



ALS-MLA
American Literature Section
of the
Modern Language Association
ANNUAL REPORT, 2011
Compiled by Joycelyn Moody and
Emily Broadwater,
University of Texas at San Antonio

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American Literature Section Officers 2011

Chair: Michael Moon, Emory U

Ex Officio: Elizabeth Maddock Dillon, Northeastern U

Executive Coordinator: Joycelyn Moody,
U of Texas, San Antonio

Advisory Council

Elected Members of the Council:

Priscilla Wald, Editor of *American Literature*
and Ex-Officio Council Member, Duke U (2009—)

Nancy Bentley, U of Pennsylvania (2010–14)

Jesse Aleman, U of New Mexico (2011–15)

Gene Andrew Jarrett, Boston U (2011–15)

Joycelyn Moody, U of Texas, San Antonio (2009–13)

Division Chairs:

American Literature to 1800

Michelle Burnham, Santa Clara U

Nineteenth-Century American Literature

Anna Brickhouse, U of Virginia

Late-Nineteenth and Early Twentieth-Century American Literature

Donald Pease, Dartmouth College

Twentieth-Century American Literature

Evie Shockley, Rutgers U

Black American Literature and Culture

Michele Elam, Stanford U

American Indian Literatures

Kathryn Shanley, U of Montana

Asian American Literature

Kandice Chuh, City U of New York

Chicana and Chicano Literature

John M. González, U of Texas, Austin

The executive coordinator and editor of American Literature are also members of the Advisory Council.

ALS-MLA Standing Committees

Nominating Committee:

Nancy Bentley, U of Pennsylvania, Chair

Tina Chen, Pennsylvania State U

Sheila Contreras, Michigan State U

Hubbell Award Committee:

Shirley Samuels, Cornell U (2012 Chair)

William L. Andrews, UNC Chapel Hill, (2013 Chair)

Ivy Schweitzer, Dartmouth College, (2014 Chair)

Nancy Bentley, U of Pennsylvania (2015 Chair)

Foerster Prize Committee:

Sarah E. Chinn, Hunter College, City U of New York

R. John Williams, Yale U

Elizabeth Renker, Chair, Ohio State U

Editorial Board, *American Literature*

Priscilla Wald, Duke U, Editor

Sara Blair, U of Michigan (2012)

Jeannine DeLombard, U of Toronto (2012)

Nancy Glazener, U of Pittsburgh (2012)

William J. Maxwell, Washington U, St. Louis (2012)

Paula Rabinowitz, U of Minnesota (2012)

Glenda R. Carpio, Harvard U (2013)

Amy Abugo Ongiri, U of Florida (2013)

Peter Coviello, Bowdoin College (2013)

Kathryn Stockton, U of Utah (2013)

Ed White, U of Florida (2013)

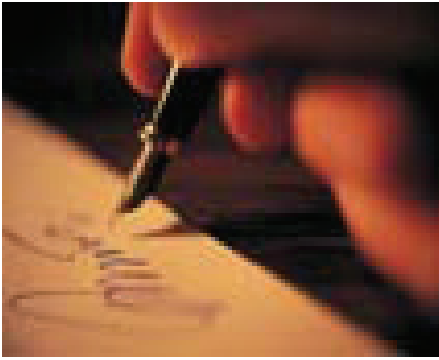
Mary Pat Brady, Cornell U (2014)

Josephine Nock-Hee Park, U of Pennsylvania (2014)

Susan Parrish, U of Michigan (2014)

Jed Rasula, U of Georgia (2014)

Robert Warrior, U of Illinois (2014)



**Citation for
Professor Linda Wagner-Martin
from the Hubbell Award Committee**

On behalf of the Award Committee and the American Literature Section of the Modern Language Association, it is my great pleasure to present the Jay B. Hubbell Medal for Lifetime Achievement in American Literary Studies to Linda Wagner-Martin. The Hubbell Medal recognizes scholars who have made major contributions to the contemporary understanding of American literature. The roster of Hubbell Medal award winners reads like a who's who of renowned scholars and critics. This year's winner has been a pioneer, a standard setter, and an exemplar for more than a half century. She's also been a friend and colleague for about thirty years, although I've admired her and her work for longer than that. I've also been the recipient, like probably a few other folks in this room, of Linda's tough love, shall we say, for which I am also grateful, even if at the time I received it, I may not have always expressed my enthusiasm for it.

