About the MLA Convention

THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION convention, first held in 1883, is an annual gathering of teachers and scholars in the field of language and literature study. The convention enables members of the profession to share their ideas and research with colleagues from other universities and colleges. The many sessions present a range of approaches and examine a variety of languages and literary and critical traditions. Meetings will be held in the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers (foreign language and comparative literature sessions) and the Hilton New York (English sessions and exhibits), with sessions beginning at 3:30 p.m. on 27 December and continuing until 3:00 p.m. on 30 December. The Job Information Center and the child care center will be in the New York Marriott Marquis.

Convention meetings are organized by MLA members, but nonmembers are welcome to attend. All participants—members and nonmembers alike—must pay registration fees. Registrants receive badges, which entitle convention attendees to gain admittance to meetings, the Job Information Center, and the exhibit hall. Registrants who lose their badges may purchase replacements at the registration areas.

The Program begins with an *Individual Convention Program* for recording individual schedules. The *Location of Meeting Rooms* and floor plans and maps provide a guide to the convention facilities. A list of *Exhibitors* displaying books and other materials during the convention and a *Floor Plan of the Exhibit Area* allow attendees to locate exhibits quickly. *Indexes* of meetings open to the public (forums and special events), division meetings, discussion group meetings, MLA committee meetings and programs sponsored by committees of the association, and allied and affiliate organization meetings refer the reader to the number assigned to each event listed in the *Program* proper. A *Subject Index to All Meetings*, in which meetings are organized by topic, and an index of *Program Participants* follow. The *Program* proper, divided into chronological units (see *Contents* on preceding page), provides the most complete description of the various meetings. A listing of the *Executive Committees* of divisions, discussion groups, and the American Literature Section; a directory of *Allied and Affiliate Organizations*; and an *Index of Advertisers* round out the Program.

MEETINGS

Most meetings at the MLA convention are arranged by the membership at large, either through the association's divisions and discussion groups or by

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individual members. Attendance is open to all convention registrants, but only current MLA members may organize or participate formally in meetings. On occasion, the membership requirement is waived for foreign scholars or for individuals whose main interests are in other disciplines. The policies for MLA divisions and discussion groups and the procedures for organizing convention meetings are in the September 2002 *PMLA* and on the MLA's Web site (www.mla.org). The following is a brief description of the kinds of meetings arranged for this year's convention.

Division Meetings

Encompassing the primary scholarly and professional concerns of the association, MLA divisions represent major areas of membership interest. Divisions are responsible for promoting scholarly and professional activities within their areas of concern; to this end, their executive committees advise on specific research and pedagogical needs, propose to the MLA Executive Council programs that might be undertaken on behalf of their divisions, compile information of interest to their members for publication in MLA periodicals or in special mailings, and elect division representatives to serve in the MLA Delegate Assembly. Each division may organize one to three meetings for the convention, although in any year a division's executive committee may decide to hold no program at all or to arrange a forum either alone or in conjunction with another division or a discussion group. Only MLA members may join divisions or participate in their projects and programs. Members interested in one of next year's division programs should correspond with the 2002 secretary of the appropriate division, since 2002 secretaries become chairs in 2003 (see list of executive committee members following the Program proper).

Discussion Group Meetings

MLA discussion groups accommodate the scholarly and professional interests of constituencies within the association whose concern is with discrete literatures or with literary and linguistic matters that are not encompassed by one of the divisions. Like divisions, discussion groups are responsible for promoting scholarly and professional activities within their areas of concern, and thus their executive committees also advise on specific research and pedagogical needs and propose to the MLA Executive Council programs that might be undertaken on behalf of their groups. Each discussion group may arrange one meeting for the convention. Members who have suggestions for next year's program or who would like to participate in that program should correspond with the 2002 secretary of the appropriate discussion group, since 2002 secretaries become chairs in 2003 (see list of executive committee members following the Program proper).

