

SYMPOSIUM ON THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE MIDWEST & THE MIDWEST POETRY FESTIVAL

The Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature will hold its 36th annual Symposium on the Cultural Heritage of the Midwest and the concurrent second annual Midwest Film Festival and the 25th annual Midwest Poetry Festival on May 11-13, 2006, at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. Scholars, writers, poets, filmmakers and interested members of the public are invited to participate in the symposium by presenting papers, reading creative writing (poetry, fiction, drama, and nonfiction), showing films, and by organizing panel discussions about the culture and literature of the Midwest. There are prizes of \$100 for the best fiction, poetry, essay, and literary criticism read at the conference. All written work presented at the symposium is eligible for publication in MidAmerica, the society's annual journal.

Ideas for panel discussions or a theme-focused session are welcome. A supplementary request for appropriate submissions may be sent to SSML members; however, you are encouraged to recruit panel members.

The screening of short films is a new feature of the conference. Please publicize this option for students and colleagues.

Students, both graduate and undergraduate, are invited to participate. Scholarships to fund conference attendance are available for students, and there will also be prizes awarded for student work. Any colleges or universities that help to defray students' expenses will be mentioned in the conference program.

Presenters must be paid-up members of the society or agree to join for 2006. Membership dues are \$35 and \$25 for students and emeritus members. The registration fee for the symposium is \$65.

Please include the following information in conference proposals: your name; your e-mail address; your college, university, or other affiliation; your mailing address; audio-visual needs; and times it is impossible for you to present your work. Also, please indicate whether you are a student and would like to be considered for a scholarship.

The submission deadline is March 15, 2006. We welcome early proposals. You may submit only the outline of your paper; a completed text is unnecessary. Please submit conference proposals to Mary Obuchowski, the Program Chair, via e-mail at obuch1mc@cmich.edu or via snail-mail to Mary Obuchowski, Department of English, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant MI 48859. Please send a second copy of your proposal to Marc Van Wormer at vanworme@msu.edu