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Acknowledgments

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52nd Western Literature Association Conference

SWEET LAND, MIGHTY WATERS:
Myth and Storytelling West of the Mississippi
1:00pm – 4:00pm
WLA Executive Council Meeting (Deer Lake & Elk Lake)
Chair: Nicolas S. Witschi

4:00pm – 7:00pm
Registration (4th floor)

6:00pm – 7:00pm
Welcome Reception and Cash Bar (4th Floor Prefunction Area)

7:00pm – 9:00pm
OPENING PLENARY:
East of Main Street and West of Lake Wobegon:
An Evening with Joyce Sutphen and Kevin Kling
Location: Ballroom 1
Introduction: Florence Amamoto & Susan Maher, WLA Co-Presidents

Joyce Sutphen grew up on a farm in Stearns County, Minnesota. Her first collection of poems, Straight Out of View, won the Barnard New Women Poets Prize; Coming Back to the Body was a finalist for a Minnesota Book Award, and Naming the Stars won a Minnesota Book Award in Poetry. She is one of the co-editors of To Sing along the Way, an award-winning anthology of Minnesota women poets. Her recent collection, Modern Love & Other Myths (2015), was a finalist for a Minnesota Book Award. Her ninth collection of poetry, The Green House (2017), has just been published. She was named the second Minnesota Poet Laureate by Governor Mark Dayton, succeeding Robert Bly.

Kevin Kling is a well-known playwright and storyteller and a popular commentator on NPR’s All Things Considered. Kevin was born with a congenital birth defect which left him with partial use of his left arm and in 2001 was in a motorcycle accident that left him with no use of his right arm. Yet, he has continued to turn all of his life experiences into stories that are hilarious but also poignant and wise. He has released a number of compact disc collections of his stories as well as published several books of his stories and plays. He has been awarded numerous arts grants and fellowships and in 2014, Minneapolis Mayor R. T. Rybak named Kevin “Minneapolis Story Laureate.” PBS made a documentary about Kevin titled Kevin Kling: Lost and Found.
THURSDAY—Oct. 26, 2017

7:45am – 4:00pm
Registration (4th floor)

8:00am – 5:00pm
Book Exhibit (4th Floor Prefunction Area)

8:00am – 9:15am
Sessions T1

9:00am – 11:00am
Coffee Service (4th Floor Prefunction Area)

9:30am – 10:45am
Plenary Session with Will Weaver (Ballroom 1)

11:00am – 12:15pm
Sessions T3 & Graduate Student Panel: Job Market (Elk Lake)

12:30pm – 1:00pm
Past President’s Luncheon (St. Croix I)

1:00pm – 2:00pm
Plenary with Linda Karell and Kao Kalia Yang: Learning from Legacies (St. Croix I)

2:00pm – 3:15pm
Sessions T4

2:00pm – 4:00pm
Coffee Service (4th Floor Prefunction Area)

3:30pm – 4:45pm
Plenary with Linda LeGarde Grover: Writing from Onigamiising (Ballroom 1)

5:00pm – 6:15pm
Sessions T6

6:30pm – 7:30pm
Readers’ BYO Dinner Theater: “‘Do ya really like lutefisk?’ or, A New Saga of the Nordland,” by David Fenimore (Ballroom 3)

8:00pm – 9:15pm
Plenary with Distinguished Achievement Award Honoree Rick Shiomi, Asian American Theater: An Alternative Perspective (Ballroom 1)

9:15pm – ???
Graduate Student Social Gathering (Keiran’s Irish Pub)
T1A: Storytelling and Environmental Justice in the West
Location: Ballroom 2
Chair: Amy T. Hamilton, Northern Michigan University

Fighting the Black Snake: Stories for Pipeline Activism and Defending Water
Kyle Bladow, Northland College

Sawbill Lodge and the Mythos of Minnesota’s Resort Industry
Jennifer Case, University of Central Arkansas

“My heart looks like the prairie”: Ethnobotanist Linda Black Elk’s Digital Teachings from Standing Rock
Aubrey Streit Krug, The Land Institute

T1B: Race in the Weird West
Location: Ballroom 3
Chair: Rebecca Marie Lush, California State University San Marcos

Blame It on Nature: Bret Harte’s Deadly Miscegenation Plots … and One Exception
Tara Penry, Boise State University

Blood Work in the Monstrous West: Red Readings of The Texas Chain Saw Massacre and Near Dark
Joshua Tyler Anderson, Ohio State University

Defamiliarizing “the Indian” on the Extraterrestrial Frontier: Jonathan Lethem’s Girl in Landscape
Johannes Fehrle, Universität Mannheim, Germany

“A World without Sin”: Civilization and the Savage Other in Whedon’s Firefly and Serenity
Meredith Louise Harvey, George Williams College of Aurora University

T1C: Exploring Indigenous Midwesst
Location: Ballroom 4
Chair: Lisa M. Tatonetti, Kansas State University

Minnesota’s Indigenous HIV/AIDS Activism & Carole laFavor’s Work toward Health Sovereignty
Lisa M. Tatonetti, Kansas State University

Moving in Place: Heid Erdrich & Andrea Carlson
Susan Bernardino, Oregon State University

Walking Wisconsin’s Mounds at Aztalan
Chadwick Allen, University of Washington
T1D: Creative Writing: Meditations on Place

Location: Crystal Lake
Chair: David Mogen, Colorado State University

The Levines
   David Nelson Levine, University of South Dakota
Honyocker Elegy
   David Mogen, Colorado State University
Keeping It Weird: Austin, Nevada, Spring 2016
   Matthew William Driscoll, Santa Clara University

T1E: Celebrating Minnesota Writers and Wildlife

Location: Deer Lake
Chair: Laurie Ricou, University of British Columbia

“The Laugh that Transcends”: Loons in Minnesota’s Lakes and Literature
   Kyhl Lyndgaard, College of Saint Benedict / Saint John’s University
Betsy & Me: An Ode to Minnesota’s Maud Hart Lovelace
   Maria Mackas, Georgia State University
Wolf State: Witnessing Wolves and Wolf Rhetoric in Minnesota
   Yvonne Rutford, University of Wisconsin-Superior

T1F: Challenging Women

Location: Elk Lake
Chair: Victoria Lamont, University of Waterloo

Teaching the “Third Grade, Mexican”: Colonial Domesticity, Print Culture, and Elinore Cowan Stone’s
   The Laughingest Lady
   Amanda J. Zink, Idaho State University
B. M. Bower’s Early Years
   Victoria Lamont, University of Waterloo, Canada
African American Women and the Classic Western: Pauline Hopkins’ Subversion of and
   Counter-Narrative to Canonical Westerns
   Shane Joseph Willis Frankiewicz, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Germany

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T1G: When Landscape and Place Are Prime—or Not: Willa Cather, Sanora Babb, John Steinbeck

Location: Pine Lake & Cedar Lake
Chair: Nancy S. Cook, University of Montana

“The Thing Not Named”: The Lost Native Landscape of Cather’s Nebraska
Tracy Tucker, Willa Cather Foundation

“Your mind is better than a thousand legs”: Indeterminate Reality in Sanora Babb’s Colorado Pioneer Memoir
An Owl on Every Post
Christine Hill Smith, Colorado Mountain College

The Prime Use of Landscape and Place in Sanora Babb’s Whose Names Are Unknown, Particularly in Contrast to Steinbeck’s Grapes of Wrath
Joanne Dearcopp, Literary Executor for Sanora Babb

Place-less Propaganda: The Links to Everyplace in John Steinbeck’s The Moon Is Down
Jessica C. P. Lopez, Michigan State University

T1H: Creative Writing: Telling Stories about People

Location: Birch Lake & Maple Lake
Chair: Sean Johnston, Okanagan College

The Last Emergency
Sean Johnston, Okanagan College, Canada

The Two Graves of Acey Cobb
Conrad Shumaker, University of Central Arkansas

Excerpt from Bazz: A History • A Novel • A Crusade
Sidney Thompson, Texas Christian University

9:00AM–11:00AM

Coffee Service
Location: 4th Floor Prefunction Area
9:30AM–10:45AM

T2: Plenary Session with Will Weaver

Location: Ballroom 1
Chair: Susan Maher, WLA Co-President

Will Weaver grew up on a farm in northern Minnesota. He graduated from the University of Minnesota and from Stanford University. His debut novel, Red Earth, White Earth, was published by Simon & Schuster, and was produced as a CBS television movie. A Gravestone Made of Wheat & Other Stories won the Minnesota Book Award for Fiction. The New York Times Book Review called it “a graceful collection, one that views America’s heartland with a candid but charitable eye.” The title story was adapted into the film Sweet Land.

