



RMMLA Update

ROCKY MOUNTAIN MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS

Each year the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association holds elections for a new Vice President and a Delegate-at-Large for the Executive Board. From year to year, nominees come from English or a field other than English. This year the Vice President (who will serve as President in 2006 and Past President in 2007) will come from a field other than English, while the Delegate-at-Large (elected for a three-year term, 2005-2007) will come from English. The Student Delegate on the Board may be from any field and serves a two- or three-year term. This year the candidates are:

Vice President:

Patricia Catoira, Montana State University, Bozeman
Albrecht Classen, University of Arizona
Jennifer Michaels, Grinnell College

Delegate-at-Large:

Alan Blackstock, Utah State University, Uintah Basin Branch

The candidates have provided a description of their educational and professional background, and research interests, a statement giving their reasons for running for an office on the board.

Voting is all done on the RMMLA web site through January 15, 2005. To log in:

- Go to RMMLA Web site www.rmmla.org
- Click on "Member Login" button
- Type in your User ID and Password. If you have forgotten them, scroll down to the "Get My Login Info" box, enter your email, then submit—your ID and password will be emailed back to you within minutes.
- Once in the Member Pages, click on "Elections" to read candidate biographies.

- Cast your vote. NB: There are also four constitutional amendments that need your vote—see below for more information.

Once you are logged in, you can also go to the RMMLA Directory, where you can:

- Add a link to your personal/university home pages from your Directory listing
- Update your contact information (especially changes in your email address)
- Change your password from the one we give you to one that you will remember.

All those who vote will be entered into a contest to win a one-year RMMLA membership. Ballots will be tallied on January 16 and the elected officers announced on the RMMLA Web site. The winner of the contest will be announced at the same time.

Candidates for Vice President

(In alphabetical order)

Patricia Catoira

Montana State University, Bozeman

Patricia Catoira is an Assistant Professor of Spanish at Montana State University-Bozeman. She has a Ph.D. in Latin American Literature from the University of New Mexico, an M.A. in Spanish from Washington State University, and B.A.s in French and International Studies from the University of Idaho. Her research interests focus on Cuban literature and culture, especially issues dealing with race, national identity, literary production, and exile. She is currently working on the impact of the economic crisis affecting Cuba since the 1990s on the literary production of Cuban writers. Her article "Transculturation à la *Ajiaco*: A Recipe for Modernity," about twentieth-century Cuban intellectual

Fernando Ortiz's vision of Cuban identity, will come out this fall in the collection of essays *Cuban Counterpoints: The Legacy of Fernando Ortiz* (Lexington Books). She has taught all levels of Spanish language and a wide variety of literature and culture courses including Caribbean Short Stories, Cuban Culture, and Culture and Revolution in Latin America.

Candidate Statement: "As a graduate student I participated in several RMMLA conventions, presenting papers. I always enjoyed the diversity of panels and presenters. I particularly enjoyed the atmosphere of collegiality among scholars and those who, like me at that time, were graduate students. As a new assistant professor at Montana State University-Bozeman, I want to get more involved in all the aspects of the RMMLA and help spread the exchange of ideas in the field of modern languages in the Rocky Mountain states. Interest in foreign languages and cultures is booming in our area. As vice president of the RMMLA Executive Board, I would encourage measures to address these needs. I would propose a more intensive promotion of the RMMLA in graduate programs in order to engage graduate students in the RMMLA. My hope is that more graduate students are able to share their research at this vital stage in their career and to receive valuable feedback from colleagues at other universities. Increased graduate level participation in the Association would benefit RMMLA membership, for most student presenters and participants would likely continue their membership and participation after graduation."

see CANDIDATES on page 2

Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association

Executive Board

(through December 31, 2004)

President

Elizabeth Ametsbichler
Department of Languages and Literatures
University of Montana

Vice President

Catherine Kunce
Program for Writing and Rhetoric
University of Colorado, Boulder

Past President

Sura Rath
Director, Douglas Honor's College
Central Washington University

Delegates-at-large

Walter Tschacher (term ends 2004)
Department of German
University of North Dakota

Susan McKay (term ends 2005)
Department of English
Weber State University

José Suarez (term ends 2006)
Department of Hispanic Studies
University of Northern Colorado

Graduate Student Delegate

Tara Powell (term ends 2006)
Department of English
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Sincere thanks to Sura Rath and Walter Tschacher for their service as members of the RMMLA Executive Board these past three years.