For the last 23 years, Linda Wagner-Martin has been the Frank Borden and Barbara Lasater Hanes Distinguished Professor of English at UNC-Chapel Hill. She came to Chapel Hill from Michigan State University, where she had served as Chair of the English Department and as an Associate Dean for the College of Arts and Letters. On June 30th, 2011, Linda "retired." Since Linda is one of the least retiring people I know, I expect her within the next year or two to complete a substantial book on literary retirement. She's written a book about practically every other literary figure and subject in the last 100 years, so why not that?

But let's begin at the beginning. When Linda "retired" six months ago, she brought at least to a formal conclusion a teaching career of more than

fifty years, beginning when she taught English and Drama in high schools in Ohio and Michigan. In 1963, she and an African American man were the first two individuals to earn a PhD from Bowling Green State University. Three decades later, Linda became the first woman to preside over the Ernest Hemingway Foundation and Board (1993-96), an office she held a second time a decade later. In this position she played a key role in extending access to Hemingway materials for research and publication to a more diverse array of scholars, especially women, than had been customary. In nearly every organization she joined, Linda played a leadership role, becoming President of the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature, of the Ellen Glasgow Society, of the Society for the Study of Narrative Technique, and of the American Literature Section of the MLA.

My UNC colleague, Beverly Taylor, has an apt way of characterizing Linda's vita. It's long enough to wallpaper a fair-sized room. There's no time to do more than simply list the big categories of her scholarship, but here goes. Linda has published, at last count (I didn't check in the last couple of weeks, so this number is probably a little low): 24 books of criticism and biography; two textbooks; the groundbreaking *Oxford Companion to Women's Writing in the United States* and the anthology *The Oxford Book of Women's Writing in the United States* (both co-edited with Cathy N. Davidson); and 26 edited essay collections, bibliographies, and reviews of scholarship. My considered scholarly assessment of this corpus of work is: WHEW! When I reflect on the fact that Linda has published an average of one book per year for the last half century, I don't know which to admire more—the creativity or the stamina.

Linda has written and edited books or published essays and articles on anybody who was somebody in the twentieth-century American canon, including William Carlos Williams, Denise Levertov, Robert Frost, Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner, John Steinbeck, John Dos Passos, Edgar Lee Masters, Ellen Glasgow, Sylvia Plath, Edith Wharton, William Inge, Lillian Hellman, Robert Creeley, Henry James, Gertrude Stein, Barbara Kingsolver, Zelda and F. Scott Fitzgerald, H.D., Marianne Moore, Kay Boyle, David Ignatow, e. e. cummings, Joyce Carol Oates, Shirley Ann Grau, Anne Sexton, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Gloria Naylor, Anne Tyler, Lee Smith, Toni Morrison,

and Margaret Atwood. I'm only getting warmed up, but for the sake of brevity, I'll stop there. Although I should mention that Linda's first publications were on John Donne, George Herbert, Henry Vaughan, and Shakespeare. In her "spare" time—all puns intended, Linda found time to publish two volumes of her own poetry. Then there are the 62 book chapters, 120 journal articles, and 25 encyclopedia articles you can find in her vita.

As I perceive a greenish tinge spreading over the faces of this audience, I think we should just skip the hundreds of book reviews and the conference papers and the invited lectures I was going to touch on for this occasion. Come to think of it, you probably don't even want to know how many editorial boards and prize committees and promotion review committees she's served on. So we'll just pass over that lightly too.