A versatile writer, Will Weaver’s novels for young adults include Memory Boy, which was a 2016 full stage production of the Minnesota Opera. His nonfiction work includes a memoir, The Last Hunter, and Barns of Minnesota. A recent judge for the National Book Awards, Mr. Weaver lives in Bemidji, Minnesota, on the Mississippi River.

11:00AM–12:15PM

T3A: Queer Actions, Queer Futures

Location: Ballroom 2
Chair: Lisa M. Tatonetti, Kansas State University

Endings without End: Rethinking Queer Futurity out West
Bill Handley, University of Southern California

The Queer Indigenous Work of Vaudeville
Christine Bold, University of Guelph, Canada

Sexualities of Replacement: Raciality, Queerness, and Indigeneity in Tangerine
Ho’esta Mo’e’hahne, University of Southern California
**T3B: California Dreaming**

*Location: Ballroom 3*

*Chair: Neil Campbell, University of Derby, UK*

Reading Time in Panoptic Los Angeles and Helena María Viramontes’s *Their Dogs Came with Them*
Alexandra Meaney, Loyola Marymount University

Aspirational Landscapes: Missouri and California; or, On Leaving and Being Left Behind
William Vincent Lombardi, Feather River College

Versions of the Yosemite
Lawrence Coates, Bowling Green State University

**T3C: Experiments in Teaching and Documenting Western American Authors**

*Location: Ballroom 4*

*Chair: Anne L. Kaufman, Milton Academy*

Experiential Education and the American West: A Praxis for Global Sustainability
Eric Stottlemeyer, Wake Forest University

Teaching the National Parks as an “Open Space of Democracy” with Terry Tempest Williams as Guide
Karen Ramírez, University of Colorado, Boulder

*The Wind That Swept Mexico* and Transnational Documentary
Jessica Bremmer, Westridge School for Girls

**T3D: Love, Justice, and Survivance in Louise Erdrich’s Writings**

*Location: Crystal Lake*

*Chair: Jill Doerfler, University of Minnesota Duluth*

Love Contours: Intimacy and Excess in Erdrich’s *Love Medicine*
Mallory Pladus, Rice University

“How at every gathering the red shawls increase”: Imagining Justice in Erdrich’s *The Round House*
Alexander Herman Cavanaugh, University of Oregon

“The Unkillable Mother”: Storytelling and Survivance in Louise Erdrich’s *The Round House*
Mary Paniccia Carden, Edinboro University of PA

“We got dealt our hand before we were even born”: Ecophenomenology and Intentionality in Louise Erdrich’s Anishinaabe Novels
James Benson Wirth, University of Washington
T3E: Forgotten Texts, Recovering Stories

Location: Deer Lake
Chair: Patricia Oman, Hastings College

“Nebraska Legend of Lover’s Leap”: A New Historicist Look at Nance County Folklore
Alexandria Ann Belitz, Hastings College

Editorial Meddling and Historical Erasure in a New Edition of H. W. Foght’s Trail of the Loup
Patricia Oman, Hastings College

Anthologizing The Carleton Miscellany
Michael Kowalewski, Carleton College

T3F: Graduate Panel: Updating Approaches to the Academic Job Market with Susan Bernardin, Kerry Fine, Sylvan Goldberg, and Ashley Reis

Location: Elk Lake
Chair: Landon Scott Lutrick, University of Nevada, Reno

T3G: Native Americans in Minnesota

Location: Pine Lake & Cedar Lake
Chair: Chadwick Allen, University of Washington

Gerald Vizenor: Trains in Native Transmotion
Linda Helstern, North Dakota State University

Jim Northrup and Nuclear Colonization in “what is now called Minnesota”
Kyoko Matsunaga, Kobe City University of Foreign Studies, Japan & University of British Columbia

Through Norwegian Eyes: The Vanishing and Reappearing American Indian in Johan Bojer’s The Emigrants and Vidar Sundstøl’s Minnesota Trilogy
Randi Eldevik, Oklahoma State University

T3H: Creative Writing: Poetry and Poetics

Location: Birch Lake & Maple Lake
Chair: Emily Lutenski, Saint Louis University

House of First Memory
Candace Black, Minnesota State University, Mankato

La Llorona: A Transgeneric Poetics of a Transcultural Mythology
Nadine Antoinette Maestas, Southern New Hampshire University

Edward Dorn’s Poetics for an American West
Paul Varner, Abilene Christian University
12:30PM–2:00PM

Past President’s Luncheon and a Conversation with Linda Karell and Kao Kalia Yang: Learning from Legacies

Lunch starts at 12:30 (with prepaid tickets only). Plenary starts at 1:00 and is free to all attendees.

Location: St. Croix I

Linda Karell, President of the 2016 WLA Conference in Big Sky, Montana.

Kao Kalia Yang is a writer from the Hmong community. She’s the author of the award-winning memoirs The Latehomecomer and The Song Poet. Yang is a graduate of Carleton College and Columbia University. She’s currently working on her fictional debut, Descendants of Bad Luck Women.

2:00PM–3:15PM

T4A: The Figure in the Carpet: The Creative Use of Research

Location: Ballroom 2
Chair: Ann Lenore Putnam, University of Puget Sound

Casting Shadows, Casting Light: A Russian Mystery
Ann Putnam, University of Puget Sound

A Fall in the Forest: Traumatic Brain Injury—Fact and Fiction
Beverly Conner, University of Puget Sound

Falling out of the Nest
Beth Kalikoff, University of Washington
T4B: Settler Colonialism and the Nature of Genre

Location: Ballroom 3
Chair: Sylvan Goldberg, Colorado College

Generically Modified Organisms: Logan’s Mutant Western
Sylvan Goldberg, Colorado College

Making Mosaics from Fragments and Shards: Storytelling and California Indigenous Aesthetics in Deborah Miranda’s Bad Indians: A Tribal Memoir
Lydia Marie Heberling, University of Washington

The Homestead Georgic: Genre & Settler Colonialism
Daniel Clausen, University of Nebraska, Lincoln

Nadhia Grewal, Goldsmiths University of London, UK

Recipient of the Louis Owens Award.

