

**Thursday, September 7, 2017**

**Literary Tour of New Orleans: 3:30 p.m.**

Dr. Nancy Dixon, professor, author of *N.O. Lit: 200 Years of New Orleans Literature*, and licensed New Orleans tour guide, will lead a literary walking tour of the French Quarter, a place known to have housed and inspired some of the greatest writers of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Space is limited to those who pre-registered because of New Orleans tour guidelines. Those with confirmation of a tour slot should meet in the lobby at 3:15 pm.

**Welcome Reception and Registration**

**5:00 – 6:00 p.m. (Royal Salon D)**

*Please join us during our opening night registration for a Welcome Reception.  
Complimentary beer and wine will be served.*

**Registration: 9:30-10:30 p.m. (Cathedral Room)**

# Friday, September 8, 2017

Registration: 8:15 – 9:00 a.m. (Cathedral Room)

Opening Plenary: 9:00 – 10:20 (Bienville & Iberville Ballrooms)

## ***Why Regionalism and Place, and Why Now?***

Chair: Sara Kosiba, Troy University

1. June Howard, University of Michigan
2. Tina Casagrand, editor, *The New Territory*
3. José Limon, University of Notre Dame
4. Patricia Oman, director, Hastings College Press

Respondent: Michael Steiner, California State University, Fullerton

Session One A: 10:30 – 11:50 (Beauregard Room)

## **African American Regionalism**

Chair: Randall Wilhelm, Anderson University

1. "Gwendolyn Brooks' Regional and Radial *Maud Martha*," Dorothy Randall Tsuruta, San Francisco State University
2. "Toomer's Dilemma: From Taos to Doylestown," Amanda Licato, Stanford University
3. "Back Door Regionalism: Rebellion Enters Ohio through the Caribbean in Toni Morrison's *Sula*," Bethany Aery Clerico, University at Albany, SUNY
4. "Black Like Richard Wright's *Black Boy* or Black Like Cornell Woolrich's *Black Alibi*?": Anthological Reimagining of Noir, Racial Melodrama, & Southern Urban Fiction, 1843-1978," Bob Hodges, University of Washington

Session One B: 10:30 – 11:50 (Pontalba Room)

## **Eudora Welty and Regionalism I**

Sponsored by the Eudora Welty Society

Chair: Harriet Pollack, College of Charleston and Bucknell University

1. "Putting Place in Motion: Eudora Welty, Transport, and Modernist Regionalism," David McWhirter, Texas A&M University
2. "Never Confined in Any Frame: Welty's Photographic Regionalism," Allison Rittmayer, Northwestern State University of Louisiana
3. "The Post Office and the Pedestal: Regional Community and Sexual Tyranny in Welty's Fiction," Kevin Murphy, Towson University, and Donnie McMahan, Towson University
4. "Lost in the Heat: The Global and Miscegenated South of South in Eudora Welty's 'No Place for You My Love,'" Rebecca Mark, Tulane University

**Session One C: 10:30 – 11:50 (Cabildo Room)**

**The South**

Chair: Jason Richards, Rhodes College

1. "‘Depth on Depth’ Places: Navigating Networks in O’Connor’s *Wise Blood*," Mallory Pladus, Rice University
2. "‘They Were Men’: The Movement from Unifying to Sectionalist Sentiment in the Confederate Undead," Claire Martin, Creighton University
3. "Gendering the Monstrous in Bernice L. McFadden’s *Gathering of Waters*," Deborah Wilson, Arkansas Tech University

**Session One D: 10:30 – 11:50 (Ursuline Room)**

**California**

Chair: Melissa Walker Heidari, Columbia College

1. "The Clock, The Curfew, and Ubiquity in Helena Viramontes’ *Their Dogs Came With Them*," Alexandra Meany, Loyola Marymount University
2. "Didionland: Notes and Anxiety from the Drop Off Point in Joan Didion’s California," Edward Journey, Alabama A&M University
3. "Gentrification and Local Color: Literary Marketplacemaking in the San Francisco Mission District," Geneva M. Gano, Texas State University