In case you're wondering, Linda Wagner-Martin is not Superwoman. I can state that with confidence because Superwoman had no kids, whereas Linda raised a family of three. You may decide to dispute Linda's super status with me, however, after you hear about the fellowships, honors, and awards Linda has garnered during her superb, if not super, career: there's the Bunting Institute fellowship, of course, and the Guggenheim, and the fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Rockefeller Foundation. We're just hitting the high points here. But we shouldn't ignore the Woman Achiever's Award at Michigan State University, or the College English Association Teacher-Scholar Award, or the American Woman of Letters Award from the Robert Frost Society; or the Honorary Doctor of Letters from her alma mater; or the Citation for Exceptional Merit from the Ohio House of Representatives.

Anybody curious about Linda's teaching? Well, let me warn you, it's more of the same. At UNC she won a Women's Studies Teaching Award, the UNC Post-Baccalaureate Teaching Award, and, on top of that, the William C. Friday Prize for Excellence in Teaching. As Linda's UNC colleague, I, personally, would kill to get just one of those awards, but for Linda winning teaching awards in university competition has been insufferably routine. Talk about grace under pressure.

I do need to highlight one award Linda won during her fabulous teaching career: the UNC English

Department's Graduate Student Association Mentor Award. I have it on good authority that during her entire professional career Linda Wagner-Martin has directed approximately 200 dissertations and theses. When I think of a lifetime contribution to the study of American letters, it seems to me that, in Linda's case, we're probably talking about something like 200 lifetimes of studying American literature, and that doesn't begin to calculate all the students she's taught and advised, in one capacity or another, from doctoral defenses to freshman seminars and everything in between for lo these many decades. Having had an office on the same hall as Linda's, I can testify to the fact that I never—I mean never—saw Linda Wagner-Martin in her office without at least one student in there with her. Many of these students were female, and there's no telling how many were inspired by Linda's teaching and her scholarship about men and women writers and by Linda's example as a magisterial woman of letters herself.

When we talk about mentoring students, in short, Linda Wagner-Martin wrote the book. And that's not just a figure of speech, either. Give her a year or two, and she probably will write a book on it. And we'll all do well to read it too.

What an honor it is for all of us to celebrate you, Linda, for your magnificent and unparalleled professional career. Please accept our applause and thanks for all you have done to change and vastly improve the ways we teach, study, interpret, and evaluate American literature.





Hubbell Acceptance Speech

Linda Wagner-Martin, UNC at Chapel Hill

Thanks, Bill, it is great to have a friend who can combine his real work with administration.

I remember the words of Americanists, tucked away as they are in literal corners of the humanities. One continues to think of the words frontier and horizon with the study of American letters, as well as the words helpfulness and generosity.

I remember dear Lou Budd in his long years of editing *American Literature*, using me as a tie-breaker for controversial essays, and—in the days when women scholars were somewhat rare—being asked to serve on the perpetual committee to assess the possibility of seceding from the MLA: I can see Louis Rubin's and Jim Cox's twinkling eyes as they made that motion year after year. (*American Literature* did not secede, but Alfred Bendixen provided a different kind of solution when he single handedly, and on a slim shoestring, formed the ALA, the American Literature Association—Thanks, Alfred).

I remember being mocked for the first twenty years of my career, “you DO know you are in the wrong century?” (Where did all these friends who were Twain scholars and Hawthorne people come from?) Well, years pass and the stigma of being “in” the twentieth and now the twenty-first century begins to ameliorate...

I remember being warned NOT to review any book if my critique would have to be negative.

I was reared by some great Americanists. For twenty years, Russel B. Nye kept the department at Michigan State on track: I can still see him, leaning against the office door frame and warning me away

from yet another battle over curriculum: choose a different battle, and wait till next year. It was Russ who left clippings he thought would interest us younger scholars in our mailboxes, as if wherever his mind moved, we younger faculty were in his sights. And who said, sagely, MEET DEADLINES. Get your work in on time.

My dissertation director, Fred Eckman, was himself a poet, and he made us care about the values of words—words in poems but also the words in our own academic prose. Words are counters: you can spend them only once.

