



Association for  
the Study of  
**Literature &  
Environment**



# ASLE News

Summer 2013

A Quarterly Publication of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment

## In This Issue

ASLE Bookshelf  
ASLE PhD  
Member News  
Development Grant Awarded  
2013 Book & Paper Awards  
ASLE Has New Logo  
Diversity Caucus Report  
New Creative Caucus  
Coordinator Position Openings  
ALECC 2014 CFP  
Call to Writers from ISLE  
ASAIL-ASLE Affiliation  
SSAWW Panel Report  
ASLE News Notes

## Quick Links

[Calls for Papers](#)  
[Calls for Manuscripts](#)  
[About ASLE](#)  
[ISLE Journal](#)  
[Discussion Lists](#)  
[Diversity Blog](#)  
[Graduate Student Blog](#)  
[Affiliated Organizations](#)



## ASLE Awards First Development Campaign Grant

By Joni Adamson, Immediate Past President

In 2008-2009, past ASLE president John Tallmadge (1997), together with past presidents Rochelle Johnson (2008), Dan Phillippon (2009), and Annie Ingram (2010), conducted a development campaign for ASLE. The goal was to raise monies that would allow ASLE to facilitate stronger connections between faculty and students working in the environmental humanities. At the 2012 ASLE Leadership retreat, President Joni Adamson and the ASLE Executive Council sketched the outlines of three pilot projects that would begin building these connections by awarding grants between 2013 and 2015 that would be funded from the development campaign.

The first of these pilot project grants was awarded at the recent biennial conference to the Wetlands Preservations Organization (WPO) and Ecojustice coalition of Lawrence, Kansas. At a special session held on Saturday, Joni Adamson, representing ASLE's Executive Council, awarded the group a grant to support their efforts to preserve and protect the sacred Wakarusa Wetlands. Representing WPO was Haskell Indian Nations University Professor Dan Wildcat, along with Mike Caron, Kelly Kindscher, Jessica Lackey, and Ali Brox, who lead the WPO. Also in attendance was University of Kansas Professor Byron Caminero-Santangelo, 2013 ASLE conference site coordinator, and ASLE President Paul Outka, who helped coordinate the grant application.

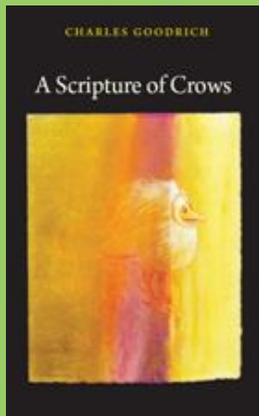


Presenters and key players gather after the "Saving the Wakarusa Wetlands" grant presentation at the 2013 ASLE Conference.

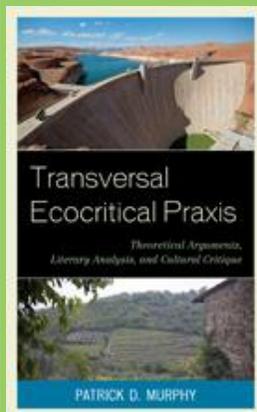
## ASLE Bookshelf

The following works were recently published by ASLE members. If we've missed your publication, please send bibliographic information to editor [Catherine Meeks](#).

**Goodrich, Charles. A** *Scripture of Crows* (Poems). Eugene (OR): Silverfish Review Press, 2013.



**Murphy, Patrick.** *Transversal Ecocritical Praxis*. Lexington: Rowman & Littlefield, June 2013.



**Ray, Sarah Jaquette.** *The Ecological Other: Environmental Exclusion in American Culture*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2013.

Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas, originated as part of the Indian boarding school system during the late 19th century. During the boarding-school era, the Wakarusa wetlands became a place where children could escape the school and its teachers. While visiting the wetlands, they could speak their native tongues and meet with members of tribes who were not allowed to visit the university campus. In addition to being a crucial refuge of rich biodiversity, this gives these wetlands an immense spiritual and historical significance for students and faculty today.

During the 1950s, Haskell University lost more than two thirds of its land base. Portions of the wetlands were acquired for educational and research purposes by the University of Kansas, Baker University, and the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism. Later, Baker University entered an agreement with the Kansas Department of Transportation that would allow a proposed multi-lane highway to be built through the wetlands. Members of the Haskell and Lawrence community have contested the construction of the highway for more than twenty years. For many members of the Haskell community and the broader population of Lawrence, the fight to save the wetlands is at once a fight to protect nonhuman species and the rich biodiversity of the place and to respect and honor the lives lost during the boarding school period. While many of the legal avenues for fighting the construction have been exhausted by Haskell and the Wetlands Preservation Organization, WPO continues to oppose construction through political and cultural appeals for public support.

