**  
**Flannery O'Connor Society: New Religious Readings of Flannery O'Connor's Fiction**

Chair: Marshall Bruce Gentry, Georgia College & State University

1. "Parker and Sarah Ruth: The New Testament Wedded to the Old." J. Ramsey Michaels, Missouri State University, Springfield / Bangor Theological Seminary
2. "Call and Response: Fundamentalist Prayer in Two Stories by Flannery O'Connor." Timothy R. Vande Brake, Roberts Wesleyan College
3. "A View from the Pews: Flannery O'Connor and Practical Theology." G. Lee Ramsey, Jr., Memphis Theological Seminary
4. "The 'Revolted Conversion' in the *Why Do the Heathen Rage?* Manuscripts." Jessica Lynice Hooten, University of Mary-Hardin Baylor

**Session One B: 10:20 – 11:40 (Monterey Room)**  
**Contemporary Fiction**

Chair: Amber Nicole Shaw, University of Georgia

1. “Jacques Derrida and Philip Roth’s ‘Spooks’: Language as Ghost.” Jane Statlauder, Marymount University
2. “Blake Urizen and Updike’s Roger’s Version.” James Rovira, Tiffin University
3. "Kay Boyle's *Process* and the Construction of the Modern Woman." Shannon Whtilock Levizke, University of Georgia
4. “Postsecular Ecology in Cormac McCarthy’s *The Crossing*.” Christopher White, Governor’s State University

**Session One C: 10:20 – 11:40 (Telfair Room)**  
**Hemingway and Women: A Roundtable Discussion**

Moderator: Gail Sinclair, Rollins College

Gail Sinclair, Rollins College

Sara Kosiba, Troy University

Robert Trogden, Kent State University

**Session Two A: 11:50 – 1:10 (Lafayette Room)**  
**Perspectives on Ernest Hemingway and John Steinbeck**

Chair: Brad McDuffie, Nyack College

1. “An Inquiry: Trauma's Relationship to Ernest Hemingway's Narrative Progression.” Kathleen Robinson, Eckerd College
2. “The Portrayal of American Communism in John Steinbeck’s *In Dubious Battle* and Ernest Hemingway’s *To Have and Have Not*.” Ernest Rehder, Florida State University

**Session Two B: 11:50 – 1:10 (Monterey Room)**  
**Perspectives on Flannery O’Connor and Eudora Welty**

Chair: Ellen Hendrix, Georgia Southern University

1. “Segregation and the ‘Operation of Grace’ in Flannery O’Connor’s ‘The Artificial Nigger.’” Aaron Bremyer, University of West Georgia, and Josh Masters, University of West Georgia
2. “Once Below a Time: Writers O’Connor and Welty in the Mythic Mode.” Mary Doll, Savannah College of Art and Design
3. “The Lady and the Flasher: Issues of Class in Eudora Welty’s *The Optimist’s Daughter*.” Harriet Pollack, Bucknell University

**Session Two C: 11:50 – 1:10 (Telfair Room)**  
**Southern Gothic in the Fiction of Peter Taylor, William Faulkner, and Carson McCullers**

Chair: Bradley C. Edwards, Georgia Southern University

1. “Spencer Brydon in Nashville: Peter Taylor’s ‘The Real Ghost’ and Henry James’s ‘The Jolly Corner.’” Jennifer Eimers, Missouri Valley College
2. “The Motif of Absence in the Carter Family’s Music.” Matthew King Adkins, Georgia Institute of Technology
3. “‘A House of Freaks’: Performance and the Grotesque in Carson McCullers’s *The Ballad of the Sad Café* and *The Member of the Wedding*.” Carmen Trammell Skaggs, Columbus State University

**1:15 – 2:15: Lunch (Madison Ballroom)**

**During lunch we will hear an update from The Hemingway Society: “Cubano Sato in an American Context: Seeing Hemingway in a Cuban Context.” James H. Meredith, President, The Hemingway Society**

**Session Three A: 2:30 – 3:50 (Lafayette Room)**

**Willa Cather**

Chair: Kathleen Robinson, Eckard College

1. “Willa Cather’s *My Antonia* and *The New World Symphony*.” Nicole Camastra, University of Georgia
2. “‘The Elusive Element’: Food for the Mind, Body, and Soul in Willa Cather’s *The Song of the Lark*.” Max Despain, United States Air Force Academy
3. “Willa Cather’s *Death Comes for the Archbishop* as a ‘Novel D meubl .’” Sarah Young, Benedictine College