I remember Annette Kolodny explaining in her painstaking way that I loved a text because of what it said but SHE loved it because of what it told her about the times and the culture.

I remember Nina Bayn telling the feminists at Jeanne Campbell Reesman's splendid San Antonio conference that they were NOT going to like what she was about to say, which was that they should write their first book about a male author (as Nina had, on Hawthorne). Mutterings...mutterings. Nina was never afraid of the mutterings...

I remember the surprise in Bernice Slote's voice when I phoned to ask her to stand for election to the *American Literature* board of editors, and the hesitation in his voice when Alfred Kazin gave his remarks upon receiving this very medal, and the consistent willingness to cajole that marked Paul Lauter's voice as the Heath Anthology board of editors met again and again over Tables of Contents, and changes to Tables of Contents, and revisions, and revisions, and revisions.

And most of all I remember all those serious minded graduate students, in both the Michigan State program and the University of North Carolina program—who never asked for enough, but also always won their tenure...and I'm sure are passing forward whatever help they can give their own students, undergrad as well as graduate. Part of the joy of being an Americanist is the study of texts, yes, but a larger part is the kind of people who take up the enterprise, the torch, and become involved in teaching others to write and to read. Blessings...and thank you so much for this wonderful honor.

Foerster Prize Citation: 2011

Elizabeth Renker, Chair, Ohio State U
Sarah E. Chinn, Hunter College, CUNY
R. John Williams, Yale U

The Foerster Prize Committee faced the stimulating task of reviewing an utterly splendid year for *American Literature*. Scott Selisker's "'Simply by Reacting?': The Sociology of Race and *Invisible Man's* Automata" (83.3), this year's winner, deftly argued that Ellison's novel tactically deploys tropes of the automaton in order to dramatize how scientific, bureaucratic, and state institutions, as well as "antiracist" individuals, withheld agency from the African American people they construed as reactive objects rather than democratic agents.

The Committee was compelled by the essay's fresh revelations about the novel's cultural work alongside emergent social science models. Two honorable mentions, Nathaniel Williams' "Frank Reade, Jr., in Cuba: Dime-Novel Technology, U.S. Imperialism, and the 'American Jules Verne,'" and Aaron Bady's "Tarzan's White Flights: Terrorism and Fantasy before and after the Airplane," both appeared in the *Speculative Fictions* special issue.

Williams' ambitious "distant reading" of decades of serial fiction (192 novels in all, plus reprints), and Bady's gripping study of Tarzan in dialogue with the historical moment when science made possible the miracle of human flight, both kept us riveted with their impressive methodologies and argumentative scope.

Foerster Prize Acceptance: 2011

Scott Selisker, UCSB

I'm deeply honored to be the recipient of this award. It's doubly gratifying because this is work that represents the very first steps of my dissertation and now first book project, "Sciences of the Subhuman: The Human Automaton and America's Others since WWII." As I began the project, looking to reopen the question of what "automatism" means for post-WWII American culture within the literature and science subfield, the choice of a starting place was obvious. What better thinker in American literature for unsettling received ideas about the ways of seeing that partition visible subjects from invisible subjects than Ralph Ellison? On the trail of Arnold Rampersad's excellent biography and Roderick Ferguson's fine work on a

"lost" chapter of *Invisible Man*, I found in the Ellison papers at the Library of Congress yet more evidence that Ellison was one of the most original and inventive thinkers of the American twentieth century.

Looking back at the piece, I see that a tacit claim in the article is that Ellison anticipates Jacques Rancière's understanding of democracy as a matter of counting, and more precisely of the miscounting of a nation's invisible subjects. Both thinkers see that the subjects of science, managed and disciplined subjects are in fact objects, engendered by evolving but flawed strategies of reduction and exclusion. Ellison shows us a scientific mode of reduction that evolved from racial liberalism itself, one that would go on to inform a peculiarly American dialectic of self and other, of totalitarian and now fundamentalist automatisms that shore up ideologies of an exceptionally American freedom. From his vantage point, Ellison saw many aspects of this trajectory, and it was exciting to think alongside him in this article.

