“American Poetry”

A Symposium Sponsored by the
American Literature Association

October 23-25, 2014

Hyatt Regency Savannah
Two W Bay Street
Savannah, Georgia
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Conference Director: Richard Flynn, Georgia Southern University

Acknowledgments

The conference director wishes to express his appreciation to a number of people who provided help with planning the program. My graduate assistant, Anna Wells, has put in many hours of excellent service; my colleague Olivia Carr Edenfield, Executive Coordinator of American Literature Association, handled all the hotel logistics and arrangements; and Dustin Anderson helped in many ways, especially in giving great advice about the program. The Association thanks the Department of Literature and Philosophy at Georgia Southern University for its continued support. The director also thanks the Department of Writing and Linguistics and the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences for their support. Thanks to our readers, Emma Bolden and Eric Nelson, and to our keynoters, Stephen Burt and Alfred Bendixen. Of course, I offer special thanks to Alfred Bendixen, the founder, Executive Director, and guiding light of the American Literature Association. I have known Alfred almost since the Association’s inception over twenty-five years ago. Most of all, I would like to thank all the participants in this exciting symposium: your commitment to poetry and poetry scholarship is exemplary.

Presenters marked with * are contributors to the Cambridge History of American Poetry
Thursday, October 23, 2014

Registration: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. (Scarborough Foyer)

Welcome Reception: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. (Scarborough 4)

Poetry Reading: 6:45 p.m.

Emma Bolden and Eric Nelson
Georgia Southern University

Emma Bolden is the author of Malificae (GenPop Books, 2013), a book-length series of poems about the witch trials in early modern Europe, and meditations, a book-length poem forthcoming from Noctuary Press. She is also the author of four chapbooks of poetry: How to Recognize a Lady (Toadlily Press), The Mariner's Wife (Finishing Line Press), The Sad Epistles (Dancing Girl Press) and This Is Our Hollywood (The Chapbook), and a nonfiction chapbook, Geography V (forthcoming from Winged City Press).

Her poetry and prose has appeared in such journals as The Rumpus, Prairie Schooner, Conduit, the Indiana Review, the Greensboro Review, Redivider, Verse, Feminist Studies, The Journal, Guernica, and Copper Nickel. Bolden has been featured on Poetry Daily and in Verse Daily’s Web Weekly series.

She was named a finalist for a Ruth Lily Fellowship from the Poetry Foundation/Poetry magazine. An Alabama native, Bolden received a BLA from Sarah Lawrence College and an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

Currently, she lives in Statesboro, Georgia, where she writes and teaches creative writing at Georgia Southern University.

Eric Nelson has published five collections of poetry, including The Twins (2009), winner of the Split Oak Press Chapbook Award; Terrestrials (2004), published by Texas Review Press as the winner of the X.J. Kennedy Poetry Award; and The Interpretation of Waking Life (1991), winner of the University of Arkansas Press Poetry Award.

His poems have appeared widely in journals and anthologies, including Poetry, The Southern Review, The Missouri Review, The Sun, and The Oxford American. He has been a Featured Poet on Poetry magazine's website and on Verse Daily and Poetry Daily.

In 2005 he was named Georgia Author of the Year in Poetry by The Georgia Writers Association.

He is professor of creative writing in the Department of Writing and Linguistics at Georgia Southern University, where he has taught since 1989.
Friday, October 24, 2014
Late Registration: 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. (Scarborough Foyer)

Plenary Roundtable:
*Cambridge History of American Poetry Roundtable*
9:00 – 10:00 a.m. (Scarborough 3 & 4)

Moderator: *Richard Flynn, Georgia Southern University*

*Alfred Bendixen, Princeton University*
*Stephen Burt, Harvard University*
*Susan Castillo Street, Kings College, London*
*Angela Sorby, Marquette University*
*Siobhan Phillips, Dickinson College*
*Mark Scroggins, Florida Atlantic University*

Session One A: 10:10 – 11:30 (Savannah Room)
The Many Lives of Longfellow
Chair: Dr. Elissa Zellinger, Armstrong State University.

1. “Longfellow, the Ballad Form, and Working Class Poets.” Robin Smith, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
2. “E. Pauline Johnson and Longfellow’s Indian Princess.” Elissa Zellinger, Armstrong State University.

Session One B: 10:10 – 11:30 (Scarborough 1)
Elizabeth Bishop: Brazil and Elsewhere
Chair: James McCorkle, Hobart and William Smith Colleges.


Session One C: 10:10 – 11:30 (Scarborough 2)
Documenting Shame, Documenting Reclamation
Chair: Jennifer Downs, Georgia Southern University.

1. “Spectral Space: Brenda Marie Osbey’s Poetry of Memory, Loss, and Reclamation.” Shari Evans, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.
Session Two A: 11:40 – 1:00 (Savannah Room)
Poetry in the Context of War: Integrating War Writing into the Contemporary English Curriculum (Roundtable)
Moderator: James Meredith, Capella University.

1. Stone Meredith, Capella University.
2. James Meredith, Capella University.
3. Jeanne Fuchs, Capella University.
4. Allen Josephs, University of West Florida.