**Lunch: Noon - 1:00 p.m.  
Royal Room**

**Registration: 1:00 – 1:20 p.m. (Cathedral Room)**

**Session Two A: 1:20 – 2:40 (Ursuline Room)**

**Beyond Local Color I: Methods and Genres for Late Nineteenth-Century Regional Inquiry**

Chair: Tara Penry, Professor of English, Boise State University

1. "More than Color, Less than an –ism: The Postbellum Regional Novel," Alex Leslie, Rutgers University
2. "Social Equality and the Louisiana Novel," Erica Stevens, Penn State University
3. "(Re)Constructing the South with Pauline Hopkins’ *Peculiar Sam, or The Underground Railroad*," Sherita L. Johnson, The University of Southern Mississippi
4. "Alternative Regionalisms from the Periodical Archive," Tara Penry, Boise State University

**Session Two B: 1:20 – 2:40 (Pontalba Room)**

**Eudora Welty and Regionalism II**

Sponsored by the Eudora Welty Society

Chair: Harriet Pollack, College of Charleston and Bucknell University

1. "New Orleans, The Birthplace of Ready-Made Victims: Welty's Purr-ple Hat," Dawn Trouard, University of Central Florida
2. Casting a Wider Net: Eudora Welty, Regionalism, and Cultures of Display," Elizabeth Oxler, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
3. "A Curtain of Grit: Eudora Welty and the Rough South," Jacob Agner, University of Mississippi
4. "Welty on the North, The South, and Civil Rights Era in her Never Published Work," Harriet Pollack, College of Charleston and Bucknell University

**Session Two C: 1:20 – 2:40 (Beauregard Room)**

**Southern Comforts: Drinking in New Orleans and the American South**

Co-chairs: Conor Picken, Bellarmine University, and Matthew Dischinger, Georgia Institute of Technology

1. "Moonshine in the Sunshine State: Rawlings, Hemingway, and the Global South," Christopher Rieger, Southeast Missouri State University
2. "W's Good Time," Jennie Lightweis-Goff, University of Mississippi
3. "Rebranding Bourbon Street: The Midcentury Tourist Boom in John Kennedy Toole's A Confederacy of Dunces," Robert Rea, University of Mississippi

**Session Two D: 1:20 – 2:40 (Cabildo Room)**

**Examining Nationalism, Politics, and Other Perspectives**

Chair: Kirk Curnutt, Troy University

1. "Long Branch, U.S.A: Robert Pinsky's Extended Metaphor for Tenuous Social Capital in America," Jennifer van Alstyne, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
2. "Voicing the Void: The Political Work of Regional Writing," J.D. Isip, Collin College
3. "Post-Corporate Spaces and Their Function in Tom Robbins' Novels," Liam O. Purdon, Doane University

**Session Three A: 2:50 – 4:10 (Beauregard Room)**

**Beyond Local Color II: Border-Crossing Genres in the Late Nineteenth-Century U.S.**

Chair: Tara Penry, Professor of English, Boise State University

1. "The Limits of Local Color Realism: Sentimental Regions in the Civil War Poetry of James Whitcomb Riley and Paul Laurence Dunbar," Robert Arbour, Indiana University
2. "California Verses: Charlotte Perkins Gilman's Poetics of Western Paradise," Sigrid Anderson Cordell, University of Michigan
3. "Transregional American Literature: Investigating Spatial and Generic Movement," Mike Lemon, Texas Tech University
4. "Folk Knowledge and the Evolution of Science in *The Country of the Pointed Firs*," Liz Smith, Western State Colorado University

**Session Three B: 2:50 – 4:10 (Pontalba Room)**

**New Orleans I**

Chair: Olivia Carr Edenfield, Georgia Southern University

1. "The Bamboula in New Orleans Fiction," Mary Anne O'Neal, University of Georgia
2. "Colonial New Orleans and Paul Louis LeBlanc De Villeneuve's *The Festival of the Corn or The Heroism of Poucha-Houmma*," Nancy Dixon, Dillard University
3. "Regionalism and the Nonhermeneutic: Lafcadio Hearn's *Chita* and Why the Limits of Literary Interpretation Matter," Matthew Smith, University of Tennessee
4. "Regional Historiography and the Stories of New Orleans," James Nagel, University of Georgia