T4C: Writers and the Western Environment

Location: Ballroom 4
Chair: Thomas Paul Lynch, University of Nebraska

Enacting Resurrection: Literary Reinhabitaton in the Apocalyptic West
Luke Morgan, Texas Tech University

Reading Regionality: Thinking through Field Guides to Western Space
Lars Erik Larson, University of Portland

Wood-, Were-, Sea-, Coy-, Teen-Wolves
Christopher Dolle, University of Iowa

“Judgment Is Required”: Managing Risk in Western Canadian Petro-Lit
Jenny Kerber, Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada

T4D: New Views of My Ántonia

Location: Crystal Lake
Chair: Joshua Dolezal, Central College

Nasty and Nice: Women in Božena Nemcová’s Babička and Willa Cather’s Fiction
Evelyn Funda, Utah State University

On Impersonal Things: The Failure of Classical Education in Willa Cather’s My Ántonia
Cheyenne Marie Marco, University of South Dakota

Writing the Rails: The Spatiality of the Railroad in Two Accounts from the Great Plains
Emily J. Rau, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
T4E: Horror, Anxiety, and the Western Landscape

Location: Deer Lake
Chair: David Peterson, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Revisiting Prairie Madness: Unsettling Landscapes and the EcoGothic in Plains Literature
Vanessa Steinroetter, Washburn University

“The darkness drops again”: Horror and the Western Narrative
Jeffrey Chisum, University of Southern California

Stephen Crane’s “The Blue Hotel” and the Anxiety of Identity in the 1890s West
Quinn Grover, Brigham Young University - Idaho

T4F: Native American Resistance

Location: Elk Lake
Chair: Kathleen Ann Danker, South Dakota State University (ret.)

“Unless the Indians are willing”: Native Resistance in the 1905 Journals of Abby Williams Hill
Tiffany Aldrich MacBain & Laura Edgar, University of Puget Sound

The Tribal Art of That Guy Wolf Dancing by Elizabeth Cook-Lynn
Kathleen Ann Danker, South Dakota State University (ret.)

“How Many Indians Would Have to Dance?”: Powwow, Ghost Dance, and Mis-taken Identity in
Sherman Alexie’s Indian Killer
Gretchen Collier, Northern Arizona University

T4G: A Woman’s Perspective

Location: Pine Lake & Cedar Lake
Chair: Amanda R. Gradisek, Walsh University

Gendered Nationalism in Fray Angelico Chavez’s La Conquistadora (1954)
Andrew Tolle, Eastfield College

Looking Downstream: A 21st-Century Appreciation of Mary Hallock Foote’s 19th-Century View of
Western Landscapes in Her Letters, Fiction, Illustrations, and Journalism
Megan Riley McGilchrist, The American School in London, UK

Cities of Plains and Faith in the Commons
Yeojin Kim, Independent Scholar

T4H: Queer and Queering West

Location: Birch Lake & Maple Lake
Chair: Susan Kollin, Montana State University

“We have traditions about folks like us”: Cultural Revitalization and Two-Spirit Memory in Carole laFavor’s
Along the Journey River
Kai Pyle, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

The Mysterious Skin of Hutchinson, Kansas
Robert Lipscomb, University of Nebraska - Lincoln

“I Think a Look at the West Would Do You Good”: Queer Visibility and Mythological Refuge in The Price of Salt
Lindsay R. Stephens, University of South Dakota
Coffee Service
Location: 4th Floor Prefunction Area

T5: Plenary Session with Linda LeGarde Grover: Writing from Onigamiising
Location: Ballroom 1
Introducing Linda LeGarde Grover: Jill Doerfler, University of Minnesota Duluth

Linda LeGarde Grover is a member of the Bois Forte band of Ojibwe and professor of American Indian studies at the University of Minnesota Duluth. She has received the Native Writers Circle of the Americas First Book Award, the Flannery O’Connor Award, and the Janet Heidinger Kafka Prize, whose previous recipients include Ann Patchett, Anne Tyler, and Toni Morrison.

T6A: Roundtable: Clint Eastwood and the Western Narrative
Location: Ballroom 2
Chair: Glenda Ellen Pritchett, Quinnipiac University

The Old Man Keeps Rolling Along: An Introduction to a New Collection of Essays on Clint Eastwood
Leonard Engel, Quinnipiac University

From Shane to American Sniper: The Western Hero Endures
Glenda Pritchett, Quinnipiac University

From Shane to Logan, and A Perfect World Between: Agricultural Margins of the Western
Matt Wanat, Ohio University Lancaster

The Swamp and the Chalice: Eastwood, Trump, and Mandela
John MacLeod Gourlie, Quinnipiac University
T6B: Feminist Pedagogy and Western American Literature: Power, Privilege, and Intersectionality

Location: Ballroom 3
Chair: Amy T. Hamilton, Northern Michigan University

“This world that walks”: Teaching Stories of American Indian Removal Trails through Indigenous Cosmovisions, Gender Studies, and Environmental Justice
Amy T. Hamilton, Northern Michigan University

The Limitations and Possibilities of Sisterhood: Portrayals of American Indian Women in Mary Rowlandson’s The Sovereignty and Goodness of God (1682) and Olive Ann Oatman’s The Captivity of the Oatman Girls (1856)
Randi Tanglen, Austin College

An Interdisciplinary Approach to Teaching Gender in Western American Literature
Amanda R. Gradisek, Walsh University

T6C: Ethnic Literatures of Resistance

Location: Ballroom 4
Chair: Matt Burkhart, Case Western Reserve University

Displacement: Water, Place, and Life in McNickle’s Wind from an Enemy Sky and Munif’s Cities of Salt
Lubna Alzaroo, University of Washington

“High above the Prairies”: Autobiographically Narrating the American (Mid)West
Rachel Linnea Brown, University of Kansas

“We are all savages”: Violence, Colonialism, and Representations of American Indians in The Revenant
Akikwe Cornell, University of Minnesota

T6D: The Play’s the Thing

Location: Crystal Lake
Chair: Steven B. Shively, Utah State University

Outlaw Cole Younger and His Ill-fated Raid on Northfield, MN: A Preview of My Play Involving His History in Stillwater Prison and Our Present-day Civil War on Drugs
Al Kammerer, Independent Scholar

“I know how things can be for women”: Gender Violence, Sisterhood, and Murder in Trifles and Flyin’ West
Maria Beach, Oklahoma State University

“You’re fired!” and Other Echoes from Robert Schenkkan’s Play All the Way [with LBJ]
Steven B. Shively, Utah State University
T6E: Alien Landscapes

Location: Deer Lake
Chair: Gary Reger, Trinity College

The Flying Saucers Have Landed: Desert Landscapes and Alien Contact in the American Imaginary
Gary Reger, Trinity College

“Uninhabited” Land and the Failure of the Californian Utopia in Gold Fame Citrus
MaryKate Messimer, University of Arkansas

“Real enough”: Crossing Boundaries of Place, Mind, and Materiality on the Nineteenth-Century Techno-Frontier of Kris Saknussemm’s Enigmatic Pilot
June Johnson Bube, Seattle University

Saints in Space
Mary Campbell, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

T6F: Taking Down Borders

Location: Elk Lake
Chair: Carolyn Dekker, Finlandia University

(Dis)Locating Punk in the Midwest
Sarah Aleshire, Minot State University

Unlikely Authors: How Truck Drivers Navigate Myth and Identity through Storytelling
Linda Jean Rogge, University of Nebraska Lincoln

Zane Grey’s The Border Legion as Transitory Space
Kelly Griffith, United States Air Force Academy

T6G: Late 19th- and Early 20th-Century Views of the West

Location: Pine Lake & Cedar Lake
Chair: Tracy Tucker, Willa Cather Foundation

“Gaunt Land, Colored Air”: The Aesthetics of Space and Place in John C. Van Dyke’s Desert
Michael Velez, University of Nevada at Las Vegas

Continent, Catastrophe
Rachel Heise Bolten, Stanford University

T6H: Blue Essences: Water and Spirituality

Location: Birch Lake & Maple Lake
Chair: Max Frazier, U.S. Air Force Academy (ret.)