In closing, I'd like to offer some overdue thanks for helpful suggestions on the article from Jennifer Wicke, Eric Lott, Erich Nunn, Wes King, Nathan Ragain, David Sigler, Chris Forster, Shaun Cullen, Karim Mattar, and Faith Harden. I'd also like to thank Priscilla Wald for working with me on the essay, Emily Dings for her assistance, and the extraordinarily generous reviewer who, across thirteen points and 2,141 words took a serious stake in the essay's success. The excellence of the journal, evidenced by the care of those involved as much as by the fine articles that consistently appear in it, makes me all the more grateful for this recognition.



The records of the American Literature
Section are housed at the

**Jay B. Hubbell Center for American
Literary Historiography**

A Rare Book, Manuscript and Special
Collections Library at Duke University

Durham, NC 27708-0185

Telephone: 919-660-5820

<http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/hubbell/>

**Annual Report
American Literature, 2011**

American Literature Staff

In September 2011, Liz Beasley left her position as assistant managing editor of AL to become managing editor of Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, another Duke University Press journal. Also in September, Elma Longley, who has worked for the press in a variety of positions since 2003, joined the staff of AL as senior editorial assistant.

Graduate students Erica Fretwell and Lindsey Andrews wrote the brief mention section of the journal. When Erica graduated in spring 2011, Allison Curseen replaced her as editorial assistant.

Members leaving the board in December 2011

Joanna Brooks, San Diego State U
Elizabeth Maddock Dillon, Northeastern U
Brian M. Reed, U of Washington
Karen Shimakawa, New York U
Sean Kicummah Teuton, U of Wisconsin, Madison

New Board Members, beginning in January 2012

Mary Pat Brady, Cornell U
Josephine Nock-Hee Park, U of Pennsylvania
Susan Parrish, U of Michigan
Jed Rasula, U of Georgia
Robert Warrior, U of Illinois

Contents of American Literature, Volume 83

Essays.....	25
Book Review Essays.....	2
Reviews.....	47
Total number of pages.....	914

Essays Received and Processed

New submissions.....283
* Does not include revised resubmissions
(down from 368 in 2010)

Decisions made on essays during 2011.....340
(down from 406 in 2010)

NOTE: This total is different from the number of submissions because it includes essays submitted before January 1, 2011, and also because some submissions received more than one decision during the year.

Final Accept.....	31
Accept with Instructions.....	35
Revise toward Acceptance.....	16
Revise for Reconsideration.....	22
Reject without Reports.....	208
Reject with Reports.....	25
Withdrawn.....	3
Total.....	340

The final acceptance rate for 2011 was 9%
(Calculated on the number of essays processed, not the number of new submissions.)

Awards for American Literature Essays

**Don D. Walker Prize for the best essay published
on western American literature in 2010**

Winner: Chadwick Allen, "Serpentine Figures, Sinuous Relations: Thematic Geometry in Allison Hedge Coke's *Blood Run*" (December 2010).

**Norman Foerster Prize for the best essay published
annually in American Literature, 2011**

Winner: Scott Selisker, "'Simply by Reacting?': The Sociology of Race and *Invisible Man*'s Automata" (September 2011)

Honorable mentions: Aaron Bady, "Tarzan's White Flights: Terrorism and Fantasy before and after the Airplane" (83:2, June 2011); and Nathaniel Williams, "Frank Reade, Jr., in Cuba: Dime-Novel Technology, U.S. Imperialism, and the 'American Jules Verne'" (June 2011).