**Session Three C: 2:50 – 4:10 (Cabildo Room)**

**Undead Souths/Spectral Regionalism I**

Chair: Eric Gary Anderson, George Mason University

1. "As She Lay Dying: Locating a Pacific Southern Gothic in Kai Hart Hemmings's *The Descendants*," Amber Pualani Hodge, The University of Mississippi
2. "Undead Energy and the Gulf Coast in Brenda Longfellow's *Offshore*," Delia Byrnes, University of Texas at Austin
3. "Undead Edifices of Gulf Minds, Bodies, and Labor: Abandoned Textile Mills and Undreamt Unions across the Gulf of Mexico, Dolores Flores-Silva, Roanoke College, and Keith Cartwright, University of North Florida

**Session Three D: 2:50 – 4:10 (Ursuline Room)**

**West Virginia/Appalachia**

Chair: Megan Flanery, Georgia Southern University

1. "Listen to the Mountain People: Appalachian Literature and Resisting Capitalist Imperialist Nationalism," Christopher Prewitt, Columbus State Community College
2. "Matthew Neill Null's 'Something That You Can't Live Without,' Literacy, and Foucauldian Power-Knowledge Relations," W. Reginald Rampone, Jr., South Carolina State University
3. "Affrilachian Poets: Redefining Regionalism and Place," Mary Carruth, Southern University

**Session Four A: 4:20 – 5:40 (Pontalba Room)**

**Undead Souths/Spectral Regionalism II**

Chair: Eric Gary Anderson, George Mason University

1. "Grave Emergences: Undead Figures in Poe's 'Berenice' and Gilman's 'The Giant Wisteria,'" Staci Poston Conner, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
2. "Seeing Undeadness: The Narrative Picture as Visual Spectre," Randall Wilhelm, Anderson University
3. "Man-Horse Dybbuk: Hybridity, Faulkner, and the Global Undead," Jay Ingrao, The University of Texas at Dallas
4. "'Some Girls You Marry, Some Girls You Love': Deadly Love in Rosa Guy, Jean Rhys, and Lee Smith," Jameela F. Dallis, Carolina Friends School

**Session Four B: 4:20 – 5:40 (Ursuline Room)**

**Fire in Gay New Orleans: Staging Local History Off-Broadway**

Chair: Stephanie Rountree, Auburn University

1. "‘The Revolution Ain’t Coming Here’: The Upstairs Lounge Fire as Post-Stonewall Flashpoint in New Orleans," Ryan Prechter, Georgia State University
2. "Salvaged Southern Mythos in Max Vernon’s Musical *The View UpStairs*, or Aurora Whorealis Serves Scarlett-Madonna Realness," Stephanie Rountree, Auburn University
3. Interview with Max Vernon, Creator and Playwright of *The View UpStairs*, conducted by Ryan Prechter and Stephanie Rountree

**Session Four C: 4:20-5:40 (Cabildo Room)**

**Sense of Place in American Modernist Poetry, Print Culture and Visual Art**

Chair: Leticia Pérez Alonso, Jackson State University

1. "Speaking American: Big Magazines and Colloquial Idioms, 1920-1940," Jean Graham, SUNY Stony Brook
2. "Bowery Blues," Ben Gillespie, Johns Hopkins University
3. "‘The sketch I want simple, and stark’: Art Imagery and Sense of Place in the Poems of Kenneth Fearing," Ann Lupi von Mehren, Drexel University
4. "Hart Crane on Joseph Stella: The Brooklyn Bridge and the Myth of American Modernity," Leticia Pérez Alonso, Jackson State University

**Session Four D: 4:20-5:40 (Beauregard Room)**

**Grounded Regions—Sky, Glass, and Before the Grid: Three Memoirs of Deep Place**

Chair: Sara Kosiba, Troy University

1. "White Sands, Dead Sands: The Crater of Glass at the Heart of the Desert," selected from her work in progress, "Pink and Spotted Thunder: A Climate Memoir of American Borderlands," Jennifer Wicke, University of California, Santa Barbara
2. Excerpt "From the James River to the Corn Palace," Shirley Samuels, Cornell University
3. Excerpt "The Birmingham Fire Department Reads ‘Othello’: Memoirs of Others," Candace Waid, University of California, Santa Barbara

**Opening Reception and Keynote Address: 5:40 – 7:30 p.m.**

**Royal Room**

"The Birth of the Midwest and the Rise of Regional Theory"

