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 Chicago (most foreign language and comparative literature sessions), the Hyatt Regency Chicago (most English sessions and exhibits), and the Fairmont Chicago (the Job Information Center and child care). Sessions begin at 3:00 p.m. on 27 December and continue until 3:00 p.m. on 30 December.

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.

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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 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 2007 *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.

Ad Hoc Committee on the Structure of the Annual Convention

The MLA Ad Hoc Committee on the Structure of the Annual Convention will hold an open hearing on 29 December at 10:15 a.m. in the Hyatt Regency (Columbus Hall G, Gold level, East Tower). Representatives of the committee will discuss how to make the convention more attractive, including adding new session types and creating opportunities for collaborative sessions.

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 2007 secretary of the appropriate division, since 2007 secretaries become chairs in 2008 (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 2007 secretary of the appropriate discussion group, since 2007 secretaries become chairs in 2008 (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 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

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are encouraged to attend the Program Committee's Open Hearing on 30 December (see Program Committee). 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 2008.

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 2008 convention should carefully read the guidelines, published in the September 2007 *PMLA* and available on the MLA Web site (www.mla.org), governing the organization of these meetings and should observe the deadlines for 2007–08 announced in the Winter *MLA Newsletter* and on the MLA Web 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 2007 *PMLA* and on the MLA Web site. Organizations that currently have such status and that plan to arrange meetings at the 2008 convention must indicate their intentions in writing to the MLA and submit complete final 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 the Sheraton Chicago (Sheraton V, Ballroom level 4). President Michael Holquist will present the Phyllis Franklin Award for Public Advocacy of the Humanities. First Vice President Gerald Graff will announce the newly elected honorary members and honorary fellows and present awards to the recipients of the William Riley Parker Prize, the James Russell Lowell Prize, the MLA Prize for a First Book, the Kenneth W. Mildenberger Prize, the Mina P. Shaughnessy Prize, the MLA Prize for Independent Scholars, the Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize, the Morton N. Cohen Award for a Distinguished Edition of Letters, the MLA Prize for a Distinguished Scholarly Edition, 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 Slavic Languages and Literatures, the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for a Translation of a Scholarly Study of Literature, the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Italian Studies, the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Publication Award for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Studies, the Lois Roth Award for a Translation of a Literary Work, the William Sanders Scarborough Prize, and the MLA Prize in United States Latina and Latino

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and Chicana and Chicano Literary and Cultural Studies. Executive Director Rosemary G. Feal will report on the association's 2007 activities, and Michael Holquist will deliver the Presidential Address. The meeting is open to the public.

The Presidential Forum

The Presidential Forum will take place at 7:00 p.m. on 27 December in the Sheraton Chicago (Sheraton V, Ballroom level 4).

Delegate Assembly

Established in 1971 as an elected body representing the membership at large, the Delegate Assembly, composed of over 270 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 the Hyatt Regency (Grand Ballroom E and F, Gold level, East Tower).

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 the Hyatt Regency (Columbus G, Gold level, East Tower). 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 the Hyatt Regency (Columbus G, Gold level, East Tower). 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. 2007 *PMLA*); copies of this section of the constitution will be available at the MLA information centers.

Program Committee

The MLA Program Committee will hold a session on 30 December at 10:15 a.m., in the Hyatt Regency (Columbian, Bronze level, West Tower). Members who wish to propose topics for forums, special sessions, or special events at the 2008 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 executive director or to any other member of the Program Committee (for names of committee members, see the Sept. 2007 *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 Hyatt Regency (Wrigley, Bronze level, West Tower). Appointments with Director of Foreign Language Programs Nelly Furman may be made through the MLA headquarters office in the Sheraton Chicago (Parlor A, Lobby level).

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. Only background taping is allowed, not the taping of an entire session. Requests to film the convention as part of a creative or documentary project must be submitted to the Executive Council no later than 15 October.

Badges

Plastic badge holders are available at the MLA registration and information centers in the Hyatt Regency and the Sheraton Chicago. Lost badges can be replaced for $5 at MLA registration centers.

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Business Centers

Hyatt Regency Business Center, Bronze level, East Tower (6:15 a.m.–7:00 p.m., Mon.–Fri.; 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Sat.; 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m., Sun.); Sheraton Chicago Business Center, lobby level (7:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m., Mon.–Fri.; 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Sat.; 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Sun.); Fairmont Business Center, B1 level (7:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m., Mon.–Fri.; 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Sat.; 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Sun.). Hours are subject to change.

Chicago Information

Pamphlets will be available at the MLA information center in the Hyatt Regency (Gold level, East Tower). To obtain information beforehand, there is a link on the MLA Web site (www.mla.org) to a Chicago information Web site.

Child Care

A daytime child care center will operate in the Fairmont (level 3) on Friday and Saturday, 28 and 29 December, from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., and on Sunday, 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 Wednesday, 5 December 2007, 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 onsite 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 1 December. Copies of the guide will be available free to persons who register at the convention.