MLA 2012 Seattle, WA
January 5–8
SECTION MEETINGS
American Literature Section

Friday, 06 January

Revisiting “Nation” in the Study of American Literature and Culture

Presiding: Dana D. Nelson, Vanderbilt U

Speakers: John Ernest, West Virginia Univ Morgantown; Susan K. Harris, U of Kansas; William J. Maxwell, Washington U in St. Louis; Joycelyn K. Moody, U of Texas, San Antonio; Sarah Ruffing Robbins, Texas Christian U

American Literature Section Chairs

2012: Nancy Bentley
2011: Michael Moon
2010: Elizabeth Maddock Dillon
2009: Sarah Robbins
2008: Caroline Levander
2007: Sandra Zagarell
2006: Philip J. Barrish
2005: Mary Loeffelholz
2004: Mary Loeffelholz
2003: Carla Kaplan
2002: Gary Scharnhorst
2001: Thadious Davis
2000: Robert Levine
1999: Paul Lauter
1998: Cecelia Tichi
1997: Susan K. Harris
1996: Linda Wagner-Martin
1995: William L. Andrews
1994: Eric Sundquist
1993: Elaine Hedges
1992: Blanche Gelfant
1991: Emory Elliott
1990: James Justus
1989: J. A. Leo Lemay
1988: John Seelye
1987: Leo Marx
1986: Roger Asselineau
1985: Martha Banta
1984: Nina Baym
1983: Lewis Simpson
1982: James M. Cox
1981: Joseph Blotner
1980: Walter B. Rideout
1979: Edwin Cady

1978: William M. Gibson
1977: Nathalia Wright
1976: Russel B. Nye
1975: Richard B. Davis
1974: Louis D. Rubin, Jr.
1973: Norman Grabo
1972: Michael Millgate
1971: Harrison Hayford
1970: Hugh Holman
1969: John Gerber
1968: Roy Harvey Pea
1967: Arlin Turner
1966: Henry A. Pochmann
1965: Lyon N. Richardson
1964: Lewis Leary
1963: Henry Nash Smith
1962: Hyatt H. Waggoner
1961: Herbert R. Brown
1960: Norman Holmes Pearson
1959: Clarence Gohdes
1958: Walter Blair
1957: Charles Anderson
1956: Theodore Hornberger
1955: Gay Wilson Allen
1954: William Charvat
1953: Leon Howard
1952: Floyd Stovall
1951: Randall Stewart
1950: Harry R. Warfel
1949: Ernest E. Leisy
1948: Harry H. Clark
1947: Perry Miller
1946: Willard Thorp
1945: Gregory Paine
1944: Louise Pound
1943: Tremaine McDowell
1942: Milton Ellis
1940-41: Napier Wilt
1939: Jay B. Hubbell
1937-38: Sculley Bradley
1935-36: Howard Mumford Jones
1933-34: Stanley T. Williams
1932: Ralph L. Rusk
1930-31: Robert E. Spiller
1928-29: Kenneth B. Murdock
1925-27: Jay B. Hubbell
1924: Fred L. Pattee
1923: Percy H. Boynton
1922: Arthur H. Quinn
1921: Killis Campbell

American Literature Section Executive Coordinators

2009-Present : Joycelyn Moody
2006-2008 : Sarah Robbins
1999-2006: Sheryl L. Meyering and Brian Abel Ra-
gen
1995-1998: Susan Belasco
1991-1994: Paul Sorrentino
1987-1990: Jerome Loving
1986: Benjamin Franklin Fisher IV
1982-1985: Donald Yannella
1978-1981: Charles Milon
1974-1977: William Mulder
1970-1973: Robert Edson Lee
1966-1969: Paul J. Carter, Jr.
1962-1964: James Woodress
1957-1961: Alexander Kern
1954-1957: Robert P. Falk
1950-1953: Arlin Turner
1946-1949: Allan Halline
1942-1945: Alexander Cowie
1937-1941: Tremaine McDowell
1928-1936: Sculley Bradley
1924-1926: Ernest Leisy
1923: Robert Spiller
1921-1922: Francis A. Litz

