



# Call for Papers

Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association  
63rd Annual Convention  
Snowbird, Utah • October 8–10, 2009

## Sampling of Regular and Special Topic Sessions:

- African-American Literature
  - American Humor
- Canadian Literature & Film
- Children's Literature & Film
- Comparative Literature & Film
  - Drama
  - Ethnic Literature & Film
  - Film Theory
- Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Caucus
- Literature & the Environment
  - Narrative
- Native American Literature
  - Oral & Traditional Arts
  - Problems in Translation
- Second Language Acquisition
  - Technical Writing
- Technology & Distance Education
  - Writing Across the Curriculum
- Women's Voices in Poetry & Prose

and many more sessions on languages and literatures, as well as workshops on grant writing, retirement planning, instructional technology, etc.

## Paper proposals due to session chairs by March 1, 2009

Requests for Special Topic Sessions due by November 1, 2008

Complete Call for Papers available on the RMMLA Web site ([www.rmmla.org](http://www.rmmla.org)) by mid-November 2008

Also available on this site:

- Membership information/forms
- Our electronic journal, *The Rocky Mountain Review*
- Information on how to propose special topic sessions for the RMMLA convention
- Updates on all RMMLA grants and awards

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For details, visit the RMMLA Web site at [www.rmmla.org](http://www.rmmla.org)

## Join Us in Snowbird!



# RMMLA Update

ROCKY MOUNTAIN MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION

## JOIN US IN RENO FOR OUR 2008 CONVENTION!

The 62nd annual RMMLA convention will be held at Harrah's Reno from October 9-11, 2008. Our thanks go to our local host institution, the University of Nevada, Reno, as well as to our Local Arrangements Chair, Stacy Burton, former RMMLA President and current Chair of the English Department at UNR, and Miriella Melara, Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at UNR. We also wish to thank all of our session chairs, alternate chairs, and presenters for making this a great program.

Our keynote speaker this year will be **Thomas Kavanagh**, Augustus R. Street Professor of French at Yale University and author of *Dice, Cards, Wheels: A Different History of French Culture* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005). At the RMMLA luncheon on Friday, Dr. Kavanagh will give a talk on the cultural history of gaming. Later that day, he will also participate in a special panel discussion on chance.

We are also happy to welcome guest speaker **Nelly Furman**, director of the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages (ADFL) at the MLA. She will give a talk entitled "A Signal to the Nation: Global Competence and the Study of Languages Other Than English." She will also participate in a panel discussion on the revamping of foreign language departments to meet student interests and fiscal realities.

Finally, we welcome **Sunil Iyengar**, Director for Research and Analysis at the National Endowment for the Arts, who will present findings from an NEA report entitled "To Read or Not To Read: A Question of National Consequence," and participate in a panel discussion on this topic.

The deadline for paper proposals to Reno session chairs was March 1. Some session chairs, however, are still seeking papers, so if you did not submit a proposal but wish to be considered still, email the appropriate session chair to see if s/he is still seeking papers. See our Call for Papers online at [www.rmmla.org](http://www.rmmla.org).

## RENO CONVENTION DETAILS

Our convention begins at 8:30 am on Thursday morning, October 9, and runs through noon on Saturday, October 11. We know that you will enjoy this year's convention and we hope to see you in Reno!

Convention participants will make room reservations directly with Harrah's Reno, either online or by telephone. Reservation details may be found on our Web site at [www.rmmla.org](http://www.rmmla.org) under CONVENTIONS—Hotel Information. All reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card and you must mention the RMMLA/Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association room block to receive our discounted rate. The cut-off date for our discount rate is **September 15, 2008**—BUT this is on a space available basis—the RMMLA block may be sold out before September 15, so make your plans early!

The convention registration form is enclosed in this mailing and is available for download from [www.rmmla.org](http://www.rmmla.org). The preliminary convention program will be available on the RMMLA Web site by early June, including dates and times for all sessions. The print program will be in convention packets that will be distributed at our convention registration desk.