**Session Three B: 2:30 – 3:50 (Monterey Room)**

**Southern Literature**

Chair: Jessica Newberry, East Georgia College

1. “Whatever Happened to Experimental Southern Literature?” Matthew Luter, Davidson College
2. “Returning to William Faulkner’s ‘Two Soldiers.’” Shawn E. Miller, Francis Marion University
3. “‘The Empty Cup’: The Confluence of Determinism and Personal Agency in Ellen Glasgow’s *Barren Ground*.” Lisa M. Echtenkamp, Baylor University

**Session Three C: 2:30 – 3:50 (Telfair Room)**

**Literature, Philosophy, and Politics**

Chair: Michael Harris, Georgia Southern University

1. "Narratives, History, and Existentialism in Auster's *Oracle Night*." Kathy Rugoff, University of North Carolina Wilmington
2. “Fiction, Autobiography, & Captivity: Evelyn Scott’s *Escapade[s]* with Genre.” Rebecca Harrison, University of West Georgia
3. “Moral Compromise and Celebrity Status in Mark Twain's *Pudd'nhead Wilson*.” Gonzalo Riedel, Concordia University, Montreal

**Session Four A: 4:00 – 5:00 (Lafayette Room)**  
**Henry James**

Chair: Leslie Petty, Rhodes College

1. “Remembering Rightly: Fictional Narrative in Henry James’s *Italian Hours*.” Mollie Barnes, University of Georgia
2. “Entangled Consciousness: Webs of Association in Henry James’s ‘The Art of Fiction.’” Amber Nicole Shaw, University of Georgia

**Session Four B: 4:00 – 5:00 (Monterey Room)**  
**Phillip Roth Society**

Chair: James Duban, The University of North Texas

1. “Philip Roth’s Real Name: Jewish American Fiction After the Holocaust.” Shaun Clarkson, Texas State University
2. “Guilt of the Living: The Trivial, the Tragic, and Rationalization *Post Factum* in Roth’s ‘Eli, the Fanatic.’” James Duban, The University of North Texas

**5:15 – 6:45: Opening Reception and Keynote Address**  
**Pulaski Room**

**“Cormac McCarthy and Albert Erskine: The Evolution of a Working Relationship.” Dianne C. Luce, Cormac McCarthy Society**

**Saturday October 9, 2010**

**Registration 8:00 – 9:00 am  
DeSoto Lobby**

**The Chippewa Room is open for breaks during the day**

**Plenary Session: 9:00 – 10:00 (Pulaski Room)**

**“The Poetry of Fiction: Faulkner, Hemingway, and Roberts.”  
H. R. Stoneback, State University of New York New Paltz**

**Session One A: 10:10 – 11:30 (Lafayette Room)**

**Flannery O’Connor Society: Barbecued Sandwiches and Other Delicacies: Close Reading  
the Tower Scene in Flannery O’Connor’s “A Good Man Is Hard to Find”**

Chair: Marshall Bruce Gentry, Georgia College & State University

1. “Monkeying Around at the Tower: The Pitstop at Red Sammy’s in the “Race” of Man’ in Flannery O’Connor’s ‘A Good Man Is Hard to Find.’” Linda Rohrer Paige, Georgia Southern University
2. “Why Do You Call Me Good?” Carolyn M. Kerr, Salem State College/Montserrat College of Art
3. “Red Sammy: Vital to the Grandmother’s Characterization and to the Plot of ‘A Good Man Is Hard to Find.’” Barbara Zimmermann Bogue, Ball State University
4. ““Europe Act[ing]’: Of Trans-conglomeration and Global Branding in a Post-Tower Millenium.” Roger Stanley, Union University

**Session One B: 10:10 – 11:30 (Monterey Room)**  
**The Stories of Breece D’J Pancake**

Chair: Kirk Curnutt, Troy University

1. “‘The Honored Dead’: War and Peace in *The Stories of Breece D’J Pancake*.” Brad McDuffie, Nyack College
2. “‘A Room Forever’: Home in *The Stories of Breece D’J Pancake*.” Olivia Carr Edenfield, Georgia Southern University
3. “‘A long time ago we heard a folk song’: American Folk Music and *The Stories of Breece D’J Pancake*.” Michael Renganeschi, State University of New York New Paltz