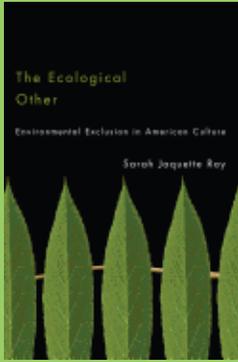
ASLE's grant will help this group raise awareness of the history and significance of the wetlands through artistic installations and the production of narratives inspired by native culture and its links with the rich local ecosystem. During a special session at the recent Kansas conference, and later, during a field trip to the Wetlands, ASLE members were able to hear from Dan Wildcat, Mike Caron, Kelly Kindscher, Jessica Lackey, and Ali Brox, leaders of WPO, and ask them questions. The group explained how they would use the grant to bring together the efforts of Haskell University and University of Kansas students, Lawrence community members and activists, and, potentially, the Lawrence Audubon Society. They will produce informational publications and construct an earth mound in the form of a plumed serpent, which will symbolize the merging of Environmental Science with traditional ecological knowledge and ethnobotany. The group will also restore and enhance the Haskell medicine wheel located in the wetlands. The medicine wheel marks the four cardinal directions with pieces of the original Haskell buildings and is a symbol of 500 years of Native American perseverance.

The ASLE Executive Council will announce guidelines for the next grant to be awarded to a local project in the Winter 2014 issue of *ASLE News*.

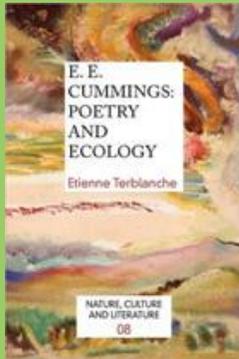
## 2013 Book and Paper Awards Presented

By Tom Lynch, Awards Coordinator

The fourth biennial ASLE book and graduate student paper awards were presented at a festive authors' reception during the 2013 ASLE Conference in Lawrence. Many thanks to the good folks at *Orion* and Milkweed Editions for hosting the reception. Congratulations to the winners:



**Terblanche, Etienne. *E.E. Cummings: Poetry and Ecology*.** Amsterdam and New York: Rodopi, 2013.



### ASLE Ph.D.

This May, **Margaret Konkol** defended her dissertation titled "Modernizing Nature: Modernist Poetry, Gender, and National Identity" and received her PhD from SUNY Buffalo. Her chair was Cristanne Miller, committee members were Stacy Hubbard and Randy Schiff, and reader was Myung Kim.

## Environmental Creative Writing Book Award

**David Gessner** (University of North Carolina, Wilmington), *The Tarball Chronicles: A Journey Beyond the Oiled Pelican and into the Heart of the Gulf Oil Spill*, Milkweed Press, 2011.

### HONORABLE MENTIONS

Lisa Knopp (University of Nebraska, Omaha) for *What the River Carries: Encounters with the Mississippi, Missouri, and Platte*, University of Missouri Press, 2012.

Amy Espeseth (University of Melbourne) for *Sufficient Grace*, Scribe, 2012.

Judges: Jeffrey Thomson (University of Maine, Farmington); Janine DeBaise (SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse); and Bernie Quetchenbach (Montana State University, Billings)

Judges' comments: "David Gessner's *The Tarball Chronicles* takes the lyrical tradition of nature writing, adds a bit of a badass persona reminiscent of Edward Abbey, and brings both into the blighted Gulf of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Along the way, Gessner cultivates relationships that allow people across cultural, geographic, and political gaps to recognize their common interest in saving what is left in the world. Gessner doesn't hide from the damage, even as he asserts that there is a profound beauty still in nature, and that, if the future may not offer much hope, there's still, as Thoreau might say, a world out there to be lived in. And good lives--both human and not--still being led. This book is edgy, dynamic, darkly humorous, and engaging, with lyrical fireworks, evocatively rendered landscapes, and unflinching but sensitive portrayals of people, places and the damage done, and Gessner's own distinctive and convincing voice rings out from the center of the action."



Mike Branch accepts the ASLE Book Award in Environmental Creative Writing on behalf of David Gessner at the Authors' Reception. Photo by Bill Stroup.

## Ecocriticism Book Award

**Rob Nixon** (University of Wisconsin, Madison), *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor*, Harvard University Press, 2011.

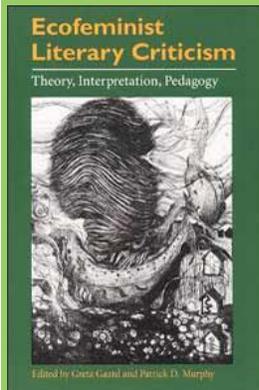
### HONORABLE MENTION

Karen Laura Thornber (Harvard University) for *Ecoambiguity: Environmental Crisis and East Asian Literatures*, University of Michigan Press, 2012.

Judges: Stacy Alaimo (University of Texas, Arlington); Mark Long (Keene State College, Keene, NH); H. Lewis Ulman (Ohio State University, Columbus)

## ASLE Member News

A Chinese translation of *Ecofeminist Literary Criticism*, originally published by the University of Illinois Press in 1998, and co-edited by ASLE Members **Patrick Murphy** and **Greta Gaard**, was published in July by the China Social Sciences Press.



Judges' comments: "The book's strength is its comparative theoretical framework resulting in an expansion of geographical and chronological scales elided by contemporary media and our own representational traditions. The eloquent framing of the project with Rachel Carson, Edward Said, and Ramanchandra Guha charts an important comparative method for further studies in transnational environmental justice movements. For example, in his discussing Rachel Carson and Wangari Maathai, the rise of environmentalism in the US and the Green Belt Movement, Nixon brings into conversation two traditions of social action and cultural work. More importantly, his analysis offers important insights into both the strengths and the limitations of critical categories such as environmentalism and postcolonialism."