Convention Registration and Housing

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 and was available at the MLA Web site on 4 September. Registrations may be accepted after 1 December, 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 in the Hyatt Regency (Gold level, East Tower), the Sheraton Chicago (Lobby level 3), and the Fairmont (International Ballroom Lobby, level 2). 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 1:00 p.m.

Hotel Reservations. Members are reminded that hotel rooms at the special MLA rates are available only to persons who are registered for the convention. Each convention registrant can reserve a maximum of one hotel room. 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 register and pay their registration fees for the convention.) Convention registrants who arrive in Chicago without hotel arrangements may go to the registration and information desk at the Hyatt Regency (Gold level, East Tower). A representative of the MLA housing service, CMR, will be there to help such attendees find housing and to assist attendees with any hotel issues they may have.

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Registration Fees. Registration fees until 1 December are as follows: regular members, $125; graduate student members, $40; emeritus members, $40; nonmembers, $170; graduate student nonmembers, $65; emeritus nonmembers, $65; non-tenure-track and unemployed members, $50. Registration fees after 1 December are as follows: regular members, $150; graduate student members, $40; emeritus members, $40; nonmembers, $190; graduate student nonmembers, $65; emeritus nonmembers, $65; non-tenure-track and unemployed members, $50.

Registration Refunds. Requests for refunds of registration fees must be made in writing, accompanied by unused convention badges, and postmarked no later than 26 December. A $10 service fee will be deducted from all refunds.

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

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 and the convention center are accessible by elevator, and the doors are wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs. There will be desks in the convention registration and information centers at the Hyatt Regency (Gold level, East Tower), the Sheraton Chicago (Lobby level 3), and the Fairmont (International Ballroom Lobby, level 2), staffed with personnel who can provide assistance to convention attendees with disabilities. There will also be satellite desks in the lobbies of the Hyatt Regency and the Fairmont. 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.

Shuttle Bus. A complimentary transportation service will be available throughout convention meeting hours to transport attendees with disabilities. Arrangements should be made at the desk for persons with disabilities in the Hyatt Regency (Gold level, East Tower), the Sheraton Chicago (Lobby level 3), and the Fairmont (International Ballroom Lobby, level 2) as well as the satellite desks located in the lobbies of the Hyatt Regency and the Fairmont. Further details and phone numbers will be posted at the headquarters hotels.

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 either of these services, write or call Karin Bagnall in the MLA convention office by 15 November.

Scooter Rentals. Scooters, for navigating the convention more easily, can be rented from Scootaround at 888 441-7575.

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 130 firms will display books and other materials of interest to teachers of language and literature in the Hyatt Regency (Riverside Center, Purple level, East Tower). 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. To view a list of the 2007 exhibitors, refer to page 1730. The editor of the *MLA International Bibliography* will be in the MLA exhibit booth on 28 and 29 December from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

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Friends of Bill W.

In the Hyatt Regency, Skyway Suite 279 (Blue level, East Tower) 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 2008 the convention will be held in San Francisco. The dates of the convention are 27–30 December.

Graduate Student Lounge

A lounge with comfortable chairs and tables where graduate students can meet for discussion or relaxation will be located in the Hyatt Regency (Skyway Suite 261, Blue level, East Tower).

Headquarters Offices

Headquarters offices will be located in the Hyatt Regency (Wrigley, Bronze level) and the Sheraton Chicago (Parlor A, Lobby level 3). 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.

Hyatt Regency. Dial 55 for security from any house phone and describe the situation.

Sheraton Chicago. Dial 80 and describe the situation.

Fairmont. Dial 0 from any house phone and describe the situation.

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 the Hyatt Regency (Gold level, East Tower), the Sheraton Chicago (Lobby level 3), and the Fairmont (International Ballroom Lobby, level 2). 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 at the Chicago Restaurant Reservations and Information Desk in the Hyatt Regency. 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 1:00 p.m.

Job Information Center

For Prearranged Interviews. Consult the interviewer's sign-in file in the Fairmont (International Ballroom, level 2) if you do not know whether your interview is scheduled for a hotel room or the interview area or if you need to find out the hotel room number for your interview. Allow yourself ample time to obtain this information. If your interview is scheduled for the *interview area,* proceed directly to the Fairmont (B2 level) 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 Hyatt Regency, the Sheraton Chicago, and the Fairmont. Once you know where the interviewer is staying, you can call the hotel information desk and be connected with the interviewer's hotel room. (For reasons of safety, hotel staff members 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

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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. 1756–73 of the November *PMLA*) to see whether 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 Fairmont (International Ballroom, level 2). 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 8:00 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.

Lost and Found

Members wishing to report personal items either lost or found should call extension 0 for security at the Hyatt Regency, extension 6918 at the Sheraton Chicago, and 0 at the Fairmont.

Lounges

Areas furnished with comfortable chairs and tables where members may congregate for discussion or relaxation will be provided in the Hyatt Regency (Columbus Hall A and B, Gold level, East Tower) and the Sheraton Chicago (Ballroom Promenade, Living Room Area, East End, level 4). A graduate student lounge will be located in the Hyatt Regency (Skyway Suite 261, Blue level, East Tower).