Finding Peace at the Northwest Border: Loneliness, Wonder, and “Blue Mind” in Ruth Ozeki’s A Tale for the Time Being
Jennifer K. Ladino, University of Idaho

The Sanctity of Streams: Fly Fishing as Lived Spiritual Practice
Cory Willard, University of Nebraska - Lincoln
T7: Readers’ BYO Dinner Theater: “‘Do ya really like lutefisk?’ or, A New Saga of the Nordland,”
by David Fenimore

Location: Ballroom 3
Chair: Rebecca Marie Lush, California State University San Marcos
Chair: O. Alan Weltzien, University of Montana - Western

T8: Plenary with Distinguished Achievement Award Honoree Rick Shiomi—Asian American Theater: An Alternative Perspective

Location: Ballroom 1
Chair: Florence Amamoto & Susan Maher, WLA Co-Presidents

Welcome: Fernando Delgado, Executive Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, University of Minnesota Duluth

Rick Shiomi has been involved in Asian American theater for over thirty-five years, as a playwright, director, and artistic director. He received the McKnight Foundation Distinguished Artist Award in 2015, the Ivey Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2012, and the Sally Ordway Irvine Award for Vision in 2007. He has written over twenty plays, including the award-winning Yellow Fever. He was a co-founder of Mu Performing Arts and the artistic director from 1993 to 2013. He has directed for Mu Performing Arts, InterAct Theatre in Philadelphia, Theatre Esprit Asia in Denver, and the Asian American Theater Company in San Francisco. For Mu, he directed Into the Woods set in Asia, The Mikado set in Edwardian England, and Yellow Face at the Dowling Studio of the Guthrie Theater. For Interact Theatre, he directed Caught by Christopher Chen in 2014, for which he received a Barrymore Award nomination for Outstanding Direction. He played taiko for thirty years and was the founder (in 1997) and the leader of Mu Daiko until 2010. He recently received a Doris Duke Charitable Foundation grant to develop Asian American theater in Philadelphia, and he is currently the co-artistic director of Full Circle Theater in Minnesota.

Graduate Student Social Gathering at Keiran’s Irish Pub

Thursday
7:00am – 8:30am
Presidents’ Breakfast (Presidents only) (St. Croix II)

7:45am – 4:00pm
Registration (4th floor)

8:00am – 5:00pm
Book Exhibit (4th Floor Prefunction Area)

8:00am – 9:15am
Sessions F1

9:00am – 11:00am
Coffee Service (4th Floor Prefunction Area)

9:30am – 10:45am
Sessions F2 & Special Film Session with Alex and Andrew Smith (Ballroom 1)

11:00am – 12:15pm
Sessions F3

12:30pm – 1:30pm
Graduate Student Luncheon with Will Weaver & Linda LeGarde Grover (St. Croix II)

1:30pm – 2:45pm
Sessions F4 & Grad Student Session: WLA and the Public Humanities (Ballroom 1)

2:00pm – 4:00pm
Coffee Service (4th Floor Prefunction Area)

3:00pm – 4:15pm
Plenary: True Myths, Stories, and Poems from Heid E. Erdrich (Ballroom 1)

4:30pm – 5:45pm
Sessions F6

7:00pm – 8:00pm
Cash Bar

8:00pm – 11:00pm
WLA Banquet and Cash Bar
Followed by WLA Traditional Dance, Featuring Erik Koskinen & Band (Ballrooms 3 & 4)
F1A: Owning Up to Our Feminist Thinking: A Workshop in Theory and Practice

**Location:** Ballroom 2  
**Session Chair:** Krista Comer, Rice University

*What Is a Feminist Landscape? Theorizing Locational and Visual Intimacies*  
Audrey Goodman, Georgia State University

*Experience, Situated Knowledges, Feminist Wests*  
Krista Comer, Rice University

*“The flesh of women’s lives”: Using Affect to Decolonize Feminism*  
Lorena Gauthereau, University of Houston

*Critical Regionalism, Chicana Feminism, and Carlota d.Z. EspinoZa*  
Melina Vizcaino-Aleman, University of New Mexico

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F1B: Krakauer’s Wests

**Location:** Ballroom 3  
**Chair:** Brady Harrison, University of Montana

*John Krakauer and the Extreme West*  
O. Alan Weltzien, University of Montana – Western

*Into the Styled: John Krakauer’s Self-Effacing Narrative Voice*  
David Neal Cremean, Black Hills State University

*Shootout at the O.K. Everest*  
Brady Harrison, University of Montana

*When the Book Gets Personal: Krakauer’s Missoula and Regional Reading Practices*  
Nancy S. Cook, University of Montana

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F1C: Native America and U.S. Empire

**Location:** Ballroom 4  
**Chair:** Jerome Paul Tharaud, Brandeis University

*Going, Going, Native: U.S. Empire, American Indians, and 19th-Century Baseball History*  
Zachary Mann, University of Southern California

*The Dried Blood in the Codes: The Illusion of Security in Silko’s Almanac of the Dead*  
David Buchanan, USAF Academy

*Negating the Indigenous Presence—The Jeffers Petroglyphs and Willa Cather’s “Indian Stories”*  
Michael Thomas Gorman, Hiroshima City University, Japan
F1D: Creative Writing: Reflections on Self and Place

Location: Crystal Lake  
Chair: Kristen Brown, University of South Carolina

A Woman Who Knows Her Place  
Jillian Moore Bennion, Clark College

Syruping  
Joshua Dolezal, Central College

The Big Fat Battle  
Max Frazier, U.S. Air Force Academy (ret.)

F1E: Haunted Homes

Location: Deer Lake  
Chair: Yvonne Rutford, University of Wisconsin-Superior

Crossing the U.S.-Canadian Border in the Fiction of Louise Erdrich and James Welch  
Patrizia Corina Zanella, University of Fribourg, Switzerland

“Haunting the solidity of things”: Home and Homelessness in the American West  
Neil Campbell, University of Derby, UK

Toward a Critical Archaeology of Homelessness in the Postregional U.S. West  
Stephen Tatum, University of Utah

F1F: Marketing the West

Location: Elk Lake  
Chair: Lawrence Coates, Bowling Green State University

The “Mountain as Cathedral”: Place, Travel, and Coming to Life in Colorado  
Joy Marie Hamilton, University of Minnesota

“The Dude Ranches Invite You”: Marketing and Self-Fashioning in the American West  
Kevin Masao Kimura, University of Chicago

Attracted to Tragedy: Western Dark Tourism and Waco’s Mount Carmel  
Jennifer Ann Dawes, Henderson State University

F1G: Creative Writing:  
Texas Myths and Realities: Four Writers’ Perspectives

Location: Pine Lake & Cedar Lake  
Chair: Clinton Crockett Peters, University of North Texas

First Inhabitants  
Amanda Yanowski, University of North Texas

Deep in the Breast of Texas  
Alison Kendra Greene, Dallas Museum of Art

Caballero  
Kimberly Garza, University of North Texas

Outdoor Pursuits  
Clinton Crockett Peters, University of North Texas
F1H: T.V. Westerns
Location: Birch Lake & Maple Lake
Chair: Al Kammerer, Independent Scholar
Happy Trails to Us; or, The Progressive Leanings of Roy Rogers and Dale Evans
Richard Hunt, Potomac State College
You’ll Never Leave Harlan Alive: Using Frontier Tropes to Rewrite Eastern History
Patrick Richard Prominski, Michigan State University
Dirty Walt: Casuistries Promoting Police Vigilantism in Longmire
Tim Steckline, Black Hills State University

9:00AM–11:00AM
Coffee Service
Location: 4th Floor Prefunction Area

9:30AM–10:45AM
F2A: Special Film Session: “Mythos and Storytelling: Walking Out, the Aeneid, and the Hunt,” with filmmakers Alex and Andrew Smith (UC Davis)
Location: Ballroom 1
Chair: Rebecca Marie Lush, California State University San Marcos

F2B: Creative Writing: Imaginative Scholarship
Location: Ballroom 3
Chair: Todd Richardson, University of Nebraska Omaha
Let Us Not Talk Falsely Now: The Correspondence of Bob Dylan and Willa Cather
Todd Richardson, University of Nebraska Omaha
Regarding Bauman
Mystery Harwood, University of Nebraska Omaha
Québec Habitation: An Annotated History
Kristine Langley Mahler, University of Nebraska Omaha
F2C: Women Questioning Conceptions of the West