### Environmental Creative Writing Graduate Student Paper Award

**Maya Laxmi Kapoor** (University of Arizona), "The Slowness of Our Eyes: A Creative Nonfiction Look at Life Through a Microscope"

Judges: Susan Hawthorne (James Cook University, Cairns); Brian Bartlett (St. Mary's University, Halifax); and John Ryan (Edith Cowan University, Perth)

Judges' comments: "a lively and thought-provoking piece that explores the unseen lives of marine invertebrates and offers fresh insights into the ethics of our relationships to them through the metaphor of the microscope."

### Ecocriticism Graduate Student Paper Award

William Lombardi (University of Nevada, Reno), "Unequal Burdens: An Outline for Postlocal Ecocriticism and Notes on the Location of Ecosocial Justice"

#### HONORABLE MENTION

Sarah Nolan (University of Nevada, Reno) for "Unnatural Poetics: Unlikely Environments in Contemporary American Poetry"

Judges: Serpil Opperman (Hacettepe University, Ankara); Jenny Kerber (University of Toronto); Dan Wylie (Rhodes University, Grahamstown)

Judges' comments: "Lombardi's argument on postlocal ecocriticism has the potential to advance the field in interesting ways because he convincingly argues that this term helps us re-think bioregionalism and place-studies, and also other terms, such as Heise's eco-cosmopolitanism, or glocalisms."

I would like to extend a hearty appreciation to all of the judges for their participation. They have a difficult task of reading a lot of material in a short span of time and judging between many varied and worthy books and papers. They make a valuable but rarely acknowledged contribution to the development of ecocriticism.

The next round of awards will be presented at the 2015 conference. This will be for books published during the years 2013 and 2014. The deadline for book submissions will likely be mid-January, 2015. As usual, submissions will be accepted from members of ASLE or any of the international affiliate organizations.

More details will be distributed to members and posted on the ASLE website as we get closer to the deadline. If you are a member who will be publishing a book during the next two years, please have your publisher submit three copies of your book for the award (we have found it is a good idea to confirm with them that they have done so).



*Byron Caminero-Santangelo, Rob Nixon and Jorge Marcone, members of the Natures of Empire roundtable at the 2013 ASLE Conference. Copyright KU Marketing Communications 2013.*

If you think these awards are a worthwhile endeavor, please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to the ASLE book and paper awards when you renew your membership or register for the next conference.

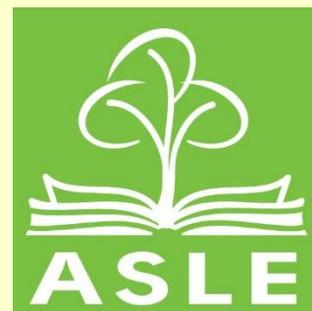
Finally, after coordinating the ASLE awards through four biennial cycles, totaling nearly ten years, I have decided to step down from my position as awards coordinator. ASLE will be recruiting a new coordinator during the next few months, if you are interested see the [call and job description](#) in this newsletter.

---

## **ASLE Unveils New Logo**

By Joni Adamson, Immediate Past President

The February 2012 officer retreat marked ASLE's twentieth year as an organization. Because of this milestone, ASLE's officers decided it was time to update the website. Since website design involves long term planning and technical expertise, it was agreed to kick off this larger project with the creation of a new logo. A call for designs was posted in the Summer 2012 *ASLE News*. Shaped by officer discussion at the retreat, the call asked for the submission of designs that honored ASLE's origins, but suggested ASLE's growing interests in literatures from diverse cultures, genres, media, and historic periods.



After the September 2012 deadline, design submissions were posted on the ASLE website for member comment. Members took the process very seriously and submitted extensive, thoughtful comments that were carefully weighed by ASLE's Officers, Executive Council and Coordinators. Members were split between keeping the original logo which represented what some saw as twenty years of "intelligent

engagement" with the topics and issues ASLE valued and moving towards a new design that tapped into the ideological resonance of a global image that included birds changing into books. Some members asked if we could combine the best elements of all the designs? Tree, animal, human, birds to book, globe?

In early 2013, newly elected members of the EC who knew quite a bit about graphic design pointed out that in calling for a design that would "do everything," ASLE officers and members were asking designers to create overly complex, busy images, instead of a good logo, which should have economy of line and visual impact. Good logos are not supposed to be allegories. As one EC member put it, they are not meant to be a "coat of arms."

With this in mind, the EC decided to follow the advice given in a comment posted by a member suggesting that a professional graphic designer be hired, then an "expert team of scholars" approve the final design. Realizing that complete consensus among the membership on any one design would be impossible, the EC hired a graphic designer, then acted as the "expert team of scholars" that vetted three versions of a new design.