### May 1 Deadline for Audi-Visual Equipment Requests for Convention

#### Mailing Notice

Please note that this mailing includes the following:

- Spring issue of the *Rocky Mountain Review*
- Reno convention registration form
- Executive Board nomination form (due November 1)
- CV-Cover Letter Help Session reservation form
- Spring 2008 Newsletter

## Rocky Mountain Review FORUM

The editors are interested in receiving "Forum" pieces for the journal, that is, short commentaries on some professional or pedagogical issue of importance to our members. Please submit these following the usual guidelines for a scholarly article.

## Call for 2009 Convention Special Topic Sessions

The 63rd annual RMMLA convention will be held in Snowbird, Utah, from October 8-10, 2009. Members who wish to submit special topic session proposals on topics relating to any aspect of language, literature, film, pedagogy, writing, and especially sessions on topics relating to the West/Rocky Mountain region are encouraged to submit these to the Secretariat at [rmmla@wsu.edu](mailto:rmmla@wsu.edu) by November 1 for inclusion in our Call for Papers.

## Submissions sought for RMMLA Journals

The editors of the *Rocky Mountain Review* encourage members to submit articles for publication. Articles appearing in the online version of our journal undergo exactly the same peer-review process as articles considered for the print journal. Unlike articles in the print version, which must be in English, articles destined for the online journal may be written in any language, and may include multimedia components (graphics, audio, video, hyperlinks to other Web sites, etc.), features not possible in the print version. Pieces accepted for publication online will appear as soon as they have passed through the review process, rather than on the April / November print publication schedule. Complete submission guidelines appear on our Web site. Consider submitting your work to the *Rocky Mountain Review*.

## Convention Travel Grants: Deadline JUNE 1

The application deadline is June 1 for our *Graduate Student Convention Travel Grant* (two @ \$250) and *Faculty / Independent Scholar Convention Travel Grant* (one @ \$250; includes all ranks for faculty and emeriti faculty). We also award runner-up registration fee waivers. Application guidelines for all RMMLA grants and awards are at [www.rmmla.org](http://www.rmmla.org). Application materials for all RMMLA grants and awards are by EMAIL SUBMISSION ONLY.

## RMMLA Grants and Awards

RMMLA offers several grants and awards, described on our web site. Selection is based first on the completeness of the application, followed by a ranking based on five criteria: originality of research; scholarly context (reference to current research on topic); mechanics and style; coherent thesis statement; and contribution to scholarship in the field of study. Recent recipients of RMMLA grants and awards include:

**Precious McKenzie-Stearns**, University of South Florida -- *The Cecilia Konchar Farr Award (\$100)* for 2008 for her paper entitled "Mary Kingsley: 'Set yourself to gain personal power.'" presented at the Women's Caucus Seminar "Gendered 'I's in Literature and Film" held in Calgary.

**Lindsay Christopher** (University of Denver) for "Mapping the Garden: The Geographical Imagination in Toni Morrison's *Paradise*" and **Michael Bachmann** (University of Mainz, Germany), for "Writing Fiction, Talking Life: Wiesel, Kertész and Problems of Genre" -- *The Charles Davis Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Presentation at the RMMLA Convention (\$100)*. The full text of the winning proposals will be published in the fall issue of *The Rocky Mountain Review*. Runner-up awards (\$50 each) were given to **Tamara Cooper** (New York University) and **Denice Turner** (University of Nevada, Reno).

This year's RMMLA-Huntington Library Research Grant, carrying a stipend of \$2,000 was not awarded, as there were no applicants.

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## CONVENTION SESSION CHAIRS:

### How to Submit Your Program Copy and AV Requests

Session chairs must enter their program information directly into the online form by MAY 1.