Forums

Arranged by divisions, discussion groups, or individual members, forums are meetings on topics of broad general interest. The MLA executive director, with the assistance of the Program Committee, has final responsibility for approving forums. No more than six forums, including the presidential forum, may be arranged for a convention. Members who would like to propose a forum for next year's convention are encouraged to attend the Program Committee's session on 30 December (10:15 a.m., Hudson, fourth floor, Hilton New York). A formal proposal that describes in detail the topic and nature of the proposed forum and includes biographical information on participants must be submitted to the executive director by 15 March 2003.

Special Sessions

MLA members whose scholarly or professional interests are not adequately accommodated through convention programs arranged by the divisions and discussion groups may propose special sessions. Since these sessions, the most specialized of all convention meetings, are intended to enable participants to exchange ideas on specific topics, they involve a session leader and a panel of discussants. Members who wish to organize a special session for the 2003 convention should carefully read the guidelines, published in the September 2002 *PMLA* and available on the MLA Web site (www.mla.org), governing the organization of these meetings and should observe the deadlines for 2002–03 announced in the Winter *MLA Newsletter* and on the MLA Web

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site. Proposals for special sessions must be submitted on the forms provided for this purpose; the forms are available from the MLA convention office, on the MLA's Web site, and at the MLA information booths and headquarters offices at the convention.

Allied and Affiliate Organization Meetings

Other scholarly, business, or social meetings are arranged in conjunction with the MLA convention by officially recognized allied and affiliate organizations. Typically, these organizations are learned societies or professional associations whose purposes are closely allied with those of the MLA. Allied organizations may arrange no more than two sessions for the convention. Each organization may decide whether its two sessions will be used to read papers, to conduct business meetings, or to hold social events. Affiliate organizations may arrange one session for the convention. Organizations that have not previously met in conjunction with the MLA convention and that would like to do so may request allied or affiliate organization status. Such groups should write to the MLA convention office regarding the procedures for applying for allied or affiliate organization status or refer to the guidelines published in the September 2002 *PMLA* and on the MLA Web site. Organizations that currently have such status and that plan to arrange meetings at the 2003 convention must indicate their intentions in writing to the MLA and submit complete program copy to the MLA convention office by 1 April.

The Presidential Address

The Presidential Address will take place at 8:40 p.m. on 28 December in Trianon Ballroom, third floor, Hilton New York. First Vice President Mary Louise Pratt will present awards to the recipients of the William Riley Parker Prize, the James Russell Lowell Prize, the MLA Prize for a First Book, the Howard R. Marraro Prize, the Kenneth W. Mildenberger Prize, the Mina P. Shaughnessy Prize, the MLA Prize for Independent Scholars, the Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize, the MLA Prize for a Distinguished Biography, the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Comparative Literary Studies, the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for French and Francophone Studies, the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Studies in Germanic Languages and Literatures, the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for a Translation of a Literary Work, the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Publication Award for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Studies, the William Sanders Scarborough Prize, the Fenia and Yaakov Leviant Memorial Prize, and the third triennial MLA Award for Lifetime Scholarly Achievement. Rosemary G. Feal will report on the association's 2002 activities, and President Stephen Greenblatt will deliver the Presidential Address. The meeting is open to the public.

Delegate Assembly

Established in 1971 as an elected body representing the membership at large, the Delegate Assembly, composed of 267 delegates, debates issues of concern to the membership and advises the Executive Council on the association's policies, direction, goals, and structure. Formal deliberations of the assembly, at which any MLA member can speak, are scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on 29 December in Grand Ballroom East, third floor, Hilton New York.

Open Hearings

An open hearing of the Delegate Assembly, at which MLA members may present their views, will be held at 1:45 p.m. on 28 December in New York, fourth floor, Hilton New York. Members who wish to submit formal resolutions to the Delegate Assembly should attend the open hearing on resolutions held on 28 December at 12:00 noon in New York, fourth floor, Hilton New York. Procedures for submitting resolutions, which are general statements of membership sentiment, are described in article 11.C.3 of the MLA constitution (see the Sept. 2002 *PMLA*); copies of this section of the constitution will be available at the MLA information centers. The MLA Program Committee will hold a session on 30 December at 10:15 a.m., Hudson, fourth floor, Hilton New York. Members who wish to propose topics for forums, special sessions, or special events at the 2003 convention are encouraged to present their ideas at the meeting; members unable to attend the meeting should present their ideas in writing before 30 December, either to the

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executive director or to any other member of the Program Committee (for names of committee members, see the Sept. 2002 *PMLA*).

