



August News at the MMLA

Dear MMLA Community,

We hope you've had a productive yet not-too-hectic summer!

This newsletter conveys several upcoming deadlines and announcements regarding this year's MMLA Convention, which is to be held at voco Chicago Downtown from November 12–14, and the *Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association* (JMMLA).

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Convention Announcements

Forthcoming Program Book

The new MMLA team at College of DuPage is hard at work putting the Convention and Undergraduate Research Symposium schedule and program book together, and we expect to release the official schedule for MMLA 2026 **by the end of August**.

We recognize that participants are anxious to learn the day and time of their scheduled session(s) so that they can make the proper travel, accommodation, and teaching arrangements. We greatly appreciate your continued patience and understanding.

Please be on the lookout for our next newsletter, which will contain the program schedule as well as an important "[Call for Panel Moderators](#)" for those Convention and Symposium sessions in need.

Annual Membership Dues

Membership dues entitle members to access online the current and archived issues of the *Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association*, to submit articles and book reviews for publication consideration, and to apply for [fellowships](#) and [awards](#) that are supported by the MMLA.

Important Notes:

- Membership in the MMLA follows the *fiscal year calender* (beginning **July 1st** and ending **June 30th** the following year). Persons who join or renew their membership are enrolled as members only for the fiscal year in which they join/renew.
- Payment of membership dues *does not constitute payment* of the Convention registration fee, which is a distinct item that must be purchased separately and after membership is secured.
- Membership fees are *non-refundable*.

[Click Here to Become a Member](#)

[Click Here to Renew Your Membership](#)

Early Bird Registration Pricing

The early bird registration deadline for the 2026 Convention is **Tuesday, September 15th**. Registration fees cover costs associated with running the event, such as A/V equipment and technicians for the Keynote Address (Friday, November 13), ongoing Wi-Fi, as well as food and beverage services.

Only current, active members of the MMLA may register for the Convention.

Regular Members include full-time faculty and staff, administrators, school teachers, and librarians.

- If *paid on or before September 15th*, registration for *regular members* is **\$130**. After September 15, the registration fee increases to \$185.

Special Members include graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, part-time faculty and staff, as well as independent, unemployed, or retired members.

- If *paid on or before September 15th*, registration for *special members* is **\$50**. After September 15, the registration fee increases to \$85.

[Regular Members, Click Here to Register for the Convention](#)

[Special Members, Click Here to Register for the Convention](#)

Graduate Student Paper Prize

The submission deadline for the 2026 Graduate Student Paper Prize is **Thursday, October 15th**. This \$100 prize is open to all graduate students who have been chosen to present a paper at the November Convention. The winning paper will be published in the Fall 2027 issue of the *Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association (JMMLA)*, and the author will receive a complimentary membership and registration to the next MMLA Convention.

Those who wish to be considered for the Graduate Student Paper Prize must submit the following materials to the MMLA at mmla@cod.edu:

- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- The Accepted Paper (3,000-word limit, excluding the Works Cited)

Submissions are reviewed by members of the MMLA's Program Committee, and the winning paper is announced prior to the Convention's Keynote Address on **Friday, November 13th**.

Member Discount at voco Chicago Downtown

The final day to reserve a hotel room at the 2026 MMLA-members-only rate is **Thursday, October 22nd**. Booking a room at voco Chicago Downtown (350 West Wolf Point Plaza, Chicago, IL) will be most convenient for Convention and Symposium participants, as it puts you steps from the meeting itself, eliminating any commute, parking hassle, or timing guesswork between sessions and your room.

What's more, these bookings help the MMLA meet its obligation to secure a minimum number of guests staying at the hotel and thus avoid a hefty fine.

The nightly rate for meeting participants is \$217 (plus taxes). Please Note: A credit card is required at the time of booking to confirm the room reservation, but a charge will not be made until you check in for your room.

For further information on sleeping accommodations as well as transportation to/from and in/around Chicago, please [visit our new member portal page](#)!

[Click Here to Book Your voco Hotel Room](#)

Roommate and Rideshare Finder

Interested in locating another attendee to share the cost of accommodations or gas with someone headed in the same direction? Consider joining the MMLA's Discord server to connect with potential roommates and rideshares for the November Convention.

Please Note: There is a separate, private server specifically for undergraduate students. Those participating in the Undergraduate Research Symposium must email the Coordinator, Krislyn Zhorne (kzhorne@luc.edu), to receive the undergraduates-only link.

Convention Policies and Restrictions

No-Show Policy

Every November, the MMLA compiles a list of no-shows from the Convention and Symposium, which is then sent to the Program Committee, who is charged with reviewing proposals for the following meeting. ***Unannounced no-shows will not be allowed to participate in the next two MMLA Conventions.***

Presenting in Absentia

Authors unable to attend the November Convention and Symposium in person ***are not allowed to have other individuals present or read aloud their papers*** at the meeting.

JMMLA Calls for Submissions

Call for Article Submissions

The *Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association* is currently looking for [submissions of scholarly articles](#) that are between 7,000 and 10,000 words (including notes) and follow MLA style guidelines.

Questions may be sent to the MMLA directly (mmla@cod.edu) or to the editor(s) of the given issue.

- **Fall 2026: "The Humanities is Where Hope Lives"**
 - Editor: Joe Keener (keenerj@iu.edu)
 - Submission Deadline: September 15th, 2026
- **Spring 2027: "Computation, Interdisciplinarity, and the Humanities"**
 - Guest Editor: Shu Wan (shuwan@buffalo.edu)
 - Submission Deadline: January 15th, 2027

[Click Here for Submission Eligibility and Guidelines](#)

Call for Guest Editor(s) of the Spring 2028 Issue

Each spring edition of the *JMMLA* has a guest editor, whose interest and expertise in a particular topic will provide the theme for that issue. For the Spring 2028 issue, we're looking for an editor or two co-editors who will foster discussion of the selected topic across the pages of the *Journal*, encouraging vital conversation among the MMLA's scholarly community.

To be considered, please submit the following to the MMLA at mmla@cod.edu **by October 1st**:

- Editor(s) Recent CV
- A Cover Letter (describing your expertise on the proposed topic)

- A Topic Description (i.e., the Call for Papers)

Call for Book Reviewers

Any scholar, especially an early career scholar, is encouraged to write a book review, which (if accepted) will be published in the *JMMLA*.

Eligibility

The *JMMLA* does not consider for publication book reviews that are submitted by undergraduates. Contributors to the *Journal* must be pursuing or hold a graduate degree and are required to hold an active MMLA membership at the time of publication (not of submission). Lastly, only one book review from a single scholar may be under consideration at a time. Scholars who have published a book review with the *JMMLA* previously are invited to submit another at a later date if they are interested in doing so.

General Requirements

Book reviews should distill a book's arguments, themes, potential audience, strengths, and weaknesses in under 1200 words. Reviewers can choose any appropriate scholarly book published in the last 18 months. Our website includes a list of optional titles that are eligible for review, but interested parties are not limited to this list.

To be considered, please submit the following to the MMLA at mmla@cod.edu:

- Current CV
- The Selected Book (including a link to it on the publisher's website)

[Click Here for Book Review Guidelines and Resources](#)

Sincerely,
The MMLA Team



Contact Us

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