After many long discussions about what they had learned about ASLE values AND about graphic design, the EC approved a design with ties to the iconic tree image of ASLE's first logo, but which is more streamlined and abstract. The simple lines of the tree are rooted in a "graphic" book, suggesting not only the printed texts we study but the diverse genres and forms of media towards which we are moving. The blocked letters of ASLE allude to the nearly 1500 members who are the foundation of our growing organization. The economy of line allows the new logo to easily scale for future website formats, stationary, and conference programs, and be reproduced in different colors. While no design can have universal appeal, the EC sees the new logo as the outcome of many hours of thoughtful member/officer dialogue.

---

## **Diversity Caucus Meeting at ASLE 2013: Rich Discussion, Suggested Action Items**

By Salma Monani, Diversity Caucus Coordinator

*The following article was posted on the ASLE Diversity Blog on July 1, 2013. Visit <http://www.aslediversity.org/> for more news from the Diversity Caucus!*

It's been about a month since the ASLE 2013 conference, and though I have been away and traveling over the last month, the Diversity Caucus meeting, held in Kansas University's Smith 100, a wonderful amphitheater-like room, has retained its strong presence in my thoughts. This was an invigorating meeting, with attendance exceeding fifty people (our largest meeting yet). We had present stalwarts who helped form the Caucus in 1999, a number of returning members from the 2011 meeting, and also many new faces. Below, I summarize some of themes of the discussion that ensued, and am grateful to ASLE's Vice President, Mark Long, for graciously accepting my on-the-spot request to take notes for us.

I began the meeting by situating us all within the context of ASLE's Strategic Plan's Goal 2, which tasks the organization with a range of diversity issues such as increased professional affiliation with diverse organizations, diversity recognition in conference and symposia planning, financial support for traditionally underserved demographics, and undergraduate representation. I then opened the floor to the Caucus. From this open forum many themes and concerns resonated.

Specifically, as many of the stalwarts mentioned, ASLE has made many strides in its diversity initiatives. For example, recent conferences and symposia show clearly the growing presence of panel topics that engage diversity issues such as environmental justice, gender, race, and ethnicity. In addition, there have been recent exciting endeavors such as the 2013 Public Humanities pilot project, spearheaded by Immediate Past President Joni Adamson, described in the [opening story above](#), and similar grants will be forthcoming. However, there is always more to be done and as participants spoke, we might characterize their thoughts as a series of potential action items for ASLE to engage with as we move forward.



*View from the Medicine Wheel at Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence, KS. Photo by Byron Caminero-Santangelo.*

### **Technology as Outreach:**

Many participants commented on the possible role that technology can play in enhancing the presence of underrepresented demographics at ASLE. From indicating how the website appears somewhat outdated (for example, in its logo representation of the "man" reading under a tree), to arguing for conference plenary on-line streaming to reach audiences who are unable to attend in person, and to considering the potential of webinars as an additional platform to engage diversity concerns when the conference is not in session, a number of thoughtful and creative suggestions were voiced.

Executive Council (EC) member, Allison Carruth, who was in attendance indicated that the EC is already moving on re-vamping the website platform, and Immediate Past President Joni Adamson revealed that a new logo was being unveiled at the conference.

While these initiatives are wonderful, there is much to be said about thinking critically and carefully about harnessing digital technology, especially the possibilities of on-line conference streaming and webinars. Immediately following the ASLE conference, I attended the International Environmental Communication Association (IECA) conference, which was held for the first time in a country other than the U.S. Because Sweden is an expensive destination for many, the conference enabled online streaming free to all members through their website. I will be happy to pursue the details of these possibilities with the EC. If there are others with similar experiences, I am keen to hear from them too.

### **Institutional Diversity:**

Once again, as in past years, Caucus members voiced their concern about ASLE's attention to institutional diversity.

Many inquired about undergraduate representation. Jody Cohen and Anne Dalke from Bryn Mawr College were present with their undergraduates and stated that their panel had been well attended with stimulating discussion. They were surprised that there were not more undergraduates present. After the meeting, undergraduate Mellon scholars from Drew College, Christina Ocampo and Evelyn Meisenbacher, who also attended with their advisor, Sarah Wald, offered to assist with a task force that might work to attract such Mellon undergraduate scholars to ASLE. Susan Brill de Ramirez also offered to assist as she works with the Council of Undergraduate Research.

Deborah Adelman reminded the Caucus for the need to be more inclusive of two-year college institutions. Her sentiments were echoed by others. She has offered to assist with any initiatives that can further this objective. In addition, Executive Council member, Anthony Lioi, in post-meeting conversation, reminded me that other institutions, such as technical colleges, should not be neglected.

There was also Caucus discussion that considered reaching out to institutions that serve traditionally underrepresented populations in the U.S. While no volunteers necessarily stepped forward to help forward this initiative, I encourage members to contact me if they have additional ideas or insight.

### **Gender Considerations:**

Participants, such as Elizabeth Ammons, inquired whether ASLE could not do a better job balancing the gender equity of its conference plenary speakers. There was a call for working to represent a 50/50 balance in gender equity for plenary speakers.

Interestingly too, subsequent discussion outside of the meeting suggested that gender issues were not strongly voiced at the meeting. Considering that the Diversity Caucus is strongly rooted in gender equity issues, and that such issues continue to frame many of our current environmental debates, such concerns remain paramount to the Caucus, and while these might not have been the most voiced issues at the meeting, the Caucus is very much interested in working to ensure gender is not overlooked in ASLE's functionings.