- Go to CONVENTIONS on the RMMLA web site—[www.rmmla.org](http://www.rmmla.org);
- Click the "Program Form for Session Chairs";
- Log into the site (if you have forgotten your ID or password, pick the option to have them emailed to you);
- Find your session on the pull-down menu;
- Follow the directions for adding presenters, paper titles, abstracts, A-V requests and scheduling requests (in Comments field);
- Please add your information by MAY 1;
- Last day to make changes = AUGUST 1. The program then goes to press.

If the system does not recognize a presenter's name, it usually means that the person has not paid dues yet. Membership in RMMLA is a requirement for being listed in the program and presenting at the convention. In addition, all presenters must pay a convention registration fee. Please remind your presenters that they must join RMMLA to be included in the program. Membership before April 1 (and payment of the print supplemental fee) ensured inclusion in all mailing lists related to the journal and the convention; all convention forms are also available for download from the RMMLA web site at [www.rmmla.org](http://www.rmmla.org).

Presenters can update their own program copy (paper title and/or abstracts) once the session chair has added him/her to the session. A/V and scheduling requests may come through the session chair or directly from the presenter.

Only RMMLA staff can make changes to a member's name; all other updates to member contact information may be made by members themselves by using the "Membership Directory" option or by emailing us with the changes.

## IN YOUR HONOR

If you have recently received a research or teaching award or published a book or other media, please send details to [rmmla@wsu.edu](mailto:rmmla@wsu.edu) so that we can announce this on our web site.

Mark your calendars for  
Snowbird, Utah ~ October  
8–10, 2009! Thanks to our  
hosts Weber State Univer-  
sity, Brigham Young Univer-  
sity, Utah State University,  
and Utah Valley University.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**April 1**—Deadline for presenters and Alternate Chairs to join or renew RMMLA dues in order to appear in the convention program.

**May 1**—Deadline for audio-visual and scheduling requests for convention (online or emailed to Secretariat—[rmmla@wsu.edu](mailto:rmmla@wsu.edu)).

**June 1**—Application deadline for Convention Travel Grants

**Early-June**—Preliminary convention program posted to [www.rmmla.org](http://www.rmmla.org)

**August 1**—Deadline for editorial changes to convention program (email ok)

**September 15**—Cut-off date for discounted block rate at Harrah's in Reno—reservation form at [www.rmmla.org](http://www.rmmla.org) under CONVENTIONS—Hotel Information.

**September 15**—Postmark/transaction deadline for early, discounted convention registration rate (includes luncheon ticket). No luncheon tickets available after this deadline.

**November 1**—Nominations due to Secretariat for Executive Board Elections (email ok).

**November 1**—Deadline for Reno chairs to submit session report with name of new chair for Snowbird-2009. Special Topic sessions are not automatically renewed each year. STS chairs will receive a different form, asking if the session wishes to be considered for 2009 and if someone has been designated as chair.

**November 1**—Deadline for members to submit Special Topic Session requests for inclusion in the 2009-Snowbird Call for Papers (email ok).

**November 1**—Deadline for session chairs to nominate a graduate student convention presentation for the Davis Award.

**December 15**—Application deadline for Davis and Farr awards.

**February 1**—Application deadline for Huntington Award and Research Travel Grants.

## RENO EXCURSIONS

This year, we will offer two excursions on Saturday afternoon, October 11.

All convention sessions end at noon on Saturday and the excursions both leave the hotel at 1:00 pm. Excursion #1 to Virginia City runs from 1:00–6:00 pm; Excursion #2 to Lake Tahoe runs from 1:00–9:00 pm. Reservations will be made directly with the tour operator, "Convention Activities." See FULL information on our web site—[www.rmmla.org](http://www.rmmla.org).