Location: Ballroom 4
Session Chair: Evelyn Funda, Utah State University

*The Wind* and the Women: Female Authorship and the Performative West  
Erin Martin, West Texas A&M University

The Unreconciled West: A Mother’s Story  
Monique McCade, University of Nevada, Reno

The “Homespaces” of Era Bell Thompson, an African American Author of the Plains  
Sara Susan Gallagher, University of Waterloo, Canada

F2D: Exploring Anzaldúa’s Borderlands

Location: Crystal Lake
Chair: Alexandra Meany, Loyola Marymount University

Artistic Spell: The Creative Effects of Code-Switching on the Reader  
Courtney Lee Craggett, University of Central Oklahoma

Life in the Borders: Female Liminality in Fabiola Cabeza de Baca’s *We Fed Them Cactus* and Elena Zamora O’Shea’s *El Mesquite*  
Laurie Lowrance, University of New Mexico

The Queer Decolonial Imaginary in Eduardo C. Corral’s *Slow Lightning*  
Lisa Fink, University of Oregon

Recipient of the Dorys Grover Award.

F2E: Myth and the Pacific Northwest

Location: Deer Lake
Chair: Bernard William Quetchenbach, Montana State University Billings

Keeping an Eye on the “I”: Memory, Narrative, and the Mythic Self in Jonathan Johnson’s *Poetry of the Northwest*  
Nathan Paul Anderson, Marietta College

Handing on the Stories: Myth and History in Craig Lesley’s Novels  
John Crispin Davies, Independent scholar, UK

Pixels, Place, and the Pacific Northwest: Representing Region in *Life Is Strange*  
Tony R. Magagna, Millikin University

F2F: Hollywood’s Wests

Location: Elk Lake
Chair: Patrick K. Dooley, St. Bonaventure University

The Horse Whisperer: The Romance of the West  
Richard Eugene Hutson, University of California, Berkeley

“Run His Herd in with Ours”: Hollywood’s Effect on Larry McMurtry’s *Lonesome Dove*  
Landon Scott Lutrick, University of Nevada, Reno

Shakespeare’s Swashbuckling Western Adventure: *The Taming of the Shrew* (1929)  
Margie Judd, University of Nevada, Reno
**F2G: Wallace Stegner**

**Location:** Pine Lake & Cedar Lake  
**Chair:** Robert William Thacker, St. Lawrence University

*Wolf Willow* and *Wild Card*: Deep Map Memoir in South-west Saskatchewan and South-west Australia  
Tony Hughes-d’Aeth, University of Western Australia

Who Is Paulette Bates Alden? Dispatches from under Stegner’s Professional Shadow  
Tyler Austin Nickl, University of Nevada, Reno

Wallace Stegner’s Heraclitus  
Michael A. Brown, Creighton University

**F2H: Creative Writing: Memoir and Activism in the West**

**Location:** Birch Lake & Maple Lake  
**Chair:** John David Schwetman, University of Minnesota Duluth

Mustang Diaries: One Woman’s Search for Wild Horses in the American West  
Marcia Lee Hage, University Wisconsin - Superior

Water Signs  
Cheyenne Marie Marco, University of South Dakota  
Recipient of the Manfred Award.

**F2I: Stories in the Dakota Letters of 1838–1878**

**Location:** Ballroom 2  
**Chair:** Gwen Nell Westerman, Minnesota State University, Mankato

In Their Own Words: The Eloquence of 19th-Century Dakota Letter Writers  
Gwen Nell Westerman, Minnesota State University, Mankato

World-building through Translating the Dakota Letters  
Rachel Schienke, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Words for Today: Dakota Language Then and Now  
Glenn Murray Wasicuna, Minnesota State University, Mankato
F3A: Roundtable: Left in the West

Location: Ballroom 2
Chair: Gioia Elisa Woods, Northern Arizona University

Deborah Miranda’s Unsettling Colonial Genealogies  
Lisa Udel, Illinois College

Deep Ecology in Humboldt County: Bill Devall and a Philosophy for Direct Action  
Daniel Wayne Rinn, University of Rochester

West Coast Modernisms  
Audrey Goodman, Georgia State University

Mothers of the Movement: Black Western Womanhood and the Old Left  
Emily Lutenski, Saint Louis University

Contact Points: The Roadside Diner’s Machinery of Work in John Steinbeck’s The Grapes of Wrath  
John David Schwetman, University of Minnesota Duluth

The Literary Left in the American West  
Gioia Elisa Woods, Northern Arizona University

F3B: Native American Women Resisting Violence in the West

Location: Ballroom 3
Chair: Jennifer K. Ladino, University of Idaho

Rereading Silko for the Anthropocene  
Alex Hunt, West Texas A&M University

Storytelling as Ecological and Postcolonial Resistance in Leslie Marmon Silko’s “Storyteller”  
Cynthia Taylor, Colorado State University-Pueblo

Damned Indians: Reclamation and Displacement in the Novels of Elizabeth Cook-Lynn, Linda Hogan,  
and Leslie Marmon Silko  
Paul Formisano, University of South Dakota

F3C: Western Masculinities

Location: Ballroom 4
Chair: Michael K. Johnson, University of Maine-Farmington

Wilderness Myth and the Wild Man: To Suggest a Relationship between American Wilderness and  
European Fairy Tales  
Masato Tobari, Graduate School of Rikkyo University, Tokyo

Contesting Masculinity in Winnifred Eaton’s Canadian West  
Marie Drews, Luther College

Prodigal Sons and Patriarchy: Reading the Wounds of Gender in A River Runs Through It  
John Austin Peterson, Pepperdine University
F3D: Bay Area Writers and Subjects

Location: Crystal Lake
Chair: Stephen Tatum, University of Utah

Bay Area Berserkers: Frank Norris, Jack London, and Racial Primordialism
Edward Watts, Michigan State University

Grandfather Ishi: A New Biography
Randy Eric White, Blue Oak Press

F3E: Digital Humanities and Western American Scholarship

Location: Deer Lake
Chair: Aubrey Streit Krug, The Land Institute

“For the Red Man’s Cause”: Searching for Stories in the Genoa Indian Industrial School’s Newspaper,
The Pipe of Peace
Lydia R. Presley, University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Crossing Research Borders: Digital Libraries of the U.S. West
Pamela Jo Pierce, Theodore Roosevelt Center at Dickinson State University

Minnesota Motor-Camping: 4 Men, 4 Tires, 5 Tubes, 2 Valves, and 153 Gallons of Gas
Peter E. Reim, University of Wisconsin-Stout

F3F: Challenging Categories in Narratives about Indigenous Life and History

Location: Elk Lake
Chair: Nicolas S. Witschi, Western Michigan University

Talking Papers and Civilizing Lies: Eliding the Secular and the Sacred in Winnemucca’s Shrewd Storytelling
Kristen Brown, University of South Carolina

Dark Amusements: The Comedic Kinship of Sherman Alexie and Flannery O’Connor
Tim Kemper, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Reading William Vollmann’s Latest Dream, The Dying Grass: A Novel of the Nez Perce War
Capper Nichols, University of Minnesota

F3G: Native Americans in Art: Ledger Drawings and Graphic Novels

Location: Pine Lake & Cedar Lake
Chair: Kathleen Ann Danker, South Dakota State University (ret.)