Jay B. Hubbell Medal Winners

2011: Linda Wagner-Martin
2010: Frances Smith Foster
2009: Cecelia Tichi
2008: Sharon Cameron
2007: Lawrence Buell
2006: Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
2005: Martha Banta
2004: Sacvan Bercovitch
2003: Houston A. Baker
2002: Annette Kolodny
2001: Paul Lauter
2000: Nina Baym
1999: Paula Gunn Allen
1998: Louis J. Budd
1997: James M. Cox
1996: Blyden Jackson
1995: Blanche H. Gelfant
1994: Leslie Fiedler
1993: Leo Marx
1992: Merton M. Sealts, Jr.
1991: Lewis Simpson 1990: Edwin Cady

1989: Nathalia Wright
1988: Richard Poirier
1987: Daniel Aaron
1986: Leon Edel
1985: James Woodress
1984: Roy Harvey Pearce
1983: R.W.B. Lewis
1982: Alfred Kazin
1981: Lewis Mumford
1980: Robert Penn Warren
1979: Malcolm Cowley
1978: Cleanth Brooks
1977: Gay Wilson Allen
1976: Lewis Leary
1975: Henry Nash Smith
1974: Walter Blair
1973: Leon Howard
1972: Willard Thorp
1970: Howard Mumford Jones
1967: Robert E. Spiller
1965: Norman Foerster
1964: Jay B. Hubbell

Norman Foerster Award Winners for the Best Essay Published Annually in American Literature

2011: Scott Selisker, “‘Simply by Reacting?’:
The Sociology of Race and *Invisible Man*’s
Automata” Honorable mentions: Aaron
Bady, “Tarzan’s White Flights: Terrorism
and Fantasy before and after the Airplane”
and Nathaniel Williams, “Frank Reade,
Jr., in Cuba: Dime-Novel Technology,
U.S. Imperialism, and the ‘American Jules
Verne’”
2010: R. John Williams, “The Technê Whim: Lin
Yutang and the Invention of the Chinese
Typewriter”; Honorable mention: Michael
Ziser, “Emersonian Terrorism: John Brown,
Islam, and Postsecular Violence”
2009: Nicholas Gaskill, “Red Cars with Red Lights
and Red Drivers: Color, Crane, and Qualia.”
2008: Nancy Glazener, “Benjamin Franklin and the
Limits of Secular Civil Society”;
Honorable Mention, Jeffrey H. Richards,
“Sati in Philadelphia: The Widow(s) of
Malabar”