Session Two B: 11:40 – 1:00 (Scarborough 1)
“Conflux”: North American Poets in Transnational Context
Chair: Gillian White, University of Michigan.


Session Two C: 11:40 – 1:00 (Scarborough 2)
Dickinson and Gilman: Skepticism, Self, and Community
Chair: *Alfred Bendixen, Princeton University.

1. **“Emily Dickinson: Radical Individualism and Redemptive Community.” Wendy Martin, Claremont Graduate University.

Session Two D: 11:40 – 1:00 (Scarborough 3)
Romanticisms and Anti-Romanticisms
Chair: Steven Florczyk, Longwood University.

1. “The Role of British Romantics in Mary Oliver's Trajectory.” Doni Wilson, Houston Baptist University.

Lunch: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
(Harborside)
Session Three A: 2:10 – 3:30  (Scarborough 1)
**Hot Rocks: Songs and Verse**
Chair: Megan Sexton, Georgia State University.

1. “The Land Beyond the River, Learning to Speak Figuratively: A Talk and a Reading.”
   David Bottoms, Georgia State University.

Session Three B: 2:10 – 3:30  (Scarborough 2)
**Locality and Illocality in Civil War Poetry**
Chair: James Meredith, Capella University.

2. “‘Ready to Strike and Signalize the Hour’: The Massachusetts 54th in Poetry and Journalism.” Eliza Richards, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
3. “Emily Dickinson and the Illocality of War.” Cody Marrs, University of Georgia.

Session Three C: 2:10 – 3:30  (Scarborough 3)
**Contemporary Poets on Race: History, Dialogue and Ekphrasis**
Chair: Aldon Lynn Nielsen, The Pennsylvania State University.

1. “Ekphrasis, Amputation, Race.” Anne Keefe, University of North Texas.
Session Four A: 3:40 - 5:00  (Savannah Room)
New York Style
Chair: Michele Rozga, Savannah State University.

1. “Camp Consolations: Frank O’Hara’s James Dean Elegies.” Chad Bennett, The University of Texas at Austin.

Session Four B: 3:40 - 5:00  (Scarborough 1)
The New American Poetries in Black and White
Chair: Briona Jones, Georgia Southern University.


Session Four C: 3:40 - 5:00  (Scarborough 2)
Levity and Lyric
Chair: Brad McDuffie, Nyack College.

1. “‘Shocked at my Levity.’” Rachel Trousdale, Northeastern University.

Session Four D: 3:40 - 5:00  (Scarborough 3)
Frost, Moore, and Literary History
Chair: Charles Berger, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville.

1. **“Mangling Marianne Moore.”** Robin Schulze, University of Delaware.
2. **“Putting in the Seed”: Robert Frost's Forgotten Sequence on Sex.”** Jonathan Barron, University of Southern Mississippi.

Opening Reception and Keynote Address: 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
(Harborside)

“On Extended Wings Again: The Raven and the Mockingbird in American Poetry”
Alfred Bendixen, Princeton University
Saturday October 25, 2014

Late Registration: 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. (Scarborough Foyer)

Session Five A: 9:10 –10:30  (Savannah Room)
Poetry of Asian Immigrants: Voices from a Different Shore, Voices from Within
Chair: Kenneth Brandt, Savannah College of Art and Design.

1. “Shirley Geok-lin Lim and the Poetics of Elsewhere.” Mary Aswell Doll, Savannah College of Art and Design.
2. “Readings from 38 Parallels, a Poetry Collection in Progress.” Mary C. Kim, Savannah College of Art and Design.
3. “Savannah’s Famous Poet: Gerald Chan Sieg.” Weihua Zhang, Savannah College of Art and Design.

Session Five B: 9:10 –10:30  (Scarborough 1)
The Legacy of Allen Grossman. (Roundtable)
Moderator: Norman Finkelstein, Xavier University.


Session Five C: 9:10 – 10:30  (Scarborough 2)
Performance, Activism, and Ritual
Chair: Megan Flanery, Georgia Southern University

3. “‘People Get Ready’: Umbra, Nuyorican, Mission District and the Cross-Cultural Conversations that Defined the 1960s.” Jean-Phillipe Marcoux, Université Laval, Quebec.

Session Five D: 9:10 –10:30  (Scarborough 3) Reticence, Repetition, and Selective Amnesia
Chair: Nicole Camastra, University of Georgia.

   Elizabeth Threatt, University of West Alabama.
3. “‘You Must Think About Sad Things’: Alleviating Selective Amnesia and Restoring History in Contemporary Literature.” Diana Filar, University of New Mexico.
Session Six A: 10:40 – 12:00  (Savannah Room)
Reimagining the Poetic Catalogue
Chair: Alyson Elam, Georgia Southern University.

1. “‘I am the Clock Myself’: Incantatory American Catalog Poems and the Ritual of Being Absorbed.” Michele Rozga, Savannah State University.

Session Six B: 10:40 – 12:00  (Scarborough 1)
How Free Can (Children’s) Verse Be? (Roundtable)
Moderator: Joseph T. Thomas, San Diego State University.