**Session One C: 10:10 – 11:30 (Telfair Room)**  
**American Literary Naturalism**

Chair: Kenneth K. Brandt, Savannah College of Art and Design

1. “Business of Disgust: Affect and Capitalism in Abraham Cahan’s *The Rise of David Levinsky*.” John Claborn, University of Illinois
2. “Imperial walks through the city: Frank Norris and the colonization of San Francisco”: Jim Toweill, Rice University
3. “Lily Bart’s Necessary Failure: Reconsidering Edith Wharton’s Vision of the Future in *The House of Mirth*.” Myrto Drizou, State University of New York Buffalo



**Session Two A: 11:40 – 1:00 (Lafayette Room)**  
**The Art of Perception**

Chair: Francine Koenig, Georgia Southern University

1. “Grotesque Landscapes in Flannery O’Connor and Toni Morrison.” Sherry R. Truffin, Tiffin University
2. “Vladimir Nabokov's Ways of Seeing: America in *Lolita* the Novel and *Lolita* the 1964 Film.” Marina Von Hirsch, Bainbridge College
3. "'A Father's Capable Face': Perception and Fatherhood in the Works of Andre Dubus III" Jessica Newberry, East Georgia College
4. “Archiving Performance in Zora Neale Hurston’s *Tell My Horse* and *Mules and Men*.” Adalaine Holton, Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

**Session Two B: 11:40 – 1:00 (Monterey Room)**  
**Fiction by Women Writers**

Chair: Paul Jaskunas, Maryland Institute College of Art

1. “‘Survival Literature’: The Cultural Work of Lesbian Fiction in 1950s and 60s America.” Clare Bermingham, University of Waterloo, Ontario
2. “The Abject Feminine in Ellen Douglas’s *A Lifetime Burning*.” Deborah Wilson, Arkansas Tech University
3. “The Duplicity behind Immortality: Body-Soul Doubling in Maria Christina Mena’s ‘The Vine-Leaf.’” Cynthia C. Murillo, Tennessee State University
4. “Bicultural Visions of Virgins in *Caramelo* by Sandra Cisneros.” Bradley C. Edwards, Georgia Southern University

**Session Two C: 11:40 – 1:00 (Telfair Room)**  
**The Fiction of Ernest Hemingway**

Chair: Bryant Mangum, Virginia Commonwealth University

1. “‘A Wonderful Story of the Cuban Coast’: Carlos Gutierrez’ *Anita* Log as Testimony of the Marine Culture of Cuban Fishermen.” Scott McClintock, National University
2. “Grammar and Time in *A Farewell to Arms*.” Phillip Sipiora, University of South Florida
3. “Hemingway’s Mystery Lady in *Islands in the Stream*.” John Daily, Lynn University

### **1:10 – 2:30: Lunch (Poolside)**

**During lunch, we will hear an update from The Hemingway Society: “Devil in the Details: Updates on Cubano Sato and Hemingway’s Sporting Life.” James H. Meredith, President, The Hemingway Society; Stone Shiflet, Capella University; Frederick Mitchell, Director, Mt. Philo Films *The Sporting Life of Ernest Hemingway*; Wendy Yamano, Producer, Mt. Philo Films**

### **Session Three A: 2:40 -4:00 (Lafayette Room) Disorder and Civilization in American Fictions of Violence**

Chair: Matthew Luter, Davidson University

1. “‘Senseless Ruin’: Representations of Total War in Edith Wharton’s *Fighting France*.” Mary Carney, Gainesville State College
2. “‘War is god’: Narcissistic Violence in Cormac McCarthy’s *Blood Meridian: Or the Evening Redness in the West*.” Leslie Worthington, Gainesville State College
3. “‘The Immense Serenity’ of Vietnam: Flashes of Peace in Tim O’Brien’s *The Things They Carried*.” Kristin Kelley, Gainesville State College

### **Session Three B: 2:40 – 4:00 (Monterey Room) Roundtable Discussion of McCarthy’s *The Road*: The Novel and the Film**

Moderator: Allen Josephs, University of West Florida.

Allen Josephs, University of West Florida.