- 2007: Birgit Brander Rasmussen, "Negotiating Peace, Negotiating Iroquois Encounter and the Making of Early American Literature"
- 2006: Jeff Allred, "From Eye to We: Richard Wright's 12 Million Black Voices, Documentary, and Pedagogy"
Honorable Mention: Caleb Smith, "Emerson and Incarceration"
- 2005: Geoffrey Sanborn, "Whence Come You, Queequeg?"
- 2004: Cherene Sherrard-Johnson, "'A Plea for Color': Nella Larsen's Iconography of the Mulatta"
- 2003: Ed White, "Captaine Smith, Colonial Novelist";
Honorable Mention, Andrew Lawson, "'Spending for Vast Returns': Sex, Class, and Commerce in the First Leaves of Grass"
- 2002: Gillian Silverman, "Textual Sentimentalism: Incest and Authorship in *Pierre*"
- 2001: Michael Warner, with Natasha Hurley, Luis Iglesias, Sonia Di Loreto, Jeffrey Scraba, and Sandra Young, "A Soliloquy 'Lately Spoken at the African Theatre': Race and the Public Sphere in New York City, 1821"
- 2000: Daylanne English, "W. E. B. DuBois's Family Crisis";
Honorable Mention, Sharon Stockton, "Engineering Power: Hoover, Rand, Pound, and the Heroic Architect"
- 1999: Mary Pat Brady, "The Contrapuntal Geographies of Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories"
- 1998: Amy Kaplan, "Manifest Domesticity";
Honorable Mention, Barbara Will, "The Nervous Origins of the American Western"
- 1997: Lisa A. Long, "'The Corporeity of Heaven': Rehabilitating the Civil War Body in *The Gates Ajar*"
- 1996: Chadwick Allen, "Hero with Two Faces: The Lone Ranger as Treaty Discourse"
- 1995: Carla Kaplan, "The Erotics of Talk: 'That Oldest Human Longing' in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*"
- 1994: Caleb Crain, "Lovers of Human Flesh: Homosexuality and Cannibalism in Melville's Novels"
- 1993: Lauren Berlant, "The Queen of America Goes to Washington City: Harriet Jacobs, Frances Harper, and Anita Hill"
- 1992: Michael Warner, "New English Sodom"
- 1991: Lora Romero, "Vanishing Americans: Gender, Empire, and New Historicism"
- 1990: Catherine Rainwater, "Reading between Words: Narrativity in the fiction of Louise Erdrich"
- 1989: Richard S. Lyons, "The Social Vision of *The Spoils of Poynton*"
- 1988: Margaret Dickie, "Dickinson's Discontinuous Lyric Self"
- 1987: Cynthia S. Jordan, "Poe's Re-Vision: The Recovery of the Second Story"
- 1986: Joan Burbick, "Emily Dickinson and the Economics of Desire"
- 1985: David H. Hesla, "Singing in Chaos: Wallace Stevens and Three or Four Ideas"
- 1984: 1984 Karen Dandurand, "New Dickinson Civil War Publications"
- 1983: Michael North, "The Architecture of Memory: Pound and the Tempio Malatestiano"
- 1982: Christopher Wilson, "American Naturalism and the Problem of Sincerity"
- 1981: Thomas M. Walsh and Thomas D. Zlatic, "Mark Twain and the Art of Memory"
- 1980: Robert A. Ferguson, "'Mysterious Obligation': Jefferson's Notes on the State of Virginia"
- 1979: Bryan C. Short, "Form and Vision in Herman Melville's *Clarel*"
- 1978: Stephen Tapscott, "Leaves of Myself: Whitman's Egypt in 'Song of Myself'"
- 1977: Philip F. Gura, "Thoreau's Maine Woods Indians: More Representative Men and Charles Scruggs, "'All Dressed Up but No Place to Go': The Black Writer and His Audience during the Harlem Renaissance"

- 1976: Robert Lee Stuart, “Jonathan Edwards at Enfield: ‘And Oh the Cheerfulness and Pleasantness . . .’ and William Andrews, “William Dean Howells and Charles W. Chesnutt: Criticism and Race Fiction in the Age of Booker T. Washington”
- 1975: James Barbour, “The Composition of *Moby-Dick*”
- 1974: 1974 Robert F. Marler, “From Tale to Short Story: The Emergence of a New Genre in the 1850s”
- 1973: Patricia Tobin, “The Time of Myth and History in *Absalom, Absalom!*” and Eddy Dow, “Van Wyck Brooks and Lewis Mumford: A Confluence in the Twenties”
- 1972: Alan B. Howard, “The World as Emblem: Language and Vision in the Poetry of Edward Taylor”
- 1971: Thomas Philbrick, “The Last of the Mohicans and the Sounds of Discord”
- 1970: 1970 Margaret Blanchard, “The Rhetoric of Communion: Voice in *The Sound and the Fury*”
- 1969: Benjamin T. Spencer, “Sherwood Anderson: American Mythopoeist”
- 1968: Lawrence Buell, “Transcendentalist Catalogue Rhetoric: Vision Versus Form”
- 1967: Robert J. Reilly, “Henry James and the Morality of Fiction”
- 1966: Eugene Huddleston, “Topographical Poetry in the Early National Period”
- 1965: Daniel Fuchs, “Ernest Hemingway, Literary Critic”
- 1964: Allen Guttman, “Washington Irving and the Conservative Imagination”

Upcoming MLA Conventions

2013: Boston, MA, January 3–6

2014: Chicago, January 9–12

The MLA Constitution is available on the MLA website (www.mla.org/governance/mla_constitution).