Session Six C: 10:40 – 12:00  (Scarborough 2)
Literary Responses to the Haitian Revolution
Chair: David Anderson, University of Louisville.

2. “Slavery and Colonialism in Juan Francisco Manzano’s Zafira.” Susan Castillo Street, King’s College London.

Session Six D: 10:40 – 12:00  (Scarborough 3)
Poets In and Out of War
Chair: Dustin Anderson, Georgia Southern University.

1. “‘Real Poetry’: The American Poets’ Committee and the First World War.” Steven Florczyk, Longwood University.
2. “Wallace Stevens and the Gastronomic Sensibility.” Nicole Camasta, University of Georgia.
3. “‘I would like to bring back momentum and movement in poetry on a grand scale’: Robert Lowell’s Circle at Boston University.” Brad McDuffie, Nyack College.

Lunch: 12:00-1:00 p.m. (Harborside)
Session Seven A: 1:10 – 2:30  (Savannah Room)
After Objectivism?
Chair: Norman Finkelstein, Xavier University.

1. "‘Objectivists’ to Objectivism: The Objectivist Poets in Literary History." Mark Scroggins, Florida Atlantic University.

Session Seven B: 1:10 – 2:30  (Scarborough 1)
The Poetic Impact of Adrienne Rich
Chair: Timothy O'Keefe, Piedmont College.

1. “‘Imagining what is ‘humanely possible’: Adrienne Rich’s Later Work.” Jeannette E. Riley, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.
3. “‘try telling yourself / you are not accountable’: Adrienne Rich as Citizen Poet.” Maggie Rehm, University of Idaho.

Session Seven C: 1:10 – 2:30  (Scarborough 2)
Body, Memory, and Voice
Chair: Anna Wells, Georgia Southern University.

1. "‘Orality and Copia.’ David Bergman, Towson University.

Session Seven D: 2:10 – 3:30  (Scarborough 3)
Elegy, Memory and Music
Chair: Janie Malson, Georgia Southern University

1. “‘Living in more than one more dimension’ in the Late Poetry of Robert Penn Warren.” Jennifer Lewin, Sewanee, The University of the South.
2. “Not Knowing the Words: Michael Donaghy’s Elegies.” Jonathan Ellis, University of Sheffield.
Session Eight A: 2:40 – 4:00 (Savannah Room)
The Long. . . Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Poem
Chair: E. Thomas Finan, Boston University.


Session Eight B: 2:40 – 4:00 (Scarborough 1)
"Where the Muses Haunt": Strange Genealogies in American Poetry
Chair: Lindsay Shalom, Georgia Southern University.


Session Eight C: 2:40 – 4:00 (Scarborough 2)
Poetic Worlds: Immersive, Imaginative, Embodied
Chair: Bridget Stephens, Georgia Southern University.


Session Eight D: 2:40 – 4:00 (Scarborough 3)
Elegy and Ephemeralilty
Chair: Rebecca Kennerly, Georgia Southern University.

2. "Like a drowning at a baptism': Franz Wright's Poems about His Father." Nick Halpern, North Carolina State University.
Session Nine A: 4:10 – 5:30  (Savannah Room)
“Alternative Romanticisms: American Poetry”
Chair: Steven Florczyk, Longwood University.


Session Nine B: 4:10 – 5:30  (Scarborough 1)
Mothers and Others: Epic, Lyric, Gender, and Genre
Chair: Anne Shea, California College of the Arts.


Session Nine C: 4:10 – 5:30  (Scarborough 2)
Poetic Communities: Conflict and Resistance
Chair: Brad McDuffie, Nyack College.

2. “‘Hear the Sounds Go Round’: Poetry In and Outside the Classroom.” Mirja Lobnik, Georgia Institute of Technology.
3. “Poetry Protests as Poetry Discourse: How Conflicts in Poetry Communities Mean.” Rebecca Weaver, Georgia Institute of Technology.

Session Nine D: 4:10 – 5:30 (Scarborough 3)
New Readings of George Oppen
Chair: Allen Josephs, University of West Florida.

1. “‘Curious Connections’: Walt Whitman and George Oppen’s Lateness.” Anton Vander Zee, College of Charleston.

Closing Reception and Keynote Address: 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
(Harborside)

“Is American Poetry Still a Thing?”
Stephen Burt, Harvard University
Call for Papers

ALA Symposium: God and the American Writer
February 26-28, 2015

Sheraton Gunther Hotel
205 E. Houston Street
San Antonio, TX, 78205

Conference Directors:
Steven Frye, California State University – Bakersfield
Eric Carl Link, University of Memphis
Jeanne Campbell Reesman, University of Texas at San Antonio

Deadline for Proposals: November 1, 2014

Please the ALA website for further details and instructions
www.americanliterature.org

American Literature Association
26th Annual Conference
May 21-24, 2015

The Westin Copley Place
10 Huntington Avenue
Boston MA 02116-5798

Conference Director: Olivia Carr Edenfield
Georgia Southern University

Deadline for Proposals: January 30, 2015

The ALA website contains further details and instructions for submitting proposals as well as important information for representatives of participating author societies.

www.americanliterature.org