Executive Staff

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Executive Director

Joan Grenier-Winther
Associate Professor of French

Editors, Rocky Mountain Review of Languages and Literature and E-Review

Michael Delahoyde, Senior Editor
Sabine Davis, Editor

Administrative Assistant/Public Relations Intern

Anna Lee

Managing Editor

Mike Hubert

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Albrecht Classen University of Arizona

Albrecht Classen received his Ph.D. from the University of Virginia in 1987. He is currently University Distinguished Professor at the University of Arizona in the Department of German Studies. His research areas focus on the German Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Reformation. In his recent books he has explored the aspects of reading (*The Book and the Magic of Reading*, 1999), encounters with 'the other' (*Meeting the Foreign in the Middle Ages*, 2002), and violence (*Violence in Medieval Courtly Literature*, 2004). He is the editor of *Tristania* and co-editor of *Medievalistik*. He is President of the Arizona Chapter of the AATG and as President of the Society of German Renaissance and Baroque Literature. In 2004 he received the *Bundesverdienstkreuz* of the government of the Federal Republic of Germany in recognition of his numerous outreach efforts, volunteer service in his profession, and the promotion of German culture and language in the US.

Candidate Statement: "I have been a member of the RMMLA for many years and have already served as Vice President/President/Past President. I enjoyed my service and the collegiality of the other members of the Executive Board so much that I want to run for this position again. The RMMLA is a splendid scholarly association in which colleagues from many different fields within the Humanities come together and exchange ideas and concepts. I have always been impressed by the dedication and professionalism of our officers and, particularly, our Executive Directors. I have been instrumental in bringing the RMMLA to Tucson, my hometown, in 2006, and I would be delighted to serve as VP at that time, and President the following year, in order to provide the organization with the best possible support from my university, the University of Arizona. I believe that the RMMLA fulfills an extremely important function for our profession at large and for our students in that it provides an excellent forum for scholarly activities in the Rocky Mountain region. As a Germanist and a Medievalist, I feel particularly qualified to

address the wide range of needs of all our members, and to provide a voice for many different scholarly concerns, since my research is closely related to Women's Studies, Comparative Literature, Philology, and even Anthropology, not to mention the fact that I also work as a language teacher. One of the most important experiences for me as a VP in 2002 was when I had to address unexpectedly our entire membership during the banquet, and suddenly realized that I had to unique opportunity to relate all our work to the tragic memories of 9-11-2001. As a VP and then as the President I want to foster the cohesiveness of our organization, strengthen the mutual ties of the various disciplines, contribute to the growth of our membership through a rigorous outreach, and provide the best service possible to the well-being of the RMMLA, both within the academia and in public."

Jennifer Michaels Grinnell College

Jennifer E. Michaels received her M.A. from the University of Edinburgh and an M.A. and Ph.D. from McGill University, Montreal. She is currently Chair of the German Department at Grinnell College where she is Professor of German and Samuel R. and Marie Louise Rosenthal Professor of Humanities. She has published four books: *D. H. Lawrence: The Polarity of North and South* (1976); *Anarchy and Eros: Otto Gross' Impact on German Expressionist Writers* (1983); *Franz Jung: Expressionist, Dadaist, Revolutionary and Outsider* (1989); and *Franz Werfel and the Critics* (1994). Her articles deal with prose and drama of the twentieth century, especially that of Austrian writers as Barbara Frischmuth, Elisabeth Reichart, Peter Henisch, and Felix Mitterer. She teaches courses on language at all levels, contemporary literature, and the Holocaust. She has been active in professional associations, particularly the German Studies Association (President from 1994-1996).

Candidate Statement: "I joined the RMMLA in 1999. The first meeting I attended was in Santa Fe and I was impressed both by the rich variety of offerings and the welcoming and friendly atmosphere of the meeting that was very conducive to lively exchanges of ideas. Since then, I have presented papers at all

subsequent meetings, and have organized the post-1900 German sessions twice and, for the conference in Boulder, I organized a special session on Austrian literature.