Dianne C. Luce, Independent Scholar

Scott Yarbrough, Charleston Southern University

### **Session Three C: 2:40 – 4:00 (Telfair Room) Postmodern Perspectives**

Chair: Theresa Welford, Georgia Southern University

1. “‘X Marks the Spot’: Chiasmus in Philip Roth’s *The Human Stain* and Zadie Smith’s *White Teeth*.” Richard Kopley, Pennsylvania State University, DuBois
2. “‘Everything is Illuminated’: Bridging the Gap between Trauma and God.” Scott A. Pett, Georgia State University
3. “The Long Nights: *The Morning Watch* and *Go Tell It on the Mountain*” Sean Hoare, Marymount University

**Session Four A: 4:10 – 5: 30 (Lafayette Room)**  
**African-American Perspectives**

Chair: Gautam Kundu, Georgia Southern University

1. “An Aesthetical Taste Under Tribulation and Bewilderment.” Xu Lihua, Jimei University
2. “Implications of the Black Arts Movement on the Work of Gloria Naylor: *Linden Hills*.” Lana Lockhart, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
3. ““We Get Our Own Souls, Don’t We?”: Personal Accountability Leading to Manhood in Alice Walker’s *The Third Life of Grange Copeland*.” Weihua Zhang, Savannah College of Art and Design

**Session Four B: 4:10 – 5:30 (Monterey Room)**  
**Native America Literature and Identity**

Chair: Carmen Trammell Skaggs, Columbus State University

1. "Manifesting Destiny: Nomadism in Alexie's *Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*." Kirsten Wasson, Ithaca College
2. “European-American Encroachment and Native American Identity in John Joseph Mathews’s *Sundown*.” David Rice, The College of Saint Rose

**Session Four C: 4:10 – 5:30 (Telfair Room)**  
**The Short Story Society**

Chair: James Nagel, University of Georgia

1. "Rehabilitating the Worst of F. Scott Fitzgerald." Kirk Curnutt, Troy University
2. "Fitzgerald's 'Winter Dreams' Revisited." Bryant Mangum, Virginia Commonwealth University
3. "Hemingway's 'Black Ass at the Crossroads.'" James H. Meredith, Capella University

**5:30 – 6:30: Closing Reception**  
**Poolside**

## Index:

- Adkins, Matthew King. Georgia Institute of Technology:  
Friday, 11:50 – 1:10 (Telfair), Southern Gothic in the Fiction of Peter Taylor, William Faulkner, and Carson McCullers, presenting
- Barnes, Mollie. University of Georgia:  
Friday, 4:00 – 5:00 (Lafayette), Henry James, presenting
- Bendixen, Alfred. Texas A&M University:  
Friday, 9:00 – 10:10 (Pulaski), Plenary Roundtable, chairing
- Birmingham, Clare. University of Waterloo, Ontario:  
Saturday, 11:40 – 1:00 (Monterey), Fiction by Women Writers, presenting
- Bogue, Barbara Zimmermann. Ball State University:  
Saturday, 10:10 – 11:30 (Lafayette), Flannery O'Connor Society, presenting
- Boyle, Amanda. State University of New York Paltz:  
Friday, 2:30 – 3:50 (Telfair), Literature, Philosophy, and Politics, chairing
- Brandt, Kenneth K.. Savannah College of Art and Design:  
Saturday, 10:10 – 11:30 (Telfair), American Literary Naturalism, chairing
- Bremyer, Aaron. University of West Georgia:  
Friday, 11:50 – 1:10 (Monterey), Perspectives on Flannery O'Connor and Eudora Welty, presenting
- Camastra, Nicole. University of Georgia:  
Friday, 2:30 – 3:50 (Lafayette), Willa Cather, presenting
- Carney, Mary. Gainesville State College:  
Saturday, 2:40 – 4:00 (Lafayette), Disorder and Civilization in American Fictions of Violence, presenting
- Claborn, John. University of Illinois:  
Saturday, 10:10 – 11:30 (Telfair), American Literary Naturalism, presenting
- Clarkson, Shaun. Texas State University:  
Friday, 4:00 – 5:00 (Monterey), Phillip Roth Society, presenting
- Curnutt, Kirk. Troy University:  
Saturday, 10:10 – 11:30 (Monterey), The Stories of Breece D'J Pancake, chairing  
Saturday, 4:10 – 5:30 (Telfair), The Short Story Society, presenting
- Daily, John. Lynn University:  
Saturday, 11:40 – 1:00 (Telfair), The Fiction of Ernest Hemingway, presenting
- Despain, Max. United States Air Force Academy:  
Friday, 2:30 – 3:50 (Lafayette), Willa Cather, presenting
- Doll, Mary. Savannah College of Art and Design:  
Friday, 11:50 – 1:10 (Monterey), Perspectives on Flannery O'Connor and Eudora Welty, presenting
- Drizou, Myrto. State University of New York Buffalo:  
Saturday, 10:10 – 11:30 (Telfair), American Literary Naturalism, presenting
- Duban, James. The University of North Texas:  
Friday, 4:00 – 5:00 (Monterey), Phillip Roth Society, chairing and presenting
- Echtenkamp, Lisa M.. Baylor University:  
Friday, 2:30 – 3:50 (Monterey), Southern Literature, presenting
- Edenfield, Olivia Carr. Georgia Southern University:  
Saturday, 10:10 – 11:30 (Monterey), The Stories of Breece D'J Pancake, presenting
- Edwards, Bradley C.. Georgia Southern University:  
Friday, 11:50 – 1:10 (Telfair), Southern Gothic in the Fiction of Peter Taylor, William Faulkner, and Carson McCullers, chairing  
Saturday, 11:40 – 1:00 (Monterey), Fiction by Women Writers, presenting
- Eimers, Jennifer. Missouri Valley College:

