

Flannery O'Connor and Families

February 4-6, 2021

DeSoto Hotel
15 Liberty St.
Savannah, GA 31401

Conference Director:
Marshall Bruce Gentry, Georgia College

Keynote Speaker:
Minrose Gwin

Conference Fee: \$175

The DeSoto Hotel offers excellent rates and is perfectly located near the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home in the historic downtown of Savannah. Single and double rooms will be available for \$174 a night. Valet parking is discounted for \$26 a night, and Wi-Fi is complementary in the guest rooms.

Flannery O'Connor was a great and complex writer on the subject of family dynamics. What do we find when we examine the relationships between members of the metaphorical and biological families to which O'Connor's characters belong? How does O'Connor regard childhood? How do issues and themes of family life relate to O'Connor's other themes? We are open to proposals on other topics relating to O'Connor, and we are particularly interested in presentations about how—in various courses, for various sorts of students—to teach O'Connor's works. These and other topics should provide for a lively weekend of literary exploration and good conversation. We welcome proposals for individual papers, complete panels, and roundtable discussions.

Send proposals (in the form of a 300-word abstract for a paper of 15-20 minutes) to the Conference Director at bruce.gentry@gcsu.edu as soon as convenient and no later than October 15, 2020.

Conference Details: Sessions run Friday and Saturday, Feb. 5 and 6, 2020. There will be an opening event and welcoming reception on Thursday evening, Feb. 4. The Conference Fee of \$175 includes a luncheon as well as receptions.

Individuals may propose papers, panels, or roundtables by emailing the Conference Director, Professor Marshall Bruce Gentry (bruce.gentry@gcsu.edu) no later than October 15, 2020, and preferably earlier. The proposal should include the title of the presentation or panel, an abstract that provides a clear idea of the material that will be covered, a brief vita or description of the presenter's qualifications, and the email addresses for all participants. The proposal should be both pasted into an email and sent as an attachment (preferably in WORD). All emails will be acknowledged in a timely manner.

Those proposing papers and/or panels will be informed of acceptances by November 4, and hotel reservations will need to be made before January 4, 2021. Participants will be asked to make their hotel reservations immediately and to pay the conference fee by pre-registering on-line by January 15, 2021. A program will be placed on the ALA website prior to our meeting, and printed programs will be available at the symposium.

ALA Guidelines: The most common ALA format is a time slot of one hour and twenty minutes with three papers and a chair. This permits time for discussion and three papers of approximately 20 minutes (or nine typed double-spaced pages). Organizers of panels are free to use other formats provided they respect the time limits. Furthermore, the ALA encourages panel organizers to experiment with innovative formats including discussion groups and panels featuring more speakers and briefer papers. Chairs will make sure that the panels start and end on time and that no speaker goes beyond the allotted time limit. We prefer that chairs not present papers on the panels that they are moderating, and no one may present more than one paper at an ALA symposium.

AV: Please note that we are not able to provide AV at this symposium.

Conference Registration: The conference fee of \$175 covers the costs of the conference. We require all of those who are on the program to pre-register by January 15, 2021. Please see the website for the on-line registration link. If you wish to pay by check, you may find the mail-in registration form on our website. The conference fee is \$175 for all participants. We regret that we are unable to offer a lower rate for graduate students and independent scholars. If you have a question or concern regarding registration, please contact Olivia Carr Edenfield, Director of the ALA, at carr@georgiasouthern.edu.

ALA Membership: Membership in the ALA is not required in order to propose or present a paper. In fact, technically the members of the American Literature Association are the various author societies. Individuals may keep informed about the activities of the ALA, including our symposia and conferences, by checking our website (www.americanliteratureassociation.org).

Please note that the American Literature Association maintains the lowest conference fees of any major scholarly organization because it operates without a paid staff. If you have any questions that are not answered by this announcement, please contact the Conference Director, Professor Olivia Carr Edenfield, Director of the ALA, at carr@georgiasouthern.edu

Thank you for your interest and your support of the American Literature Association.