Through the journal and the annual conference, the RMMLA provides an important forum for the diverse interests of our members. I appreciate the RMMLA for its academic excellence, its responsiveness to members' concerns and suggestions, its support and integration of graduate students, and the open and collegial atmosphere it fosters. Because I value the RMMLA, I would like to take a more active role in the association. If elected, I would seek ways to strengthen and preserve what is already a strong and vital association. I would continue the RMMLA's tradition of being responsive to members' concerns and recommendations. I would work to increase membership and to ensure that we continue as a strong advocate for language and literature studies. Over the years, I have benefited greatly from the RMMLA and I would be honored to serve."

Candidate for Delegate-at-Large:

Alan Blackstock
Utah State University, Uintah Basin

Alan Blackstock grew up in New Mexico and graduated from Northern Arizona University with a B.A. in English, followed by an M.A. in English literature and a Ph.D. in 19th-century British literature and Language and Rhetoric from the University of New Mexico. He has taught English in Asia, first as a Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand, then as a lecturer at Northwest Teachers' College in Lanzhou, China, and finally as an ESL supervisor and teacher trainer in Indonesia and the Philippines. Since his return to the US, he has taught at a community college in southeast Texas and at InterAmerican University in Puerto Rico. He is currently Assistant Professor of English at Utah State University. His teaching and research interests include rhetorical analysis of literary criticism, ethical criticism, British colonial and post-colonial literature,

Amendments to RMMLA Constitution

The RMMLA Executive Board has proposed four changes to the RMMLA Constitution (see summary below). The full wording of the amendments and the amendment ballot is on the RMMLA Web site along with the voting for new RMMLA Executive Board members. Voting will end on January 15, 2005. A summary of the amendments follows:

- The first change involves including the word "students" in the description of the membership categories. Currently the constitution states that only "Teachers and scholars of languages, literatures, and other humanities-related fields" are invited to become members of RMMLA.
- The second change provides one individual voting membership within a Departmental membership and up to four individual voting memberships, representing four different departments, within an Institutional membership. Currently we have no departmental or institutional membership support for RMMLA, so we hope that including one (or up to four for institutions) individual membership in the name of a department, that we will receive more departmental and institutional

support for this, the primary professional association for languages, cultures and literatures in the Rocky Mountain region.

- The third change specifies that if someone who has already served on the RMMLA Executive Board wishes to serve a second term, s/he must wait one year before running again for office. Currently there is no waiting period stipulated.
- The fourth change increases the number of Graduate Student Delegates to the Board from one to two, with one elected every year for a staggered rather than concurrent set of two-year terms. Currently, there is one Graduate Student Delegate who serves for three years. The increase is proposed because graduate students make up approximately 30 percent of the membership. The decrease in length of the term is proposed because it is often difficult for graduate students to obtain support for travel to two board meetings per year for three years.

Please take a moment to read these amendments and then vote online when you vote for your Executive Board candidates.

multicultural American literature, and literature of the American West.

Candidate Statement: "To date I have presented papers and chaired sessions at the Vancouver, Scottsdale, Missoula and Boulder RMMLA conferences. What I value most in RMMLA is the opportunity it provides to hear presentations and meet scholars from a great variety of perspectives and backgrounds. As a generalist, I believe I would bring to the RMMLA Executive Board a diversity of educational experience and research interests that coincides nicely with the breadth of inquiry characterizing both the RMMLA conferences and the

journal. I do not anticipate recommending any significant alterations in RMMLA practices or policies; the board has done an outstanding job in all areas of which I am aware. My primary purpose in serving would be to contribute what I can and perhaps to act as a liaison for our Utah contingent, since several Utah institutions of higher learning have consistently maintained a strong presence at conferences. I would also like to explore the possibility of Utah State hosting a conference in the near future."