Friday, 11:50 – 1:10 (Telfair), Southern Gothic in the Fiction of Peter Taylor, William Faulkner, and Carson McCullers, presenting

Gentry, Marshall Bruce. Georgia College & State University:  
 Friday, 10:20 – 11:40 (Lafayette), Flannery O'Connor Society, chairing  
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Harrison, Rebecca. University of West Georgia:  
 Friday, 2:30 – 3:50 (Lafayette), Literature, Philosophy, and Politics, presenting

Hendrix, Ellen. Georgia Southern University  
 Friday, 11:50 – 1:10 (Monterey), Perspectives on Flannery O'Connor and Eudora Welty, chairing

Hirsch, Marina. Bainbridge College:  
 Saturday, 11:40 – 1:00 (Lafayette), The Art of Perception, presenting

Hoare, Sean. Marymount University:  
 Saturday, 2:40 – 4:00 (Telfair), Postmodern Perspectives, presenting

Holton, Adalaine. Richard Stockton College of New Jersey:  
 Saturday, 11:40 – 1:00 (Lafayette), The Art of Perception, presenting

Hooten, Jessica Lynice. University of Mary-Hardin Baylor:  
 Friday, 10:20 – 11:40 (Lafayette), Flannery O'Connor Society, presenting

Jaskunas, Paul. Maryland Institute College of Art:  
 Saturday, 11:40 – 1:00, Fiction by Women Writers, chairing

Josephs, Allen. University of West Florida:  
 Friday, 9:00 – 10:10 (Pulaski), Plenary Roundtable, presenting  
 Saturday, 2:40 – 4:00 (Monterey), Roundtable Discussion of McCarthy's *The Road*: The Novel and the Film, chairing and presenting

Kelley, Kristin. Gainesville State College:  
 Saturday, 2:40 – 4:00 (Lafayette), Disorder and Civilization in American Fictions of Violence, presenting

Kerr, Carolyn M.. Salem State College/Montserrat College of Art:  
 Saturday, 10:10 – 11:30 (Lafayette), Flannery O'Connor Society, presenting

Koenig, Francine. Georgia Southern university:  
 Saturday, 11:40 – 1:00 (Lafayette), The Art of Perception, chairing

Kopley, Richard. Pennsylvania State University, DuBois:  
 Saturday, 2:40 – 4:00 (Telfair), Postmodern Perspectives, presenting

Kosiba, Sara. Troy University:  
 Friday, 10:20 – 11:40 (Telfair), Hemingway and Women, presenting

Kundu, Gautam. Georgia Southern university:  
 Saturday, 4:10 – 5:30 (Lafayette), African-American Perspectives, chairing

Levizke, Shannon Whtilock. University of Georgia:  
 Friday, 10:20 – 11:40 (Monterey), Contemporary Fiction, presenting

Lockhart, Lana. Indiana University of Pennsylvania:  
 Saturday, 4:10 – 5:30 (Lafayette), African-American Perspectives, presenting

Luce, Dianne C.. Independent Scholar:  
 Friday, 5:15 – 6:45 (Pulaski), Opening Reception and Keynote Address  
 Saturday, 2:40 – 4:00 (Monterey), Roundtable Discussion of McCarthy's *The Road*: The Novel and the Film, presenting

