

2014 Professional Development Grant Report

South Central Modern Language Association

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B. Restatement of Creative Work / Professional Enhancement Activity

In October 2014, I attended the South Central Modern Language Association (SCMLA) Conference in Austin, Texas. The Association's website is as follows:

<http://www.southcentralmla.org/>

C. Brief Review of Creative Work / Professional Enhancement Activity

I presented on the Modern Drama panel. My paper was entitled, "Internet Plays: Grass-Roots Script Publication on the Internet." I explored new media as a way by which to disseminate original dramas. While there is little script publication on the internet, I explored one group, the Neo-Futurists of New York, who are doing intriguing work. Of special interest are what they call "Twitter plays," extremely brief audience-written plays that appear on Twitter. I also talked about my own experience as an internet playwright and talked about the ways in which the internet is being used, the types of work available, and suggest possible future uses of the net as a tool for dramatic authors.

I also organized two panels on Gay and Lesbian Studies in Language and Literature, where I served as chair and moderator. I attended several useful panels, including the Creative Non-Fiction panel, for which I will serve as next year's secretary.

D. Summary of Outcomes / Experiences

There is not enough work being done on script publication on the internet. My paper served as a means for those present to think and talk about ways in which internet technologies will affect the future of dramatic writing. For example, I learned from some respondents that a theatre in Austin sent out a play over text: over the course of several months, audience members received texts from characters and watched a drama unfold in that way. In the future, I expect to see more and more innovative uses of technology in play presentation.

By staying on top of technological changes in the discipline of theatre, I will better understand what theatre's future will look like and how students can be prepared for it.

E. Conclusions and Recommendations

My findings will influence my teaching and the student-devised productions that I will direct. Also, I am currently using insights from my conference experience to help me compose a paper for *Liminalities*, an online journal of the National Communication Association. Also, I am a regular blogger for Bedford-St. Martin's *LitBits* blog; that forum will be interested in the pedagogical insight that I have gained.

I am extremely grateful for the Professional Development Grant.

Copies to: Prof. Anthony Caton, Department Head, Communication & Journalism

Dr. Jeffrey Woods, Dean, Arts and Humanities

Dr. A. J. Anglin, Vice President, Academic Affairs

F. Appendix

Copies of my paper are available upon request.