### **Disability Recognition:**

Participants, such as Jennifer Sibara, commented on being surprised at the lack of support for Disability needs at ASLE's conference. Other conferences (e.g., MLA and ASA) have begun to include Disability parking, ramps, and other simple logistic amenities in their programming and planning. This, along with possibilities for translation (via sign-language or otherwise) seems like a no-brainer for an organization such as ASLE.

Jennifer has offered to liaison with organizations, such as Disability Studies, that can help ASLE make a smooth transition to being more cognizant of these needs.



*ASLE members under the big sky of the Konza Prairie on their conference field trip in Manhattan, KS. Photo by Bill Stroup.*

### **Where Next?**

As soon-to-be-outgoing Diversity Coordinator, I cannot reiterate how valuable this meeting has been in both affirming how far ASLE diversity presence has come from its initial formalization of the Diversity Caucus in 1999, and in reaffirming how the work is never done. The discussion and subsequent correspondence with individual members post-meeting indicate one important fact: diversity at ASLE is a collective effort, and the collective, one might say, has not only grown in the last few years, but it has also very actively stepped forward to assist ASLE strive for inclusivity. While many of us are aware that ASLE, as a small non-profit, is not monetarily rich, what we can value is the abundance of creative thinking that bolsters our efforts. The Caucus meeting demonstrated the creative spark that can carry us forward. In the ensuing year, as I transition out of my position and hand the reins over to another, I am keen to consider how the Caucus might establish Working Groups for some of its concerns. In consultation with the Executive Council and members who have offered to volunteer, I hope we can move forward on making concrete some of the ideas presented here. I look forward to your continued support and engagement as I do so. Stay tuned, via the blog (<http://www.aslediversity.org/>), and on all ASLE's other media platforms.

---

### **Newly Formed ASLE Creative Caucus**

The ASLE Creative Caucus is for writers--and also artists, musicians, readers, and any ASLE member who values the creative energy that's long been at the core of every ASLE conference.

In March of 2013, a group ASLE writers met for lunch during the AWP conference to talk about ways to help ensure that we continue to make space within ASLE for creative work. The result was the formation of the ASLE Creative Caucus.

By the time the ASLE conference in Kansas took place, the [ASLE Creative Caucus Facebook page](#) had 94 members. We held a lively meeting in Lawrence, with 46

ASLE members in attendance. We began brainstorming goals and a mission statement, which were then edited collaboratively over the internet during the weeks following the conference.

### **Mission Statement:**

The ASLE Creative Caucus will work to ensure that we continue to create space for creative work within ASLE, on our campuses, within higher education, and within our communities. Our creative responses to the natural world include (but are not limited to) poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, film, performance, visual art, and music.

We value the role of the creative arts in celebrating the natural world, raising awareness about environmental issues, allowing the expression of ideas and emotions, stimulating new ways of thinking through imaginative wordplay, exploring our relationship to place, helping us to connect to the energy of the natural world, communicating across different cultures, and bringing the activist message to a general audience.



*Wildflower in bloom on the Konza Prairie.  
Photo by Bill Stroup.*

### **Current List of Goals:**

- Request that an ASLE member whose primary habit of mind is the creative arts be a liaison or permanent member to the ASLE Executive Council.
- Propose plenary speakers, especially regional writers and artists, and take responsibility for making arrangements for those speakers.
- Propose panels that include original readings of one genre or mixed genres. Take on the responsibility of vetting and organizing creative writing proposals as a way to reduce the workload for ASLE conference organizers, or work with conference organizers on creative writing proposals to help reduce the workload. Propose panels that mix creative writing with critical scholarship or theory. Be imaginative in the panels we propose. Perhaps include critics or respondents to creative sessions.
- Plan conference events such as readings of original works by ASLE writers, performances, an open mic event, prearranged two-minute quick reads, a flash fiction contest, or prearranged Page Meets Stage types of events.
- Continue to have creative workshops at ASLE conferences and, in particular, reach out to regional writers and other creative artists to be workshop leaders.
- Create an off-year ASLE Creative Writing/Creative Arts Symposium or Workshop.
- Build the ASLE community of writers/creative artists so that we can support each other and stay connected through an e-mail list-serv, a web page for the caucus, or a blog for the caucus.
- Reach out to new creative artist members of ASLE, such as by organizing a room board for writers or an ASLE Creative Caucus party event with food, beer, wine, and music.

- Work towards ensuring that creative writers and artists talk to faculty across campuses for mutually productive exchanges for ourselves, our students, and our advisees.
- Work to support creative work, not just within ASLE but elsewhere as well, to make sure that creativity is valued on our own campuses, in higher education, and in our communities.

### **How to Subscribe to the ASLE-Creative List-serv**

If Jo Writer wants to subscribe to the list, all she has to do is send an email from her own email address to: [listserv@listserv.syr.edu](mailto:listserv@listserv.syr.edu). In the body of the email, she needs simply to write: SUBSCRIBE ASLE-CREATIVE Jo Writer

Alternatively, send an email to Janine DeBaise, [jdebaise@gmail.com](mailto:jdebaise@gmail.com) and she will add you.