Native American Ledger Art: A Tradition of Survivance and Cross-Cultural Representation
Donovan Gwinner, Aurora University

Recovering Lakota Masculinities through 19th-Century Lakota Ledger Drawings
Peter L. Bayers, Fairfield University

Signs and Visions: Making Meaning in David Mack’s Native American Graphic Novel, Vision Quest: Echo
Sara Spurgeon, Texas Tech University
F3H: Cather and Artists, War, and Mythmaking
Location: Birch Lake & Maple Lake
Chair: Melody Graulich, Utah State University

Father Latour’s Myths of the Margins in Willa Cather’s *Death Comes for the Archbishop*
Jeannette E. Schollaert, University of Maryland

Willa Cather on Art and Artists: The Lessons of the Master
Jeanine Varner, Abilene Christian University

Willa Cather’s *One of Ours*: “Wholly West and War”
Catherine Denham Holmes, College of Charleston

Graduate Student Luncheon featuring Will Weaver and Linda LeGarde Grover
Location: St. Croix II
Chair: Landon Scott Lutrick, Univ. of Nevada, Reno
Chair: Rachel Heise Bolten, Stanford University

F4A: Roundtable: Thinking Continental
Location: Ballroom 2
Chair: O. Alan Weltzien, University of Montana - Western

Three Stations along the Ring of Fire
O. Alan Weltzien, University of Montana - Western

Watershed Consciousness and the Anthropocene
Thomas Paul Lynch, University of Nebraska

Life on the Western Edge of It All: Conceptions of Place in Tess Gallagher’s Lough Arrow Poems
Drucilla Wall, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Morning in Helsinki
Eamonn Wall, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Pathways of the Yellowstone
Bernard William Quetchenbach, Montana State University Billings

Superior
Susan Maher, University of Minnesota Duluth

The Lariat and the GPS: Cowboys, Cattle Ranching, and Global Agricultural Practices
Nancy S. Cook, University of Montana
F4B: Silko’s *Ceremony*

Location: Ballroom 3  
Chair: Linda Helstern, North Dakota State University

*Going Viral: Storytelling as Virus in Silko’s Ceremony*  
Jessica Hellmann, United States Air Force Academy

*Leslie Marmon Silko’s *Ceremony* and Native American Ecological Anxiety in Post-WWII U.S. Literature*  
Ashley Elaine Reis, State University of New York at Potsdam

*Native American Literary Nationalism and Red Power: *Ceremony’s* Engagement with the Intimate Relationship between Stories, Land, and Sovereignty*  
Laura De Vos, University of Washington

Recipient of the Louis Owens Award.

F4C: Twain and His Contemporaries

Location: Ballroom 4  
Chair: Christine Hill Smith, Colorado Mountain College

*Mark Twain’s *A Horse’s Tale* and the Transnational Frontier*  
Charles Callis Bradshaw, University of Tennessee at Martin

*Satire Headed South: Herman Melville and Mark Twain’s Mississippi River Novels*  
Andrew Thomas Ross, University of North Texas

F4D: The West as Postmodernist/Transnational Space

Location: Crystal Lake  
Chair: Sara Spurgeon, Texas Tech University

*Cannibal Capitalism in Cormac McCarthy*  
Kary Doyle Smout, Washington and Lee University

*An Old Faith in the Westward Vector: The Frontier in the Works of Thomas Pynchon*  
Nicholas Henson, Citrus College

*One Hundred Years of American Western Fiction into Italian*  
Stefano Rosso, University of Bergamo, Italy

F4E: Northern Wests

Location: Deer Lake  
Chair: Andy Meyer, Luther College

*Impermafrost: Troubling Gender and Melting Land in Svalbard*  
Andy Meyer, Luther College

*Embodying Wilderness Poetics: Anthropological Fieldwork in the Humanities with Gary Snyder and Philip Whalen in the North Cascades*  
Nadine Antoinette Maestas, Southern New Hampshire University

*Survival Is Insufficient: Northern Michigan as a Post-Apocalyptic Final Frontier*  
Carolyn Dekker, Finlandia University
F4F: The Power of Art, the Art of Story

Location: Elk Lake
Chair: Terry Beers, Santa Clara University

Initial Publication of Stephen Crane’s Western and Mexican Tales: Illustrators and Their Images
Patrick K. Dooley, St. Bonaventure University

Myth and Storytelling in *Gilead*
Lori K. Martin, Pittsburg State University

Sowing Dragon’s Teeth: Periodical Depictions of the John Wesley Powell’s Colorado River Expeditions
Braden Joseph Krien, University of Iowa

F4G: Revising, Rethinking, Rebuking the Myths of the West

Location: Pine Lake & Cedar Lake
Chair: Todd Richardson, University of Nebraska Omaha

Reimagining Earp
Megan Kahn, United States Air Force Academy

A *Timeless* History of the American West
Michael K. Johnson, University of Maine-Farmington

Assassins, Companions, Warriors: The Women of *Firefly* and *Guardians of the Galaxy*
Anne L. Kaufman, Milton Academy

F4H: Grad Student Session: WLA and the Public Humanities with Aubrey Streit Krug, Audrey Goodman, Christine Bold, and Krista Comer

Location: Ballroom 1
Chair: Rachel Heise Bolten, Stanford University

2:00PM–4:00PM

Coffee Service

Location: 4th Floor Prefunction Area
F5: Plenary: True Myths, Stories, and Poems from Heid E. Erdrich

Location: Ballroom 1
Chair: Drucilla Wall, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Heid E. Erdrich is a poet, writer, and filmmaker. She is the author of five books of poetry including National Monuments, which won a 2009 Minnesota Book Award, and most recently Curator of Ephemera at the New Museum for Archaic Media (2017). Her nonfiction book, Original Local: Indigenous Foods, Stories and Recipes from the Upper Midwest, earned a City Pages Best Food Book of 2014 designation. She is the founding publisher of Wiigwaas Press, an Ojibwe language publisher and she teaches in the MFA Creative Writing program at Augsburg College. She is Ojibwe, enrolled at Turtle Mountain.

F6A: Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage and the U.S. West

Location: Ballroom 2
Chair: José Aranda, Rice University

Responding to the Revolutionary Urge: Las Hermanas and Claiming Hispanic Women’s Liberation Theology as a Part of U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage
Kaitlyn Willy, University of North Texas

Unexpected Identities and Latina/o/x Environments in the U.S. West
Priscilla Solis Ybarra, University of North Texas

When Collective Memory Takes You Home: Jorge Ainslie’s Los Pochos and the Folkloric Difference in the Spanish Language Press
Elena V. Valdez, Rice University

Recipient of the J. Golden Taylor Award.

Assessing the Past, Pondering the Future: The Impact of the Recovery Project on U.S. West Studies
José Aranda, Rice University
F6B: Monstrosity and the Grotesque in the Works of Stephen Graham Jones

Location: Ballroom 3
Chair: Bernadette Vivian Russo, Texas Tech University
The Mongrel-Feminine: Woman as Werewolf and the Western
  Rebecca Marie Lush, California State University San Marcos
Grotesque Realism and the Carnivalesque as Survivance in the Fast Red Road
  Bernadette Vivian Russo, Texas Tech University
Infection in the Blood: Love and Horror in Stephen Graham Jones’s Families
  Maria O’Connell, Wayland Baptist University
“So the bad old days up all over again”: Colonial Inscriptions in the Zombie Apocalypse of The Gospel of Z
  Kerry Fine, Arizona State University

F6C: Indigenous Sovereignty and the Undercommons

Location: Ballroom 4
Chair: Alex Trimble Young, Arizona State University
The Vital Heat of the Little Man’s Stove: Ellison’s Figuration of Sociality through the Commons of the Underground
  Terrell Anderson Taylor, Vanderbilt University
The Problematic of Coalition in Gerald Vizenor’s Bearheart
  Chris Pexa, University of Minnesota
Of Survivance and Sovereignty: Indigeneity, Blackness, and “Social Death” in Leslie Marmon Silko’s The Garden in the Dunes
  Alex Trimble Young, Arizona State University