Luter, Matthew. Davidson College:  
 Friday, 2:30 – 3:50 (Monterey), Southern Literature, presenting  
 Saturday, 2:40 – 4:00 (Lafayette), Disorder and Civilization in American Fictions of Violence, chairing

Mangum, Bryant. Virginia Commonwealth University  
 Saturday, 11:40 – 1:00 (Telfair), The Fiction of Ernest Hemingway, chairing  
 Saturday, 4:10 – 5:30 (Telfair), The Short Story Society, presenting

Masters, Josh University of West Georgia:  
 Friday, 11:50 – 1:10 (Monterey), Perspectives on Flannery O'Connor and Eudora Welty, presenting

McClintock, Scott. National University:  
 Saturday, 11:40 – 1:00 (Telfair), The Fiction of Ernest Hemingway, presenting

McDuffie, Brad. Nyack College:  
 Friday, 11:50 – 1:10 (Lafayette), Perspectives on Ernest Hemingway and John Steinbeck, chairing  
 Saturday, 10:10 – 11:30 (Monterey), The Stories of Breece D’J Pancake, presenting

Meredith, James H.. Capella University:  
 Saturday, 4:10 – 5:30 (Telfair), The Short Story Society, presenting

Michaels, J. Ramsey. Missouri State University:  
 Friday, 10:20 – 11:40 (Lafayette), Flannery O’Connor Society, presenting

Miller, Shawn E.. Francis Marion University:  
 Friday, 2:30 – 3:50 (Monterey), Southern Literature, presenting

Murillo, Cynthia C.. Tennessee State University:  
 Saturday, 11:40 – 1:00 (Monterey), Fiction by Women Writers, presenting

Nagel, James. University of Georgia:  
 Friday, 9:00 – 10:10 (Telfair), Plenary Roundtable, presenting  
 Saturday, 4:10 – 5:30 (Pulaski), The Short Story Society, chairing

Newberry, Jessica. East Georgia College:  
 Friday, 2:30 – 3:50 (Monterey), Southern Literature, chairing  
 Saturday, 11:40 – 1:00 (Lafayette), The Art of Perception, presenting

Paige, Linda Rohrer. Georgia Southern University:  
 Saturday, 10:10 – 11:30 (Lafayette), Flannery O’Connor Society, presenting

Pett, Scott A.. Georgia State University:  
 Saturday, 2:40 – 4:00 (Telfair), Postmodern Perspectives, presenting

Petty, Leslie. Rhodes College:  
 Friday, 4:00 – 5:00 (Lafayette), Henry James, chairing

Pollack, Harriet. Bucknell University:  
 Friday, 11:50 – 1:10 (Monterey), Perspectives on Flannery O’Connor and Eudora Welty, presenting

Ramsey, G. Lee, Jr. Memphis Theological Seminary:  
 Friday, 10:20 – 11:40 (Lafayette), Flannery O’Connor Society, presenting

Rehder, Ernest. Florida State University:  
 Friday, 11:50 – 1:10 (Lafayette), Perspectives on Ernest Hemingway and John Steinbeck, presenting

Renganeschi, Michael. State University of New York New Paltz:  
 Saturday, 10:10 – 11:30 (Monterey), The Stories of Breece D’J Pancake, presenting

Rice, David. The College of Saint Rose:  
 Saturday, 4:10 – 5:30 (Telfair), Native America Literature and Identity, presenting

Riedel, Gonzalo. Concordia University, Montreal:  
 Friday, 2:30 – 3:50 (Telfair), Literature, Philosophy, and Politics, presenting

Roberts, LaChanze Harrison. Clark Atlanta University:  
 Friday, 11:50 – 1:10 (Pulaski), Perspectives on Ernest Hemingway and John Steinbeck, presenting

Robinson, Kathleen. Eckerd College:  
 Friday, 11:50 – 1:10 (Lafayette), Perspectives on Ernest Hemingway and John Steinbeck, presenting  
 Friday, 2:30 – 3:50 (Lafayette), Willa Cather, chairing

Rovira, James. Tiffin University:  
 Friday, 10:20 – 11:40 (Monterey), Contemporary Fiction, presenting

Rugoff, Kathy. University of North Carolina Wilmington:  
 Friday, 2:30 – 3:50 (Telfair), Literature, Philosophy, and Politics, presenting

Shaw, Amber Nicole. University of Georgia:  
 Friday, 10:20 – 11:40 (Monterey), Contemporary Fiction, chairing  
 Friday, 4:00 – 5:00 (Lafayette), Henry James, presenting

