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SOUTH CENTRAL NEWSLETTER

SCMLA 2009-2010: Continuities and Dis/Replacements

Continuities and Displacements

On October 29-31, 2009, SCMLA members met for the 66th annual convention in Baton Rouge, Louisiana to explore the theme of "Continuities and Displacements" at the Hilton Baton Rouge Capital Center Hotel. Some 356 members attended 22 special, 67 regular, and 10 allied sessions. On Thursday afternoon **May Waggoner**, the Laborde-Neuner Professor of French and Francophone Studies at the U of Louisiana-Lafayette, gave attendees insights into Franco-phone Literature of the United States. On Friday afternoon, **David Madden**, Robert Penn Warren Professor Emeritus of Creative Writing and Creator and Founding Director of the U.S. Civil War Center at Louisiana State U gave the plenary address entitled "Reconfiguring the South as Fact and Fiction," followed by the President's Reception.

The College of Arts and Sciences at Louisiana State U served as sponsor with **Daniel A. Novak** acting as Local Arrangements Chair. Friday's activities started early with the Women's Caucus Breakfast and a roundtable discussion on "Secrets in Academia." **John Morris** presided over the luncheon and business meeting and reported on a pilot program instituted at Cameron University that targets remedial students in English and Mathematics in order to

address retention, a widespread problem nationally. Also at the luncheon the membership approved constitutional changes. The **Edwin Mellen Press** sponsored the Executive Director's social on Friday afternoon, and, on Saturday morning, the SCCEA met for a breakfast address by **Brooke Rollins** on "Inheriting Deconstruction: The Rhetorical Legacies of Jacques Derrida."

Next year's convention in Fort Worth, Texas will again offer SCMLA members an opportunity to share their research under the broad theme of "New Frontiers." Please note the many regular, allied, and special sessions accepting abstracts for the Fort Worth convention on pages 5-9. Also, the Andrist prize for the best paper in Hispanic Gender Studies and the Historical Literary and/or Cultural Studies Prize will each be worth \$250 in Fort Worth. Please submit your papers by the September 01, 2010 deadline to compete for the prize. For more prize and grant information, please see page 2. Luckily, faculty registration paid before September 28, 2010 will remain at the same low price of \$50.00. However, the Executive Committee of the SCMLA approved an **increase to \$75.00 for late registration and onsite registration will increase to \$90.00**. Please make sure to register early to take advantage of the lower pre-registration price.

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