GENERAL INFORMATION AND SERVICES

Appointments

Members who wish to make appointments with Executive Director Rosemary G. Feal or Director of English Programs David Laurence may do so through the MLA headquarters office in the Hilton New York (Lincoln, fourth floor). Appointments with Director of Foreign Language Programs Elizabeth Welles may be made through the MLA headquarters office in the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers (Carnegie 1, third floor).

Audiotaping and Videotaping at Sessions

Neither audiotaping nor videotaping of sessions is normally permitted. Occasional exceptions may be made for members of the media taping short segments designed to convey the convention atmosphere. Such arrangements must be made through the press office and require the consent of all speakers at a session. When taping is approved, a representative of the media staff will accompany the reporter and crew. The session organizer will announce to the audience that audiotaping or videotaping will take place during a part of the session.

Badges

Plastic badge holders are available at the MLA information centers in the Hilton New York, the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers, and the New York Marriott Marquis. A $5 fee will be charged for all badges replaced at the convention.

Child Care

Child care will be in the New York Marriott Marquis, Barrymore Room, ninth floor, Saturday and Sunday, 28 and 29 December, from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., and on Monday, 30 December, from 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Parents and guardians should preregister their children for each day they intend to use the child care service; otherwise children cannot be guaranteed a place. Registration forms may be requested from the MLA convention office. Completed forms must be returned to the convention office by Friday, 6 December 2002, and must be accompanied by a registration fee of $45 per day for the first child and $15 per day for each additional child. For graduate students, the fee is $25 per day for the first child and $15 per day for each additional child. A very limited number of on-site registrations may be available, depending on space restrictions, insurance considerations, and staffing capabilities. Those interested in arranging for child care in their hotel rooms should refer to information materials at their hotel.

Convention Guide

A pocket-size brochure providing general information about convention services and containing city and hotel maps will be sent with the convention badge to registrants who register before 3 December. Copies of the guide will be available free to persons who register at the convention.

Disabilities, Facilities and Services for Persons with

The MLA is committed to making arrangements that allow all members of the association to participate in the convention.

Hotels. Meeting rooms in the headquarters hotels are accessible by elevator, and the doors are wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs. There will be desks in the convention registration and information areas at the Hilton New York (Promenade, second floor), the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers (Princess Ballroom, second floor), and the New York Marriott Marquis (built-in area, fifth floor) staffed with personnel who can provide assistance to convention attendees with disabilities. To reserve hotel rooms that are specifically equipped for persons with permanent or temporary disabilities, check the appropriate boxes on the convention registration form and the housing reservation form or write or call Karin Bagnall in the MLA convention office by 15 November.

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Shuttle Bus. A complimentary bus service for persons with disabilities will be available throughout convention meeting hours to transport attendees with disabilities. Arrangements for the accessible shuttle bus should be made at the desk for persons with disabilities in the Hilton New York, the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers, or the New York Marriott Marquis.

Sessions. Speakers are asked to bring five copies of their papers, even in draft form, for the use of members who wish to follow the written text. Speakers who use handouts should prepare some copies in a large-print format (14- to 16-point font size). Speakers should indicate whether they want their papers and handouts returned. Sign language interpreters and real-time captioning are available on request. To arrange for an interpreter, write or call Karin Bagnall in the MLA convention office by 15 November.

Karin Bagnall coordinates arrangements for persons with disabilities; she can be reached at the MLA convention office at kbagnall@mla.org; the TDD number is 646 576-5148.

Exhibits

Over 175 firms will display books and other materials of interest to teachers of language and literature in Americas Hall I and II, Hilton New York. The area will be open on 28 and 29 December from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on 30 December from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Admission to the exhibit area is restricted to persons wearing badges or carrying appropriate passes.

Friends of Bill W.