F6D: Activist Women . . . and Men

Location: Crystal Lake
Chair: Maria Christine Beach, Oklahoma State University
Origin Story: Motherhood and Colonialism
  Tarra Stevenson, Westridge School for Girls & University of CA at Riverside
Material Feminism, Environmental Justice, and Digital Sites of Resistance: Figuring the Cyborg Activist
  Annie Jones Culver, Rice University
Incest, Promiscuity, and Quilting: Exploring Sexual Politics in the West through Anne Proulx’s That Old Ace in the Hole and Wyoming Stories
  Jason Bryce Herbert, West Texas A&M University
James McBride’s Staging of John Brown’s Legend in Good Lord Bird
  Elizabeth Abele, SUNY Nassau Community College
F6E: Views of the (Public) Land

Location: Deer Lake
Chair: Lars Erik Larson, University of Portland

Land, Lots of Land: The West (and the Western) as Public Domain
  W. Dana Phillips, Towson University (Maryland) / Rhodes University (South Africa)

“Landscape of Thorns”: Anthropocene Ruin(s) in Watkins’s Gold Fame Citrus
  Matt Burkhart, Case Western Reserve University

Managing from the Clouds: Aerial Vision and Resource Insecurity in L. Frank Baum’s The Wizard of Oz
  Jada Ach, University of South Carolina

American Apocalypse: Revealing a Genre of Settler Colonialism
  April Anson, University of Oregon

Recipient of the Dorys Grover Award.

F6G: Creative Writing: Fictions of Place

Location: Pine Lake & Cedar Lake
Chair: Candace Lee Black, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Crossing to Home
  Sharon Ann Reynolds, Palomar College

Kanorado: Liminal Spaces in Geography, Spirituality, and Fiction
  Tyler Barton, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Well Wishes
  Melody Graulich, Utah State University

F6H: Creative Writing: Hmong Writers of the West

Location: Birch Lake & Maple Lake
Chair: Mai Neng Moua, MNM Productions

Mai Neng Moua, MNM Productions

Soul Vang, Hmong American Writers’ Circle

May Yang, Independent
Cash Bar

WLA Banquet and Dance Featuring Erik Koskinen

Location: Ballrooms 3 & 4
Chairs: Florence Amamoto & Susan Maher, WLA Co-Presidents

Candor and craft are front and center on Erik Koskinen’s new album, *Erik Koskinen Live at The Real Phonic Radio Hour*. All fifteen songs capture the power of music made in synchronous time, place, and company. Koskinen is well known for his witty lyricism, sharp tongue, and poignant songs.
2017 WLA Award Recipients

**Distinguished Achievement Award**
For an influential scholar or creative writer in western American literature
- Rick Shiomi

**Delbert & Edith Wylder Award**
For outstanding service to the association
- Sara Spurgeon (Texas Tech University)

**Thomas J. Lyon Book Award**
For most outstanding book published this year in western American literary and cultural studies
- Priscilla Solis Ybarra (University of North Texas)
  for *Writing the Goodlife: Mexican American Literature and the Environment*

**Don D. Walker Prize**
For best essay published in western American literary studies in 2016
- Christopher Pexa (University of Minnesota)
  for “More Than Talking Animals: Charles Alexander Eastman’s Animal Peoples and Their Kinship Critiques of United States Colonialism” (*PMLA*)

**Frederick Manfred Award**
For the best creative writing submission to the conference
- Cheyenne Marco (University of South Dakota)
  for “Water Signs”

**WLA/Charles Redd Center K-12 Teaching Award**
- Jennifer Kawecki and Hakan Armağan (Burke High School, Omaha, NE)
  for “My Land, Our Land: Exploring the Ethics of Energy Policy, Consumption, and Sustainability Using Aldo Leopold’s ‘The Land Ethic’”

**J. Golden Taylor Award**
For best essay presented at the conference by a graduate student
- Elena Valdez (Rice University)
  for “When Collective Memory Takes You Home: Jorge Ainslie’s *Los Pochos* and the Folkloric Difference in the Spanish Language Press”

**Dorys Grover Awards**
For outstanding papers presented at the conference by graduate students who contribute to our critical understandings of region, place, and space in western American literatures
- Lisa Fink (University of Oregon)
  for “The Queer Decolonial Imaginary in Eduardo C. Corral’s *Slow Lightning*”
- April Anson (University of Oregon)
  for “American Apocalypse: Revealing a Genre of Settler Colonialism”

**Louis Owens Awards**
For graduate student presenters contributing most to cultural diversity in the association
- Laura De Vos (University of Washington), presenting “Native American Literary Nationalism and Red Power: *Ceremony’s* Engagement with the Intimate Relationship between Stories, Land, and Sovereignty”
SATURDAY—Oct. 28, 2017

8:00am – 12:00pm
Book Exhibit (4th Floor Prefunction Area)

8:00am – 9:15am
Sessions S1

9:00am – 11:00am
Coffee Service (4th Floor Prefunction Area)

9:30am – 10:45am
Sessions S2 & WLA/Charles Redd Center K–12 Educator Panel (Ballroom 4)

11:00am – 12:15pm
WLA Business Meeting (Ballroom 3)

Texas Studies in Literature and Language

TSLL
Douglas Bruster and James H. Cox, Editors
Special Issue 59:3: Modernism and Native America

Modernism and Native America
The Vine Theatre
American Indian Modernities and
Modernist Studies’ “Indian Problem”
The Landscape of Disaster:
Hemingway, Porter, and the
Soundings of Indigenous Silence
Red and White and Pink All Over:
Vacilada, Indian Identity, and Todd
Downing’s Queer Response to Modernity
The New Modernist Studies,
Anthropology, and N. Scott Momaday’s
The Way to Rainy Mountain

James H. Cox
Lynn Riggs
Kirby Brown
Eric Gary Anderson and
Melanie Benson Taylor
Charles J. Rzepka
Michael Tavel Clarke

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S1A: Transnationalism in Western North American Texts

Location: Ballroom 2  
Chair: David Neal Cremeen, Black Hills State University

Transnational Indigenous Futurisms: Fostering Coalitions in Native American Speculative Fiction  
Andrew Uzendoski, Lafayette College

Border Identities and the Lexicon of Western Belonging: Reading Solmaz Sharif’s War Poetry  
Susan Kollin, Montana State University

S1B: Renegotiating Western Myths in Film and Television

Location: Ballroom 3  
Chair: Matt Wanat, Ohio University Lancaster

The Myth of Jesse James in the 21st Century: Resonance and Reasons  
William Chadwick Beharriell, St. Clair College, Canada

Dystopic Visions and Imaginary Wests: Re-Negotiating Myths in HBO’s Westworld  
Baerbel Schlimbach, Saarland University, Germany

One in Ten Thousand: Django Unchained, Uncle Tom’s Cabin, Black Exceptionality and the Weird Western  
Joshua Damu Smith, Biola University

S1C: “We’re an American Band”: The Challenge of Critical Regionalism in Contemporary American Art, Culture, and Politics

Location: Ballroom 4  
Chair: Matthew Young Heimburger, University of Utah

“You Ain’t Going to Get a Map with It Marked Out”: Public and Private Knowledge of Place on the Dakota Access Pipeline  
Elisa Warford, University of Southern California

“And It’s Dying on the Vine!”: West Coast Jazz, La La Land, and the Challenges of Critical Regionalism  
Matthew Heimburger, University of Utah

It All Started with the Border: The Drive-By Truckers’ “American Band,” Working-Class Whiteness, and Critical Regionalism  
Paul B. Wickelson, Independent Scholar
S1E: Creative Writing: Bordering the Expanse: Graduate Writing on the Fringes of Creative Nonfiction
Location: Deer Lake
Chair: Kristine Langley Mahler, University of Nebraska Omaha