---

### **ASLE Coordinator Positions Open**

If you would like to become more involved in ASLE, and have a direct impact on our future programs and direction, please consider applying for one of the following appointed posts in the organization.

### **Graduate Mentoring Coordinator Applications Due August 31**

As posted in the [Spring issue of ASLE News](#), ASLE is seeking a new coordinator for the Mentoring Program, and applications are due August 31. The mission of the Program is to connect graduate students with experienced faculty mentors beyond their home institutions and to cultivate intellectual exchange and community among scholars at all stages of their academic careers

The Mentoring Program Coordinator (MPC) is an appointed position. While there is no set term, we request that the coordinator make a commitment of at least three years. The person in this position serves an important public relations role for ASLE by cultivating relationships and community. The position involves working with the ASLE Executive Council and Officers and attending, when possible, the meetings of the Executive Council. Although not a voting member, the MPC is active in helping to carry out the mission and strategic goals of ASLE.

If you would be interested in serving ASLE in this role, and have questions about the MPC position, please contact the current coordinator of the Mentoring Program, and vice president of ASLE, Mark C. Long at [mlong@keene.edu](mailto:mlong@keene.edu). To formally apply for the position, please send a letter of interest, including the length and nature of your involvement in our organization, a description of your professional interests, and a CV or resume to current president Paul Outka, [paul.outka@ku.edu](mailto:paul.outka@ku.edu) by August 31, 2013.

## Book and Paper Awards Coordinator

ASLE is seeking a member to serve as the new Awards Coordinator for the biennial ASLE Awards. The awards are given in conference years, so there will be plenty of time for someone to learn the ropes before the next conference in 2015. The principal duties of the coordinator are to:

- Publicize the awards ahead of time to ASLE membership and to relevant publishers;
- Recruit a group of 12 judges (three for each of the four awards);
- Organize and ship books to respective judges;
- Organize and email graduate student papers to respective judges;
- Notify winners and hand out awards at the conference.

The awards coordinator is a non-voting member of the ASLE Executive Council and is expected to attend the annual EC meeting and participate in email conversations regarding other ASLE matters.

If you would like to be considered for this position, send an email to that effect along with a short statement of why you would like to be considered to Tom Lynch, current Awards Coordinator, at [tplynch2@gmail.com](mailto:tplynch2@gmail.com). The ASLE Executive Committee will make the selection at the spring 2014 meeting, so please submit applications by December 31, 2013.



*View of the University of Kansas, Lawrence Campus on the first day of the conference. Photo by Tom Lynch.*

## NEMLA Liaison

ASLE is seeking a member to serve as its liaison to the New England Modern Language Association (NEMLA) convention held each spring (the 2014 convention will be held April 3-6 in Harrisburg, PA). We thank Mark Long, the outgoing NEMLA liaison, for his service to ASLE in this key position for the past several years!

This is an ongoing position beginning immediately upon appointment, with no defined term, though we do prefer a minimum three year commitment. A liaison between ASLE and another professional organization affiliated with us has the responsibility to maintain open lines of communication between the two

organizations, and make sure that the guidelines for the affiliation are being met. These include the following:

- Keeping ASLE's Professional Liaison Coordinator (PLC) updated on all activities related to the affiliation and discussing new ideas for projects, programs or conferences with the PLC.
- Affiliates are guaranteed one panel on the program of the biennial ASLE conference. (Additional panels will be considered but are not guaranteed.) The liaison is responsible for choosing a relevant topic, preparing a CFP, collecting submissions, choosing the papers and submitting the panel proposal by the general deadline. At the conference itself, the liaison needs to ensure that the panel chair runs the panel in a professional manner.
- ASLE receives one guaranteed panel on the program of the affiliated organization's regularly scheduled meeting, if they conduct one. The liaison is once again responsible for the panel in all the ways listed above.
- Providing summaries of their activities (such as the ASLE-sponsored conference panels) for *ASLE News*. The liaison should plan to write--or assign someone from the panel to write--a short summary after the conference has concluded and submit to the *ASLE News* Editor for the next edition.

If you would like to be considered for this position, send an email with a short statement of interest and relevant conference coordinating experiences, along with your CV, to ASLE President Paul Outka, [paul.outka@ku.edu](mailto:paul.outka@ku.edu). Please submit your application by October 31, 2013 for full consideration.

