

Newsletter:
Studies in the
American Short Story
Spring 2019

This has been an active and, in many ways, tumultuous academic year in the life of our society, mostly because of new initiatives coming simultaneously with our ongoing activities. Quite beyond our normal ALA panels at the annual convention, we have been working on our international symposium in New Orleans, September 5-7, 2019, the launching of a new journal devoted to the field, and the planning of our second European conference, anticipated in 2021 or 2022. We have enormous momentum as an organization, but we need continuing loyalty and support as we move forward to become a comprehensive professional society.

1. ALA activities for the Boston conference:

“New Studies of the American Short Story”

Thursday: 1:30-2:50 4-M

Organized by: The Society for the Study of the American Short Story

Chair: James Nagel, University of Georgia

- Perfect
Women’,”
Stories,”
1. “More than the ‘unity of effect’: The Short Story as Medical Narrative,” Gudrun Grabher, University of Innsbruck (Austria)
 2. “Texting Alcott: Mallory Ortberg’s Hybrid ‘Little Women,’” Beverly Clark, Wheaton College
 3. “Domestic Fieriness and Sacrifice in Updike’s *Maple Stories*,” Yue Wang, Dalian University of Technology (China)

the
A Roundtable Discussion: “The Major Contributions to the American Short Story” Friday: 2:10-3:30 11-M

Sponsored by: The Society for the Study of the American Short Story

Chair: James Nagel, University of Georgia

Participants:

Oliver Scheiding, Johannes Gutenberg University

Alfred Bendixen, Princeton University
Kyra Hudson, Weber State University
Olivia Edenfield, Georgia Southern University
Gudrun Grabher, University of Innsbruck

Short Business Meeting: Society for the Study of the American Story Friday: 3:40-5:00 12-P
Chair: James Nagel

Discussion of the symposium in New Orleans, the journal, and the proposed European symposium for 2021 or 2022. All members are welcome. The editorial board of the society journal will meet as a group about 4:30.

2. The Journal: *Studies in the American Short Story*

All aspects of the journal are coming along nicely, including the cover, a photo of which I will attach to this newsletter. However, we do not have enough accepted articles to produce the first issue at this point. We very much need major articles by well-established scholars to round out the inaugural number, which will be closely examined by the profession. We also invite younger scholars to submit their manuscripts. We will take pride in publishing the first article by beginning scholars who go on to play a prominent role in the profession. Nothing could be better: we will have encouraged a career at the same time we present a new contribution to the field in a solid essay. To be considered for the first issue, manuscripts will need to have been submitted by the end of September, at the latest. The first issue will go into production in the fall and appear in the spring of 2020.

3. The New Orleans Symposium

We are expecting an enthusiastic crowd for our symposium in New Orleans, September 5-7, 2019. When you submit a proposal for a presentation, of whatever kind, please place your name, institution, and email address at the top of the first page even if you have a cover letter. We are dealing with considerable piles of documents,

and it would waste time having to find names and email addresses in yet some other pile.

I will attach the call for papers for the symposium simply to remind you of the details. It is important that our members join in such events because it is only our considerable numbers that make possible our various activities. Please make every effort to attend or, even better, to participate on the program.

Not on the call for papers is the information about the keynote address that concludes the symposium. I am delighted to report that the speaker will be the distinguished scholar Scott Donaldson, whom many of you already know. For those who do not, I supply a brief statement of some aspects of his career:

Scott Donaldson retired in 1993 as the Cooley Professor of English Emeritus at William and Mary, and his contributions to American literature have accelerated ever since. He has written or edited a score of books on twentieth-century American authors, half of them on Ernest Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald. His best-selling and most often translated book is *Hemingway vs. Fitzgerald: The Rise and Fall of a Literary Friendship* (1999). Two of his outstanding biographies are *By Force of Will: The Life and Art of Ernest Hemingway* and *Fool for Love: F. Scott Fitzgerald*. Most recent titles include *The Paris Husband: How It Really Was Between Ernest and Hadley Hemingway* (2018); *The Impossible Craft: Literary Biography* (2015), and *Death of a Rebel: The Charlie Fenton Story* (2012). *Tender Is the Night: The War Between the Sexes* is scheduled for publication next year. His keynote address for the New Orleans symposium of the Society for the Study of the American Short Story is entitled "'Cat in the Rain': The Craftsman at Work'."

4. The proposed European symposium for 2021 or 2022

I have asked Oliver Scheiding, our distinguished colleague from Mainz, to explore our options for a European meeting for our next symposium. He directed the highly successful conference at Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz in 2017 and, as one of the leaders of the European American Studies Association, he is well informed and respected by his colleagues in the field. He will report on the status of our ongoing negotiations for this event at the business meeting.

Conclusion:

As these brief comments about our activities indicate, we have come a long way together in less than a decade. It has been possible because of an extraordinary level of cooperation among our members and a great deal of trust that our joint efforts would produce professional work that brings credit to all involved. I very much hope that will pertain as we move forward.

In closing, let me repeat my plea for all of our members, senior and junior, to participate in the New Orleans conference and to submit carefully written articles to the new journal. We want to get off to a strong start to earn the respect of our colleagues in the field.

With warmest best regards, Jim

Dr. James Nagel
Eidson Distinguished Professor Emeritus
University of Georgia