On Beer, Burgers, and Hunger
Kelsey M. Bee, University of Nebraska Omaha

The Willow-Circle and Other Beginnings
Mystery Harwood, University of Nebraska Omaha

Boys, Boss: An Erasure Essay
Kristine Langley Mahler, University of Nebraska Omaha

Surveiling the Female Body: An Experiment
Alea Eve Hall, University of Nebraska Omaha

S1F: Native Americans in History and Literature
Location: Elk Lake
Chair: Kyle Bladow, Northland College

Mark Twain’s Selective Construction of Anti-Native American Sentiment
Julian Suhr, University of Southern California

The Law of the Land: Locating U.S. Indian Policy in the Spaces of House Made of Dawn
Caitlin C. Hudgins, Potomac State College

S1G: Utopian and Dystopian Western Imaginaries
Location: Pine Lake & Cedar Lake
Chair: Kerry Fine, Arizona State University

“A thing of hope”: Settler Feminist Utopianism in Margaret Atwood’s MaddAddam
Brittany Henry, Rice University

Picket Fences Like Spears: 1980s American Dystopia in Chuck Klosterman’s Downtown Owl
ShaunAnne Tangney, Minot State University

9:00am–11:00am
Coffee Service
Location: 4th Floor Prefunction Area
S2A: Revisionism, Postcolonialism, and Visual Sovereignty in the Western

Location: Ballroom 2
Chair: Joanna Hearne, University of Missouri

Chickasaw Television: Wallace Fox and the Gene Autry Enterprise/Flying A Pictures Television Series
The Range Rider
Joanna Hearne, University of Missouri

The Searchers and the Trackers: Postcolonial Implications of the Pursuit Plot in American and Transnational Westerns
Marek Paryz, University of Warsaw, Poland

Ghosts and Sexual Slavery: Nuanced Portrayals of the Celluloid Indian Maiden in The Revenant
M. Elise Marubbio, Augsburg University, USA

S2B: Spectacular Indigeneity: The New and Not-So-New Indians in Contemporary Stories by and about Indians

Location: Ballroom 3
Chair: Becca Gercken, University of Minnesota Morris

Not the Usual Indian in the Cupboard: Indigenous Bodies and Spectacle in Contemporary American Indian Literature
Becca Gercken, University of Minnesota Morris

Visual Authenticity: Native Stories in Portraiture
Nina O’Leary, University of Minnesota

The Western “Indian Episode”: The Vanishing Indians of Deadwood
Brian J. Twenter, University of Minnesota Morris

S2C: WLA/Charles Redd Center K–12 Educator Panel

Location: Ballroom 4
Chair: Randi Tanglen, Austin College

My Land, Our Land: Exploring the Ethics of Energy Policy, Consumption, and Sustainability Using Aldo Leopold’s “The Land Ethic”
Jennifer Marie Kawecki and Sezai Hakan Armağan, Burke High School/Omaha Public Schools

S2E: Success and Failure in Minnesota Literature

Location: Deer Lake
Chair: Randi Eldevik, Oklahoma State University

“Sewing Memories,” Cold Comfort, and Nice Fish: Humor, Heritage, and Storytelling on the Northern Borders
Maureen Salzer, Pima Community College

Success and Failure in Tim O’Brien’s In the Lake of the Woods: How Reversing a Hierarchy Reveals the Dangers of Heroism
Geordy Patrick Kortebein, University of Colorado-Boulder

A Week on the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers: Thoreau’s 1861 Minnesota Journey Revisited
David R. Solheim, Buffalo Commons Press
S2F: Natural Worlds as Sacred Space

Location: Elk Lake
Chair: Karen Ramirez, University of Colorado, Boulder

“Something Listening”: Sacred Space in Walter Van Tilburg Clark’s “The Buck in the Hills”
   Terry Beers, Santa Clara University

Nature Made Sacred: Reading Holy Scripture in Cormac McCarthy’s *The Crossing*
   Delinda Lane King, West Texas A & M University

The Relevance of Wilderness in a “Selfie” Culture
   Sharon Ann Reynolds, Palomar College

S2G: The Uses of Storytelling

Location: Pine Lake & Cedar Lake
Chair: Beverly Hays Conner, University of Puget Sound

Dancing Back the Buffalo: Rewilding, Religion, and the Buffalo Commons Novel
   Jerome Tharaud, Brandeis University

Narrative Elusion in Emily Ruskovich’s *Idaho*
   Margaret Johnson, Idaho State University

S2H: The Plain Sense of Pamela Carter Joern: Minnesota Meets the Nebraska Sandhills (with Readings from the Author)

Location: Birch Lake & Maple Lake
Chair: Matthew Evertson, Chadron State College

Myths and Morals *In Reach*: Stories of People and Place
   Brenda Lanphear, Chadron High School

Within Reach: A Sense of the Plains
   Matthew Evertson, Chadron State College

Reaching Home: Poems in the Spirit of Pamela Carter Joern’s Regionalism
   Steven Coughlin, Chadron State College

WLA Business Meeting

Location: Ballroom 3
Presiding: Nicolas S. Witschi, WLA Executive Secretary

See nominating procedures on next page.
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<td>Linda Karell</td>
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<td>Michael K. Johnson</td>
<td>Co–President Elect</td>
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<td>Emily Lutenski</td>
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<td>Nicholas Bradley</td>
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<td>Maria O’Connell</td>
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<td>Wayland Baptist University</td>
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<td>Ashley Reis</td>
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**To nominate a WLA member for the Executive Council:** Find out if your nominee is willing to serve. Write the name and affiliation of your candidate on the flipchart in the registration area. Council members must be WLA members and must attend the next three WLA meetings, including the Wednesday afternoon Executive Council meeting. All nominees are advised to attend the Saturday morning business meeting.
# WLA Annual Conference Sites + Presidents

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<th>Year</th>
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2018 Western Literature Association Conference
Indigenous Hubs, Gateway Cities, Border States

The 2018 annual conference of the Western Literature Association will take place October 24–27 at the Chase Park Plaza Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri. “Indigenous Hubs, Gateway Cities, Border States” is derived from this location. This region, at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, has been urban for thousands of years. Cahokia, known for its impressive earthen mounds, is directly across the river from today’s St. Louis and once housed the largest pre-Columbian civilization north of Mexico, a hub for trade, communication, and transportation throughout indigenous North America. Long before St. Louis was known as the “Gateway to the West,” it was nicknamed “Mound City.”

St. Louis is also a borderland, shaped by French, Spanish, and U.S. contact and conquest. With Missouri’s 1821 entry into the nation as a slave state, St. Louis became envisioned as a gateway to western freedom even while it maintained southern bondage. During the Exoduster movement, St. Louis indeed became a gateway to freedom for many African Americans migrating away from postbellum southern oppression. Today St. Louis continues to serve as a microcosm of the United States’ racial histories, and of both stubborn divisions and promising coalitions across lines of race, class, region, and nation. “Indigenous Hubs, Gateway Cities, Border States” is meant to evoke these confluences and crosscurrents.

We welcome proposals on any aspect of the literatures of the North American West, but especially encourage panels and papers that explore the following topics:

- St. Louis (or other western places) as Indigenous Hubs, Gateways, or Borderlands
- The African American West
- Jazz and Blues and the American West
- The Art and Literature of Black Lives Matter
- St. Louis Freedom Suits
- The Work of Distinguished Achievement Award Winner Percival Everett
- The Critical Legacy of Distinguished Achievement Award Winner José E. Limón

The deadline for proposal submissions is June 15, 2018. Please submit questions to Michael K. Johnson or Emily Lutenski at WLAConference2018@westernlit.org.

For more information, see http://www.westernlit.org/wla-conference-2018/.