Michael Steiner

California State University, Fullerton

## Saturday, September 9, 2017

### Session Five A: 9:00 – 10:20 (Beauregard Room)

#### 19<sup>th</sup> Century Regional Perspectives I

Chair: Mike Lemon, Texas Tech University

1. "My flower garden has taught me that lesson': Gardens in E.D.E.N. Southworth's Novels," Ann Beebe, University of Texas at Tyler
2. "Searching for the Church: Obscure Places and the Ministers' Fall from Grace," Lisa Moody, Southeastern Louisiana University
3. "Ain't Nothing But a Hound Dog: The Threat of Racial Mixing in *Pudd'nhead Wilson*," Matthew Pincus, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

### Session Five B: 9:00 – 10:20 (Pontalba Room)

#### New Orleans II

Chair: Breanna Harris, Georgia Southern University

1. "Transnational Regionalism and the *Southern Workman* Fiction of Alice Dunbar-Nelson," Sidonia Serafini, University of Georgia
2. "On Faulkner's Souths: New Orleans as Region in *Absalom, Absalom!*," John Schranck, University of California, Santa Barbara
3. "Edna Pontellier's Water Awakening and African Divinity Lasirenn," Brooke Hoffner, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

### Session Five C: 9:00 – 10:20 (Ursuline Room)

#### Black Pittsburgh

Sponsored by the John Edgar Wideman Society

Chair: Keith Byerman, Indiana State University

1. "Black Pittsburgh: John Wideman and August Wilson," Malcolm Cash, Ohio State University
2. "The Black Hole—Homewood in John Edgar Wideman's *Brothers and Keepers*," JuYoun Jang, University of Mississippi
3. "Creating Black Pittsburgh: Wideman's Origin Stories," Keith Byerman, Indiana State University

### Session Five D: 9:00 – 10:20 (Cabildo Room)

#### Defining Region or Addressing Multiple Regions

Chair: Marcia Noe, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

1. "Regionalism in Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*," Vikram Singh, Kurukshetra University
2. "Judy Troy: Postmodern Regionalist," C. Scott Nesbitt, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
3. "Out in the Sticks," Khirsten Doolan, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

**Session Six A: 10:30 – 11:50 (Beauregard Room)**

**19<sup>th</sup> Century Regional Perspectives II**

Chair: Leslie Petty, Rhodes College

1. "The Limits of Whitman's Nationalist Poetics in *Drum-Taps*," Kayleigh Quarterman, University of California, Riverside
2. "A Shrinking World: Edgar Allan Poe's 'The Masque of the Red Death' as Global Fiction," Jason Richards, Rhodes College
3. "A Haunted Place: The Gothic and Regionalism in Hawthorne's *The House of the Seven Gables*," Matthew Skwiat, University of Rochester
4. "Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins, Regionalism, and US Nationalism and Imperialism," Carolyn Sorisio, West Chester University of Pennsylvania

**Session Six B: 10:30 – 11:50 (Pontalba Room)**

**The Contemporary South**

Chair: Jay Ingraio, University of Texas at Dallas

1. "A Southern Gothic for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?: Southern Conceptions of Time and Space in Brian Reed's *S-Town*," Rachael Price, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
2. "Them Old Cotton Fields Back Home: Transcendent Regionalism In A Virtual World," Idabel Allen, Independent Scholar
3. "The Past that Won't Stay Past: *True Blood* and the Myth of the South," Shirley Stave, Northwestern State University
4. "S-Town: Scopophilia, Necrological Impulses, and the Undead Souths," Meredith McCarroll, Bowdoin College

**Session Six C: 10:30 – 11:50 (Cabildo Room)**

**Texas Regional Writing**

Chair: Alfred Bendixen, Princeton University

1. "Excavating the Borderlands: South Texas Women's Writing," Susan Roberson, Texas A&M University, Kingsville
2. "Reppin' H-Town: Houston Hip-Hop as Postmodern Representations of Place," Kristina Kirk, University of Texas at Dallas
3. "Nelson Algren in Texas: A Critical Regionalist Reading," José Limon, University of Notre Dame
4. "We're all refugees, in a way': Farnoosh Moshiri, Houstonian," Cliff Hudder, Lone Star College – Montgomery



**Session Six D: 10:30 – 11:50 (Ursuline Room)**

**Sacred Mountains/Spirit Places: Glyphs, Hymns, and Rites of Becoming**

Chair: Molly Donehoo, Georgia Southern University

1. "Pyramids, Altepemeh, and Other Mountains: Sacred Geography Among Nahua People of Central Mexico," Felicia Lopez, University of California, Santa Barbara
2. "A Methodology of Trust: Apache Oral Traditions and Places of Sacred Knowledge," Inés Talamantez, University of California, Santa Barbara
3. "Singing Grace, Protecting Place," Margaret McMurtrey, University of California, Santa Barbara
4. "Speaking and Creating Sacred Landscapes on The Native North American Stage: Protection and Ceremony in Performance," Alesha Claveria, University of California, Santa Barbara