Shiflet, Stone. Capella University:  
 Friday, 9:00 – 10:10 (Pulaski), Plenary Roundtable, presenting

Sinclair, Gail. Rollins College:

Friday, 10:20 – 11:40 (Telfair), Hemingway and Women, chairing, presenting

Sipiora, Phillip. University of South Florida:  
 Saturday, 11:40 – 1:00 (Telfair), The Fiction of Ernest Hemingway, presenting

Skaggs, Carmen Trammell. Columbus State University:  
 Friday, 11:50 – 1:10 (Telfair), Southern Gothic in the Fiction of Peter Taylor, William Faulkner, and Carson McCullers, presenting  
 Saturday, 4:10 – 5:30 (Monterey), Native America Literature and Identity, chairing

Stanley, Roger. Union University:  
 Saturday, 10:10 – 11:30 (Lafayette), Flannery O'Connor Society, presenting

Statlauder, Jane. Marymount University:  
 Friday, 10:20 – 11:40 (Monterey), Contemporary Fiction, presenting

Stoneback, H. R. State University of New York New Paltz:  
 Friday, 9:00 – 10:10 (Pulaski), Plenary Roundtable, presenting  
 Saturday, 9:00 – 10:00 (Pulaski), Plenary, Plenary Session, presenting

Toweill, Jim. Rice University:  
 Saturday, 10:10 – 11:30 (Telfair), American Literary Naturalism, presenting

Trodden, Robert. Kent State University:  
 Friday, 10:20 – 11:40 (Telfair), Hemingway and Women, presenting

Truffin, Sherry R.. Tiffin University  
 Saturday, 11:40 – 1:00 (Lafayette), The Art of Perception, presenting

Vande Brake, Timothy R. Roberts Wesleyan College:  
 Friday, 10:20 – 11:40 (Lafayette), Flannery O'Connor Society, presenting

Wasson, Kirsten. Ithaca College:  
 Saturday, 4:10 – 5:30 (Monterey), Native America Literature and Identity, presenting

Welford, Theresa. Georgia Southern university:  
 Saturday, 2:40 – 4:00 (Telfair), Postmodern Perspectives, chairing

White, Christopher. Governor's State University:  
 Friday, 10:20 – 11:40 (Monterey), Contemporary Fiction, presenting

Wilson, Deborah. Arkansas Tech University:  
 Saturday, 11:40 – 1:00 (Monterey), Fiction by Women Writers, presenting

Worthington, Leslie. Gainesville State College:  
 Saturday, 2:40 – 4:00 (Lafayette), Disorder and Civilization in American Fictions of Violence, presenting

Xu, Lihua. Jimei University:  
 Saturday, 4:10 – 5:30 (Lafayette), African-American Perspectives, presenting

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 Saturday, 2:40 – 4:00 (Monterey), Roundtable Discussion of McCarthy's *The Road*: The Novel and the Film, presenting

Young, Sarah. Benedictine College:  
 Friday, 2:30 – 3:50 (Lafayette), Willa Cather, presenting

Zhang, Weihua. Savannah College of Art and Design:  
 Saturday, 4:10 – 5:30 (Lafayette), African-American Perspectives, presenting

Call for Papers  
American Literature Association Symposium

“Mysterious America: Crime Fiction in  
American Culture”

September 22 – 24, 2011

**Keynote Speaker:**  
**Allen Josephs, University of West Florida**

ALA symposia provide opportunities for scholars to meet in pleasant settings, present papers, and share ideas and resources. The September 2011 symposium will focus on crime fiction and American culture. We welcome proposals for works on the place of crime in the fiction of canonical American authors (Poe, Hawthorne, Faulkner, Hemingway, O’Connor, Wright, McCarthy, Pancake, and others) as well as papers on classic and contemporary detective fiction. Proposals for panels and roundtable discussions are also encouraged.

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

Hotel Rate: The DeSoto is offering a special rate of \$159 (plus tax) per night for a single or double room. Please make your reservations before September 1<sup>st</sup> by calling 800-445-8667 or 912-232-9000 and requesting the ALA conference rate.

**Conference Directors:**  
**Alfred Bendixen, Texas A & M**  
**Olivia Carr Edenfield, Georgia Southern University**

Conference Fee: \$150

Please email all proposals to Olivia Carr Edenfield  
before July 15, 2011  
carr@georgiasouthern.edu