CONVENTION NEWS



Feedback from Evaluation Forms

Thanks to all who completed their evaluation forms, as this feedback helps us to plan upcoming conventions. Among the findings:

Coeur d'Alene site for 2005 Convention

The 59th annual convention will be held at the Coeur d'Alene Resort on the Lake in northern Idaho from October 20-22, 2005. This is a truly beautiful hotel and area, with excellent meeting facilities, and we know you will enjoy it there. Enclosed in this mailing is the Call for Papers which is also posted to our web site. Please consider proposing a paper to one of the session chairs (deadline March 1, 2005). The convention program will be available on the Web site by mid-June 2005. We hope to see you in Coeur d'Alene!

Over 500 Present at Boulder Convention

Participants at the 58th annual RMMLA convention attended a wide variety of regular and special topic sessions, and enjoyed the Rocky Mountain charm of Boulder during the 'off hours.' Thanks to all involved from the University of Colorado for their support and their help in making this convention a great success. Thanks also go to our keynote speaker, Margaret Ferguson, and to all of our guest speakers, chairs and presenters for making such a rich and stimulating program.

Convention Contest Winners

The following members won a one-year renewal of dues in the drawings we held for the return of evaluation forms and chair's reports. Thanks to all for returning these forms to us as it helps us in planning for future conventions. Evaluation form contest winner: Jane Dilworth, St. Mary's College of California. Chair's report contest winners: Richard Sperber, Carthage College (WI) and Peter Fields, Midwestern State University (TX).

- The primary reasons given for attending the RMMLA convention, in order of importance: good location, good quality sessions/papers, good ambiance, and good networking possibilities. (ED note: We do try to find great locations for the convention and have succeeded, we feel, with the upcoming conventions in Coeur d'Alene and Tucson!)
- Most attendees said they stay at the convention hotel. Those who do not cite cost as the primary factor. (ED note: We negotiate the best rate possible for sleeping and meeting rooms; and our room rates are among the lowest of the all the regional MLAs.)
- Most members prefer a downtown location. (ED note: Our meeting room requirement is so large that we often cannot find a hotel in the downtown area that is large enough; when one exists, however, we try to locate the convention there.)
- The favorite meal choice is fish (salmon, halibut), followed by chicken.
- Many people wished there had been an excursion, and additional social events. (ED note: We are planning an excursion for Saturday afternoon in Coeur d'Alene, and other special events.)
- Some people commented that the announcements at the banquet were too long and too unprofessional. (ED note: We will reduce time spent on announcements by posting information at the registration area.)
- Certain sessions reported no-shows and low attendance. (ED note: This is a recurring problem, but one over which we have no control. If we know ahead of time that someone has cancelled, we try to make arrangements for replacement presenters and/or to combine sessions; we even try to do that on the spot if we know that

presenters have been stranded in their sessions. As far as attendance, we try to combat this by offering the most interesting sessions as possible, with a minimum topic-overlap. Suggestions on how to improve both situations are appreciated.)

- A few people complained about the higher cost of late/on-site registration. (ED note: Members are advised repeatedly that there is a differential in the cost of registration fees – in print, in email reminders, and on the web site – and of the advantages of paying early. The board will, however, revisit this issue at its spring meeting.)

Feedback Regarding Guest Speakers

The votes on the type of speaker split evenly between inviting a big name, a developing big name, or a local name. The most desired qualities of a speaker were cleverness, humor, and clarity. Many mentioned wanting to hear speakers who address issues of common concern to the membership. The recommended price range for the honorarium was \$500-1,000, although a few thought that only travel and per diem need be offered. Thanks again to all who completed the survey.

The Rocky Mountain Review in JSTOR

The Rocky Mountain Review has joined the 360+ academic journals being incorporated and digitally preserved by JSTOR, the archive of scholarly journals worldwide. This means a significant increase in accessibility of articles from the entire run of the journal in libraries and throughout the academic community. The *Review* will be appearing in JSTOR's Language and Literature Collection and Arts and Sciences III. JSTOR is currently involved in outreach to public libraries and secondary schools, so still further accessibility is promised.

Articles from the *Review* will soon be available additionally through the EBSCO archive. These expansions in visibility of the *Rocky Mountain Review* join the increase accomplished in recent years in the list of our indexers. So submit articles to the *Review* and watch your fame soar.