Concourse F, concourse level, Hilton New York, is set aside for the Friends of Bill W. throughout convention hours. A list of meetings will appear in the *MLA Convention News and Program Update* available at the convention.

Future Convention

In 2003 the convention will be held in San Diego. The dates of the convention are 27–30 December.

Headquarters Offices

Headquarters offices will be located in Carnegie 1, third floor, Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers, and Lincoln, fourth floor, Hilton New York. Members of the MLA convention staff will be available in these offices whenever meetings are in session to handle problems that might arise with meeting rooms or meeting facilities. Program organizers are asked to refer questions on such matters to one of the headquarters offices, not to the hotel management. More-general questions will be answered by staff members at the MLA information centers.

Illness and Medical Emergencies

Procedures may vary from one hotel to another.

Hilton New York. Dial 66 from any house phone and describe the situation to the operator.

Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers. Dial 0 and describe the situation to the operator.

New York Marriott Marquis. Dial 6666 and describe the situation to the operator.

Please note: whether you are seeking medical advice or have a medical emergency, the hotel will direct you to the closest hospital emergency ward.

Information Centers

General questions about the convention and the association will be answered at the MLA information centers in each hotel (second floor, Hilton New York; Princess Ballroom, second floor, Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers; built-in area, fifth floor, New York Marriott Marquis). Copies of the Program and the *Job Information List* will be sold at the centers; the *MLA Convention News and Program Update* will be distributed free; and information about cultural events, restaurants, and transportation will be available. The information centers will be open on 27 December from 12:00 noon to 9:00 p.m., on 28 and 29 December from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and on 30 December from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Job Information Center

For Prearranged Interviews. Consult the interviewer's sign-in file if you do not know whether your in-

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terview is scheduled for a hotel room or the interview area or if you need to find out the hotel room number for your interview. The files for English departments are maintained at the lines on the left; those for foreign language departments are on the right. Allow yourself ample time to obtain this information. If your interview is scheduled for the *interview area,* proceed directly to the Westside Ballroom, fifth floor, and ask a staff member for the table number.

If the interviewer has not signed in, consult the "Who's Where" directory in the information centers and members' lounges in the Hilton and Sheraton and near the Job Information Center in the Marriott. Once you know where the interviewer is staying, you can call the hotel information desk and be connected with the interviewer's hotel room. (Hotel staff will not give guests' room numbers to callers.) If the interviewer is not in, use the hotel's message facilities. A message left in a hotel mailbox will be flashed on the guest's room telephone. If the person is *not* listed in the "Who's Where" directory, check the Program Participants section of the convention program (pp. 1417–30 of the November *PMLA*) to see if that interviewer is speaking at or chairing a session and can be reached at a specific time and place or ask a Job Information Center staff member for help.

The MLA Job Information Service will operate a center at the convention (Lyceum Complex, fifth floor, Marriott). Positions that become available after the printing of the December *Job Information List* will be posted, and a counseling service for job candidates will be available in the interview area on 28 and 29 December. An interviewers' sign-in file will be maintained and facilities provided for job candidates and interviewers to exchange messages. Space will be available for interviews, but candidates and interviewers are urged to arrange interviews in advance. Job candidates are reminded that almost no unscheduled interviews take place at the convention. Therefore, members are advised not to attend the convention for the sole purpose of seeking employment if they do not have scheduled interviews. The Job Information Center will be open on 27 December from 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m., on 28 December from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., on 29 December from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and on 30 December from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Job Search Workshop

The job search workshop will again be conducted by Howard Figler for MLA members interested in making the transition to employment outside the academy. The workshop will assist members in learning about career options and marketable skills, preparing effective résumés, locating jobs, and improving interviewing and negotiating skills. The clinic will consist of three sessions held in the New York Marriott Marquis and will begin at 4:00 p.m. on 26 December and conclude at 12:00 noon on 28 December. The cost of the clinic is $215; enrollment is limited. For further information, write or call Roy Chustek, Job Information Service, MLA, 26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10004-1789 (646 576-5133; joblist@mla.org).