---

## CFP for ALECC 2014 Biennial Conference Released

The Association for Literature, Environment, and Culture in Canada (ALECC) Biennial Conference, "Culture, Justice, and Environment," will take place August 7 - 10, 2014, at Lakehead University, Thunder Bay campus, Thunder Bay, Ontario. Robert Boschman, ALECC President, and local hosts Douglas Ivison and Cheryl Lousley form the conference planning committee. Proposals from all ALECC members and other interested academics and cultural workers are invited, and organizers encourage participants to focus especially on questions about justice, culture and environment

The conference will include keynote and panel sessions, readings and performances, workshops, field trips, hands-on activities, and participation in community-led environmental activities. Proposals must be submitted by October 1, 2013 to [alecc2014@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:alecc2014@lakeheadu.ca). The full CFP is posted to the [ALECC Website](#). For more information, please contact:|

Robert Boschman  
ALECC President  
[RBoschman@mtroyal.ca](mailto:RBoschman@mtroyal.ca)

Dr. Douglas Ivison  
Local coordinator, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay campus  
[divison@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:divison@lakeheadu.ca)

Dr. Cheryl Lousley  
Local coordinator, Lakehead University, Orillia campus  
[clousley@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:clousley@lakeheadu.ca)

## A Call to Writers: Climate Change Cluster for ISLE

By Kathleen Dean Moore, Oregon State University, and Scott Slovic, University of Idaho

As the true fury of global warming begins to kick in—forests flash to ashes, storms tear away coastal villages, cities swelter in record-breaking heat, drought singes the Southwest, the Arctic melts—we come face to face with the full meaning of the environmental emergency: If climate change continues unchecked, scientists tell us, the world's life-support systems will be irretrievably damaged by the time our children reach middle-age. The need for action is urgent and unprecedented.

We here issue a call to writers, who have been given the gift of powerful voices that can change the world. For the sake of all the plants and animals on the planet, for the sake of intergenerational justice, for the sake of the children, we call on writers to set aside their ordinary work and step up to do the work of the moment, which is to stop the reckless and profligate fossil fuel economy that is causing climate chaos.

That work may be outside the academy, in the streets, in the halls of politics and power, in the new street theaters of creative disruption, all aimed at stopping industry from continuing to make huge profits by bringing down the systems that sustain life on Earth. These activist efforts need the voices of writers, the genius of thought-leaders, the energy of words.

But there is essential work to be done also in our roles as academics and writers, empowered by creative imagination, moral clarity, and the strength of true witness. Write as if your reader were dying, Annie Dillard advised. "What would you say to a dying person that would not enrage by its triviality?" Now we must write as if the planet were dying. What would you say to a planet in a spasm of extinction? What would you say to those who are paying the costs of climate change in the currency of death? Surely in a world dangerously slipping away, we need courageously and honestly to ask again the questions every author asks, Who is my audience—now, today, in this world? What is my purpose?

Some kinds of writing are morally impossible in a state of emergency: Anything written solely for tenure. Anything written solely for promotion. Any shamelessly solipsistic project. Anything, in short, that isn't the most significant use of a writer's life and talents. Otherwise, how could it ever be forgiven by the ones who follow us, who will expect us finally to have escaped the narrow self-interest of our economy and our age?

Some kinds of writing will be essential. We here invite creative thought about new or renewed forms our writing can take. Perhaps some of these:

The drum-head pamphlet. Like Thomas Paine, writing on the head of a Revolutionary War drum, lay it out. Lay out the reasons why extractive cultures must change their ways. Lay out the reasons that inspire the activists. Lay out the reasons that shame the politicians. Lay out the reasons that are a template for decision-makers.

The "broken-hearted hallelujah." Like Leonard Cohen, singing of loss and love, make clear the beauty of what we stand to lose or what we have already destroyed. Celebrate the microscopic sea-angels. Celebrate the children who live in the cold doorways and shanty camps. Celebrate the swamp at the end of the road. Leave no doubt of the magnitude of their value and the enormity of the crime, to let them pass away unnoticed. These are elegies, these are praise songs, these are love stories.

The witness. Like Cassandra howling at the gates of Troy, bear witness to what you know to be true. Tell the truths that have been bent by skilled advertising. Tell the truths that have been concealed by adroit regulations. Tell the truths that have been denied by fear or complacency. Go to the tarfields, go to the broken pipelines. Tell that story. Be the noisy gong and clanging cymbals, and be the love.

The narrative of the moral imagination. With stories and novels and poems, take the reader inside the minds and hearts of those who live the consequences of global warming. Who are they? How do they live? What consoles them? Powerful stories teach empathy, build the power to imagine oneself into another's place, to feel others' sorrow, and so take readers outside the self-absorption that allows the destruction to continue.

The radical imaginary. Re-imagine the world. Push out the boundaries of the human imagination, too long hog-tied by mass media, to create the open space where new ideas can flourish. Maybe it is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism or fossil fuels or terminal selfishness. But this is the work that calls us to imagine new life-ways into existence. Writers may not be able to save the old world, but they can help create the new one.



*Hikers on the Konza Prairie field trip at the conference, Manhattan, KS. Photo by Bill Stroup.*

The indictment. Like Jefferson listing the repeated injuries and usurpations, let facts be submitted to a candid world. This is the literature of outrage. How did we come to embrace an economic system that would wreck the world? What iniquity allows it to continue?

The apologia. Finally this: Write to the future. Try to explain how we could allow the devastation of the world, how we could leave those who follow us only an impoverished, stripped, and dangerously unstable time. Ask their forgiveness. This is the literature of prayer. Is it possible to write on your knees, weeping?