**Lunch: Noon – 1:00 p.m.  
Royal Room**

**Session Seven A: 1:20 – 2:40 (Beauregard Room)**

**Exploring America through International Eyes or Island Viewpoints**

Chair: Jameela Dallis, Carolina Friends School

1. "The American Fictions of Blaise Cendrars," David Ingle, University of Georgia
2. "America's Frankenstein: Fear & Monstrosity in Richard Wright's *Native Son*," Gretchen Martin, The University of Virginia's College at Wise
3. "Involved with a Very Powerful Jumbie': Colonial Relations in Henry S. Whitehead's *Weird West Indies*," Travis Rozier, Texas A&M University

**Session Seven B: 1:20 – 2:40 (Cabildo Room)**

**New (Southern) Weird**

Chair: Benjamin Fisher, University of Mississippi

1. "The New (Weird) South: Necrophilia & the Southern Literary Tradition in Poppy Z. Brite's *Exquisite Corpse*," Cameron Crawford, University of North Georgia
2. "Fear of the Unacknowledged: The Weird Tradition in the Fiction of Cherie Priest," Leverett Butts, University of North Georgia
3. "Assaults of Chaos: Stephen Graham Jones's *Weird Families & Elemental Fear*," Maria O'Connell, Wayland Baptist University

**Session Seven C: 1:20 – 2:40 (Ursuline Room)**

**Archives ← → Regionalism ← → Place**

Chair: Sandra Zagarell, Oberlin College

1. "The Local Global," Kate Adams, Tulane University
2. "The *Local* Local," June Howard, University of Michigan
3. "Archival Significance to Regionalism: the Letters of Grace King," Miki Pfeffer, Nicholls State University

4. "Desperately Seeking Sarah: The Place of the Virtual Archive in Jewett Studies," Jennifer S. Tuttle, University of New England
5. "Dunbar-Nelson's Archive, Wilkins Freeman's Oeuvre, and the Places of Regionalism," Sandra A. Zagarell, Oberlin College

**Session Seven D: 1:20-2:40 (Pontalba Room)**

**Carceral Regions: Utopic/Dystopic Deep Place**

Moderator/Respondent: Jennifer Wicke, University of California, Santa Barbara

1. "Remaking Region in Radical Haiku: Minority Literary Sociality as Resistance at Tule Lake, Mai-Linh Hong, Bucknell University
2. "Mobile Regions in *The Grapes of Wrath*: Traumatic Displacement and Utopic Homelands," Natasha O'Neill, University of California
3. "Horror's Region is Pine Creek: Deep Blood/Carceral Homeland," Colton Saylor, University of California, Santa Barbara

**Session Eight A: 2:50 – 4:10 (Beauregard Room)**

**Flâneur of the American Underclass: Lafcadio Hearn and the Invention of Place in Cincinnati and New Orleans, 1872-1887**

Sponsored by The Society for the Study of Working-Class Literature

Chair: Andrew Ball, Lindenwood University

1. "On the Bucktown Beat: Lafcadio Hearn Sketches Cincinnati's 'Pariah People'," Andrew Ball, Lindenwood University — St. Louis
2. "Lafcadio Hearn and the Genesis of Working Class New Orleans as Literary Place," Paul D. Mahaffey, University of Montevallo
3. "These Romantic Ghosts: Lafcadio Hearn's Modern Day French Quarter," Racheal Harris, University of New England — Australia
4. "From Mardi Gras to Martinique: Colorism in Lafcadio Hearn's Creole Carnival," Michael Janis, Morehouse College

**Session Eight B: 2:50 – 4:10 (Pontalba Room)**

**"Rough South" Regionalism: Place, Culture, and Material Souths**

Chair: Kimberly Turner, University of Tennessee

1. "The Dehumanizing Dream of Woodrell's *Tomato Red*," Shawn E. Miller, Francis Marion University
2. "A Rough Kind of Regionalism: Culture, Place, and Geography in Harry Crews's *Celebration*," Melody Knight Pritchard, University of South Carolina
3. "'The Pine Trees Always Green and Constant': Regionalism in Larry Brown's *Joe*," Christina Xan, University of South Carolina