Lost and Found

Members wishing to report personal items either lost or found should call extension 5881 at the Hilton New York, extension 5599 at the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers, and extension 55 at the New York Marriott Marquis.

Lounges

Areas furnished with comfortable chairs and tables where members may congregate for discussion or relaxation will be provided in the Petit Trianon, third floor, Hilton New York, and in the Versailles Ballroom, second floor, Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers.

Mail and Messages

Although the hotels will make every effort to deliver mail and messages received during the convention, the MLA can assume no responsibility for failure in delivery. A message service in the International Ballroom, New York Marriott Marquis, is provided in conjunction with the Job Information Center to facilitate exchange of messages between job candidates and interviewers. For other kinds of messages, determine the recipient's hotel by referring to the "Who's Where" listing (see "Who's

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Where" section) posted near the members' lounge in each hotel, then leave messages with the desk clerk at the appropriate hotel. Bulletin boards where convention attendees may post messages for their colleagues will also be provided in the lounges.

Membership in the MLA

For the convenience of those who would like to join the MLA, as well as for continuing members who would like to pay their 2003 dues, membership desks will be located in the registration areas. Although new memberships are for the 2003 calendar year, individuals who join the association while registering for the convention are entitled to register at members' rates.

MLA Convention News and Program Update

During the convention the *MLA Convention News and Program Update* will print special notices, changes in schedule, and brief reports on convention activities. Convention attendees are urged to pick up copies at the MLA information centers.

NEH Information

Staff members from the National Endowment for the Humanities will be available to provide materials and information about the endowment on Sunday, 29 December, from 12:00 noon to 4:45 p.m. in Sutton North, Hilton New York.

New York Information

Pamphlets will be available at the MLA information centers in each hotel (Promenade area, second floor, Hilton New York; the Princess Ballroom, second floor, Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers; and fifth floor, New York Marriott Marquis).

Parking

Cars may be parked in several garages near the headquarters hotels. Current rates vary from approximately $30 to $40 for a twenty-four hour period. Oversized vehicles are an additional $10.

Passes

A convention speaker may obtain a pass for a family member or friend who has no professional interest in language or literature to hear a paper given by that speaker. These passes are available to speakers at the MLA information centers.

All MLA members and members of the profession that the MLA serves are required to register in order to participate in or attend meetings.

MLA convention registrants may obtain free passes to the exhibit hall for guests they accompany in the hall. Persons who are not registered for the convention and who are not guests of registrants may purchase a one-day pass to the exhibit hall for $10. These passes are available at the entrance to the Americas I exhibit hall.

Programs

Copies of the Program can be purchased for $5 at the MLA information centers. Free copies are available only to those who received in their registration packets a card entitling them to a complimentary Program or to foreign registrants who did not receive their Programs. There is a $5 charge for all additional copies.

Registration

All persons wishing to attend meetings or use convention services must register for the convention. Persons who plan to attend the convention may register by mail; the early-registration fee must be received before 1 December. Preregistration information was sent to all MLA members in September. Registrations may be accepted after that date, but Programs (for nonmembers) and badges may not be sent. Members attending the convention who have not preregistered may register during the convention at the registration areas located on the second floor, Hilton New York; in the Princess Ballroom, second floor, Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers; and at the built-in area, fifth floor, New York Marriott Marquis. Registration areas will be open on 27 December from 12:00 noon to 9:00 p.m., on 28 and 29 December from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and on 30 December from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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Registration fees until 1 December are as follows: regular members, $95; graduate student and emeritus members, $40; nonmembers, $120; graduate student and emeritus nonmembers, $55; unemployed members and members employed less than full-time, $50. Registration fees after 1 December are as follows: regular members, $120; graduate student and emeritus members, $40; nonmembers, $140; graduate student and emeritus nonmembers, $55; unemployed members and members employed less than full-time, $50. Registrants whose plans change may obtain refunds until 25 December; a $10 service fee will be deducted from the refund. Requests for refunds should be made in writing, accompanied by convention badges, and postmarked no later than 25 December.

Any disputes regarding convention fees should be put in writing and sent to the director of convention programs at the MLA office.