### **And a Specific Invitation**

In the case of global climate change--or, to put it directly, global warming--the importance of this call to the world's most eloquent voices and most powerful imaginations cannot be overstated. The virtue of applying literary--and more broadly humanistic--voices to this issue is, in part, the fundamental pluralism of such voices. Our goal is not to ask for a single, unified perspective, but to draw forth a chorus of diverse responses to global warming. At this time, we urge our colleagues to apply their talents and their wisdom to the phenomenon that is altering the inhabitability of this planet more profoundly than any other anthropogenic impact. What do you have to say on the subject of global warming? How might your poetic, narrative, philosophical, teacherly, or scholarly voice make a difference?

Are you a poet or a storyteller? A philosopher or an ecocritic? A journalist or a script writer for film? Perhaps a literary essayist who weaves together many different modes of expression? Or is your medium the letter to the editor or the

course syllabus? Recognizing the diverse forms of writing employed by writers throughout the world-and perhaps the need to invent or reinvent forms of writing equal to the emergency of global warming-we call upon you not only to feel the heat we all feel in this warming world, but to think about the heat and to find find le mot juste to match this unparalleled environmental and social challenge.

We have previously published climate-related articles and literary work in the pages of *ISLE*, but there has never been a focused cluster devoted to this essential topic. Now, with a short turn-round time that reflects the unprecedented urgency of this challenge, we invite readers of *ISLE* to send us scholarly and creative work for a global-warming cluster that will appear in the Winter 2014 issue of the journal. We can consider work received by September 30, 2013. Please contact us if you have any questions ([kmoore@oregonstate.edu](mailto:kmoore@oregonstate.edu) and [slovic@uidaho.edu](mailto:slovic@uidaho.edu)).

We also wish to encourage our students and colleagues throughout the world to devote their efforts to this pressing issue with an eye toward publishing in future issues of *ISLE*; in other scholarly, creative, or popular forums; and through nontraditional and even non-public media, such as behind-the-scenes letters to elected officials or corporate leaders.

Your voice is needed. We call upon you to put your mind to the meaning of climate change. Do you have something better to do?

---

## Introducing ASLE's Newest Professional Affiliate Organization: ASAIL

By Jan Johnson, ASAIL Liasion

In late 2011, members of ASLE and the Association for the Study of American Indian Literature (ASAIL) began working to create a professional alliance. In 2012 both groups approved the alliance, and the first affiliated panel (a resounding success!) was held at MLA 2013, as reported by Janet Fiskio and Joni Adamson in the [Spring 2013 issue of ASLE News](#). ASAIL/ASLE plans biennial panels for MLA, with MLA 2015 our next opportunity.

As liaison between ASAIL and ASLE, Jan Johnson ([janjohn@uidaho.edu](mailto:janjohn@uidaho.edu)), will help facilitate panels for ASLE at the annual meetings of the two organizations with which ASAIL is affiliated, the Native American Literature Symposium (NALS), whose annual meeting is in March, and the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA), which meets in June; assist ASAIL members in presenting at ASLE's biennial conference in May/June; and facilitate the biennial ASAIL/ASLE panel at MLA.

---

## Report on ASLE-Sponsored Panel at SSAWW 2012

by Rochelle Johnson, SSAWW Liaison

ASLE once again sponsored a panel at the triennial meeting of SSAWW (Society for the Study of American Women Writers), an affiliate organization. The conference, called "Citizenship and Belonging," was held at the Downtown Denver Westin Hotel in Colorado from October 10-13, 2012. The ASLE-sponsored panel, "Collecting Women: Writing the Thing Itself," featured papers examining how "collecting" has informed the work of several women writers. The panel welcomed the following scholars:

**Rochelle Johnson**, chair (The College of Idaho)

**Karen Kilcup**, respondent (University of North Carolina at Greensboro)

**Tina Gianquitto** (Colorado School of Mines): "'My Dear Dr.': Amateur Women Plant Collectors and the Harvard Botanists, 1860 - 1900"

**Lauren LaFauci** (Simpson College): "Material Environmentalisms: Collecting Celia Thaxter's Island Garden"

**Susan Schaper** (The College of Idaho): "Collecting to Preserve in Gene Stratton-Porter's *Limberlost*"

---

## ASLE News Notes

### Member News

Whether you got a new job, won an award, or did something interesting, enlightening, or exciting, we want to know what you're up to! If you have some news to share with other ASLE members, and it doesn't "fit" into the Bookshelf, PhD, or Emeritus categories, please contact Catherine Meeks ([catherine.meeks@gmail.com](mailto:catherine.meeks@gmail.com)) with the Subject heading "Member News."

### ASLE Emeritus

ASLE News honors those ASLE members retired or retiring from teaching. If you would like to acknowledge someone in this new feature--or if you yourself will be retiring during the coming academic year--please contact Catherine Meeks ([catherine.meeks@gmail.com](mailto:catherine.meeks@gmail.com)). We will include a brief account of scholarly interests, the institutions of employment and years taught in the next newsletter.

### ASLE PhDs

Have you or one of your students recently defended a dissertation? If so, ASLE News wants to know. Each issue, we include announcements commemorating those members who have recently completed their doctoral work. If you would like to be included in this feature, please contact Catherine Meeks ([catherine.meeks@gmail.com](mailto:catherine.meeks@gmail.com)) with the dissertation title, degree-granting institution, and committee members.