### EXCURSION #1: VIRGINIA CITY TOUR

Guests will be transported from Reno to beautiful Virginia City. Our Convention Activities guide will narrate and point out interesting sights along the way. Established in 1859, Virginia City was at one point the richest mining town in the world. It was the biggest city (30,000 people and 110 saloons) between San Francisco and St. Louis in the 1860s. Indeed, San Francisco was built from the mines of the Comstock and the Civil War was partially financed from the gold and silver discovered beneath the city. Today's Virginia City is remarkably the same as it was during its heyday, with wooden sidewalks, restored Victorian mansions, "Old West" saloons, the Piper Opera House and mine tours. At the Delta, Virginia City's oldest business dating back to 1862, you can view the "Suicide Table," so called after the three owners committed suicide due to crushing house losses incurred while gambling. And Mark Twain began his illustrious writing career at Virginia City's own "Territorial Enterprise." You can visit this, as well as numerous other museums, shops, mansions and churches in this richly historic town during your free time.

### INCLUSIONS:

- Round trip transportation (leave Harrah's Lobby @ 1 pm; leave Virginia City @ 5:00 pm)
- Professional driver and driver's gratuity
- Convention Activities professional guide
- Narrated tour to and from Virginia City
- All pre- and on-site coordination

### Among the sites in Virginia City:

- **Bullette Red Light Museum:** History of Julia Bullette, a "soiled dove" of 1860. Displays include vintage erotica and antique medical equipment;
- **Chollar Mine Tour:** Private guided tour of the Chollar Mine. This is an old original mine from the 1860s. On the underground tour you will see silver ore, square set timbers and other remnants from the past (if interested, tour must be scheduled in advance; contact [TSIReno@aol.com](mailto:TSIReno@aol.com));
- **First Presbyterian Church:** 1886 historic church building; one of a few public building that survived the "great fire";
- **Fourth Ward School Cultural Center:** Built in 1876, the school houses permanent and changing exhibits featuring the history and culture of the Comstock;
- **Liberty Engine Company #1 State Fireman Museum:** History and artifacts relating to fire fighting on the Comstock;
- **Mackay Mansion Museum:** Built in 1860 as the headquarters of John Mackay, King of the Comstock, it includes mining artifacts, original furnishings and Tiffany silver;
- **Nevada Gambling Museum:** See more than half-a-million dollars worth of gaming memorabilia, including over 100 antique slot machines, cheating devices and gambler's weapons;
- **Virginia City Trolley:** A 2½ mile, 20-minute narrated tour of Virginia City on a trolley or tram;
- **Virginia & Truckee Railroad:** Narrated 35-minute steam train ride through the heart of the historic Comstock mining region;
- **Way It Was Museum:** Museum displays the most complete collection of Comstock mining artifacts in the world, plus rare photos, lithographs and maps of the "Bonanza" period.

### EXCURSION #2: LAKE TAHOE TOUR with stop at TAHOE CITY

### INCLUSIONS:

- Round trip transportation (leave Harrah's Lobby @ 1 pm; leave Tahoe City @ 8:00 pm)
- Professional driver and driver's gratuity (gratuity at your discretion)
- Convention Activities professional guide
- Narrated tour to and from Reno and Lake Tahoe
- All pre- and on-site coordination

Guests will be transported to Lake Tahoe, one of North America's largest Alpine Lakes. North Lake Tahoe belongs to a truly one-of-a-kind environment. With its extraordinarily blue water set like a jewel in the mountains, this environment exists virtually without peer. Guests will stop at Tahoe City, a beautiful town on the edge of one of the world's greatest natural wonders. A Convention Activities Professional Guide will provide insightful information on the history of Reno and Lake Tahoe.

Guests may enjoy the splendor of Lake Tahoe, sightseeing, shopping and dining. Events that will be taking place on Saturday, October 11, in Tahoe City:

- **Cobblestone Oktoberfest:** Will include live music, German Food and beverages, beer and entertainment from street vendors. Time for Oktoberfest 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.
- **Scarecrows on Parade:** Scarecrows will be decorated and set up in all the storefronts in downtown Tahoe City. All the scarecrows are decorated by local school children. Guests are expected to vote for the best in the Scarecrow Contest.
- **Pumpkin Patch:** Tahoe City Tree Company will have a complete pumpkin patch set up will all the fall decorations imaginable. Guests can even purchase and carve a pumpkin.

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