**Session Eight C: 2:50 – 4:10 (Cabildo Room)**

**The Midwest**

Chair: Rachael Price, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

1. "The Metaphorical Significance of Regional Trees in *Winesburg, Ohio*," Breanna Harris, Georgia Southern University
2. "The Journey from 'erasure of personality' to 'that is happiness': Regionalism in Willa Cather's *My Antonia*," Shannon Forbes, University of St. Thomas
3. "Nanapush and Brown Dog: Terrorism and Stereotypology," Rick Wallach, Nova Southeastern University LLI
4. "Nationalist Nostalgia: The Midwestern Small Town in the Mid-Twentieth Century," Patricia Oman, Hastings College

**Session Eight D: 2:50 – 4:10 (Ursuline Room)**

**Rethinking Regionalism: New Paradigms, New Regions, New Authors**

Chair: Amber Hodge, University of Mississippi

1. "Canonical Constraint and the Problem of Regional Pleasures in King and Woolson," Sarah H. Salter, Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi
2. "From '60 to '65 in '76: Reimagining Region and Nation in the Work of Sherwood Bonner," Kathryn McKee, University of Mississippi
3. "Toward a Transregionalist Approach: Woolson and Twain," Anne Boyd Rioux, University of New Orleans

**Session Nine A: 4:20 – 5:40 (Beauregard Room)**

**The Southern Gothic in Wolfe, McCarthy, and McCullers**

Participants:

E. Stone Meredith, Colorado State University, Global Campus  
James H. Meredith, Colorado State University, Global Campus  
Jeanne Fuchs, Hofstra University

**Session Nine B: 4:20 – 5:40 (Pontalba Room)**

**Flannery O'Connor**

Chair: Andrew Ball, Lindenwood University

1. "Wise Blog: Flannery O'Connor in the Era of Goodreads," Jordan Cofer, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
2. "Georgia Comes to New York City: Rethinking Flannery O'Connor's Regionalism," Alison Arant, Wagner College
3. "A Good Mayonnaise is Hard to Find: Flannery O'Connor and Culinary Codependency," David A. Davis, Mercer University

**Session Nine C: 4:20 – 5:40 (Ursuline Room)**

**Urban, Rural and Exotic Places in American Modernist Poetry**

Chair: Leticia Pérez Alonso, Jackson State University

1. "Spoon River Anthology: Midwestern Modernism and the Myth of Rural America," Jason Stacy, Southern Illinois State University
2. "It was never a Dark Continent: Educating about Africa in the Harlem Renaissance," Mark Malisa, University of West Florida
3. "Marianne Moore's New York Menagerie: Animalia & Regional Modernism," Heather Macpherson, University of Rhode Island
4. "Elizabeth Bishop's New York, Boston, and the American Landscape," Charla Allyn Hughes, Louisiana State University

**Session Nine D: 4:20 – 5:40 (Cabildo Room)**

**The West and Southwest**

Chair: Meredith McCarroll, Bowdoin College

1. "Saying the Unsayable: Jean Stafford, Region, and Fiction," Cory Lock, St. Edwards University
2. "Competing Regionalism: Unreconciled Productions of Place," Monique McDade, University of Nevada, Reno
3. "Life in the Borders: Female Liminality in *We Fed Them Cactus* and *El Mesquite*," Laurie Lowrance, University of New Mexico
4. "Marginal Characters, Caricatures, and Place: Reading Edward Abbey's Manuscripts and *Desert Solitaire* in Writing the Southwest," Lauren Perry, University of New Mexico

**Closing Plenary and Reception: 5:45 – 7:30 p.m.  
Riverview Room**

**"The Role of Regional Academic Journals in American Literary Scholarship"**

Chair: Kirk Curnutt, Troy University

1. Marcia Noe, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga  
Editor, *MidAmerica* and *Midwestern Miscellany* (Publications of The Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature)
2. Ted Atkinson, Mississippi State University  
Editor, *Mississippi Quarterly*
3. Jonathan Chu, University of Massachusetts, Boston  
Editor, *The New England Quarterly*
4. William Jensen, Texas State University, San Marcos  
Editor, *Southwestern American Literature*