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 Fairmont (International Ballroom, level 2) 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 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 2008 dues, membership desks will be located in the registration centers. Although new memberships are for the 2008 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. It is available free at the MLA information centers. The 27 December issue will be available on the MLA Web site in mid-December.

Parking

Current rates at the downtown hotels vary from approximately $25 to $40 per day with in-and-out privileges. Parking in garages near the hotels ranges from approximately $15 to $20 per

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day. Parking at the Hyatt Regency is $17 from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and $42 for twenty-four hours. Parking at the Sheraton Chicago is $39 per night with in-and-out privileges. Parking at the Fairmont is $45 for twenty-four hours.

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. Please note that if you need a pass for an evening session you must obtain it before the information centers close.

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 accompanied by registrants may purchase a one-day pass to the exhibit hall for $10. These passes are available at the Exhibit Registration booth, Gold level, West Tower.

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.

Restaurant Reservations and Information

The Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau will provide a Restaurant Reservations and Information desk near the MLA Registration and Information center located in the Hyatt Regency (Gold level, East Tower). Staffed by knowledgeable personnel, the service offers information on restaurants, cuisine, nightlife, theater, sports, and attractions and can make complimentary dining reservations. The desk will be open on 27 December from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m., 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 12:00 noon.

Shuttle Bus Service

A free shuttle service will operate between the Hyatt Regency and Fairmont location and the Sheraton Chicago throughout convention hours.

Smoking

Chicago law allows smoking in restaurants and bars in a designated smoking area. No smoking is allowed in hotels except in designated smoking areas. Smoking is permitted in designated guest rooms. Smoking is not allowed in meeting rooms. The Sheraton Chicago is a nonsmoking facility, except in the 18th-floor guest rooms.

Social Science Research Council Workshop

Staff members from the Social Science Research Council (http://fellowships.ssrc.org) will discuss and provide information on how to apply for current fellowship programs open to scholars in the humanities on Saturday, 29 December, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Columbus Hall C and D, Hyatt Regency Chicago. The presentation will highlight the Dissertation Proposal Development program, which hosts an annual competition for faculty members to act as research directors and offers workshops and research funds to graduate students in the early stages of their training; the International Dissertation Research Fellowship, which supports empirical and site-specific dissertation research outside the United States; and the Eurasia program fellowships, which seek to promote collaborative research in the new states of Eurasia. A general question-and-answer period with the audience will follow.

Speaker Ready Rooms

Space in the Hyatt Regency (Grand Suite 1, Gold level, East Tower) and the Sheraton Chi-

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cago (Parlor B, Lobby level 3) has been reserved to allow speakers to run through their audiovisual presentations before their sessions. Those who have computer presentations should have completed a Presenter's Computer Information form to arrange for a pretest appointment. If you have not done so, please contact Karin Bagnall (kbagnall@mla.org).

Telephones

With the increased use of cell phones, there are a limited number of public phones available in the hotels and convention center. 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 to and in Chicago

MLA convention hotels are located in the North Michigan Avenue area.

By plane: Chicago is served by O'Hare International Airport and Midway Airport.

O'Hare: Cab fares from O'Hare to the various hotels range from $30 to $35. The Shared-Ride program allows visitors to be charged a flat rate of $19 per person. Chicago Transit Authority's (CTA) rapid transit train between O'Hare and downtown costs $2.00 (or $1.75 if you pay with the Chicago Card). For more information, visit www.transitchicago.com or call 888 968-7282. From 5:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m., trains run every five to ten minutes; from 1:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m., trains depart every thirty minutes. Continental Airport Express provides van service between O'Hare and all downtown hotels. Ticket counters are located across from the baggage claim areas. Vans depart approximately every fifteen minutes, and tickets cost $25 one-way or $46 round-trip. For more information and reservations, visit www.airportexpress.com or call 888 284-3826. Check with your hotel concierge for hotel departure times.

Midway: Taxi service from Midway Airport to downtown costs $25–$30. The Shared-Ride program allows visitors to be charged a flat rate of $14 per person. CTA's rapid transit train between the airport and downtown Chicago takes approximately thirty minutes and costs $2.00 (or $1.75 with the Chicago Card). Trains leave from a station connected to the east side of the airport. Continental Airport Express, located across from the Southwest Airlines ticket counter, offers van service to downtown hotels. Tickets cost $20 one-way or $36 round-trip, and vans depart every twenty minutes. For more information and reservations, visit www.airportexpress.com or call 888 284-3826.

By train: Chicago is served by Amtrak (800 USA-RAIL; www.amtrak.com). Over forty trains a day enter and leave Chicago's Union Station.

"Who's Where" Directory

The "Who's Where" directory will be posted in the members' lounges in the Hyatt Regency and the Sheraton Chicago and near the Job Information Center in the Fairmont. 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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