Members are reminded that hotel rooms at the special MLA rates are available only to persons who preregister. Housing forms will not be processed if they include the names of persons in the profession who have not paid their registration fees for the convention. (Spouses, friends, and family members who wish to share a room with a registrant and who are also engaged in the study of language and literature must preregister and pay their registration fees for the convention.)

Shuttle Bus Service

A complimentary shuttle service for attendees with disabilities will operate throughout convention meeting hours.

Because the headquarters hotels are close and because traffic and parking can be difficult, there will be no regular shuttle service between headquarter hotels.

Smoking

New York law permits smoking in bars and outside of the hotel. Smoking is prohibited at all convention meetings.

Speaker Ready Rooms

Video Conference Room, fourth floor, Hilton New York, and Park 1, fifth floor, Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers, have been reserved to allow speakers to run through their audiovisual presentations before their sessions. For those who have computer presentations, complete a Presenter's Computer Information form to arrange for a pretest appointment.

Telephones

Members will find public telephones at various locations in the hotel lobbies, near the exhibit area, and on floors where meetings are being held. Calls may not be made from telephones in meeting rooms, and the use of telephones in any convention office is limited to members of the MLA staff.

Ticket and Information Tables

Several allied organizations will have tables for selling tickets to their meal functions or for supplying information. These tables will be in the members' lounges. The MLA is not responsible for staffing these tables, and MLA staff members cannot provide information on these organizations other than what appears in the Program.

Transportation in New York

MLA convention hotels are located in midtown Manhattan and can be reached by a variety of means. New York City is served by three major airports—Kennedy, La Guardia, and Newark—and several regional airports, including Westchester and MacArthur.

John F. Kennedy International Airport (718 244-4444; www.panynj.gov/airports) is approximately 15 miles (40–60 minutes) from the midtown-Manhattan convention hotels. Taxi fare to Manhattan is $35, plus tolls and tip; public bus and subway fare is $1.50; private bus companies and shuttle services are available from $13 to $16.

La Guardia Airport (718 533-3400; www.panynj.gov/aviation/) is about 9 miles (30–45 minutes) from Manhattan. Taxis to midtown cost approximately $15–$20, plus tolls and tip; Gray Line Shuttle and New York Airport Service buses cost $11.

Newark International Airport (973 961-6000; www.panynj.gov/airports) is located 16 miles (45–60 minutes) from New York City. Transportation

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into Manhattan is available by taxi ($30–$50), by private car service ($35–$160), or on Olympia Shuttle and Super Shuttle / Gray Line buses ($11–$18). New Jersey Transit provides frequent rail service from the airport to Manhattan's Penn Station ($11.15); for more information, call 800 772-2222 or 800 626-7433 or visit www.njt.com.

Westchester Airport (914 995-4860; www.co.westchester.ny.us/airport) is 30 miles (1 hour) outside Manhattan. Private car service costs around $85, excluding tolls and tip; taxis cost $75–$85. Beeline Bus service (914 813-7772) stops at the White Plains train station; a one-way train ticket from White Plains to Grand Central Station costs approximately $7.

MacArthur Airport (516 467-3210; www.macarthurairport.com), located in Islip, Long Island, is 65 miles (2 hours) from midtown Manhattan. Private car service costs approximately $100, plus tolls and tip. The Hampton Jitney Coach offers nonstop, round-trip bus service for $24. Long Island Railroad runs from nearby Ronkonkoma station to Penn Station; one-way fare is $6.50, plus $5 for the shuttle between the airport and the railroad station.

For more information, visit the MLA Web site (www.mla.org).

"Who's Where" Directory

The "Who's Where" directory will be posted in the information centers and members' lounges in the headquarters hotels and near the Job Information Center in the New York Marriott Marquis. The directory will include the names and convention addresses of persons who make hotel reservations through the housing bureau or send their local addresses to the MLA office before 10 December. Only hotel names or local addresses are listed. Members are advised to check their own "Who's Where" listings for accuracy and to make any necessary revisions. Most of the information used to compile the list comes from the housing service, not from the MLA.

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