

The



Newsletter

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March
2021

Welcome to our newly created and multi-purposed publication: The Association for the Study of American Indian Literatures Newsletter & *The SAIL Review*. The inaugural issue of the Review will launch in April 2021! This electronic space will include a variety of ways for both ASAIL and SAIL board members to communicate with the association's members on a variety of matters, including elections, Native American Literature Symposium updates, Modern Language Association CFP's, Indigenous Literary Studies Association collaboration, jobs and faculty positions, and of course, to publish quarterly issues of *The SAIL Review*!

We acknowledge the long history and ongoing work of ASAIL members—around tables at NALS, between ASAIL and *SAIL* board meetings, among NALS Clan Mothers, graduate students and faculty, community members, scholars, and creative writers alike—to have initiated the meaningful conversations that have led to building this shared space.

This past year has been exceptionally difficult for so many reasons, and particularly for communities to which many members of ASAIL belong. It has also been a year that has illuminated the need and growing dependence upon virtual meeting spaces and knowledge sharing. To that end, we hope this publication addresses some of the needs for ASAIL members to connect, share information and resources, and to read reviews of scholarship and creative works in our field!

SAIL Reviews Editor Jeremy Carnes, in partnership with Editorial Assistant Sass Denny, proposed the idea of creating an electronic publication for ASAIL membership, ultimately helping *SAIL*

publish its reviews more quickly, and thus be a more timely and accessible resource; the University of Nebraska Press enthusiastically encouraged this transition. Additionally, Jeremy has agreed to help design and maintain the publication as Website Editor for now, but this will need to be made its own position in the future.

For more information on *The SAIL Review*, visit [the Review's page](#) on the ASAIL website.

Enjoy the rest of the newsletter!

Molly McGlennen

ASAIL President

VOTING

An update on ASAIL officers and SAIL board members and elections:

ASAIL

I want to publicly thank Becca Gercken for serving as President of ASAIL for the past four years. The passing of our beloved colleague and board member Carol Edelman Warrior and a yearlong global pandemic put elections for new ASAIL leadership on hold. Becca graciously continued to stay on and serve an extra two years so that I could learn the ropes and step into the role of President after serving as Vice President since 2017.

At our last board meeting in early 2021, Steve Sexton and Jeff Berglund agreed to stay on as Secretary and Treasurer respectively, as did Pedagogy Committee Chair, Brian Twenter, and Professional Development Chair, Becca Gercken. They will each serve for one more year until we can run elections for those positions in early 2022. Gabriella Friedman will be stepping down from her role as Graduate Student Representative.

The ASAIL Board currently has Two Openings for Officers (both are two-year positions):

1. Vice President
2. Graduate Student Representative.

HOW DO YOU NOMINATE SOMEONE?

Please email ASAIL Secretary Steve Sexton (steven.sexton@unlv.edu) your nominations by **March 19, 2021**. Instructions for voting will follow and suffrage will only go to ASAIL members. (So now is a good time to renew those memberships!)

SAIL Journal

June Scudeler and Siobhan Senier are stepping down from serving as Editors for *SAIL*. They are now in the process of searching for new leadership to replace them and their tremendous work with the journal for the past 5 years. Importantly, the new editor/editors will need institutional support and ideally be a tenured faculty member/s. Their call for editorial board nominations is here:

SAIL is seeking nominations and self-nominations for our editorial board. Terms typically run for 5 years, and we request the following:

1. A commitment to review at least 2 articles per year;
2. A commitment to respond promptly and reliably to *SAIL* emails;
3. Membership in [ASAIL](#) and/or [ILSA](#);
4. Willingness to attend the [Native American Literature Symposium](#) and/or [ILSA Annual Gathering](#) as possible.

To nominate someone or self-nominate, please send a brief email of commitment and CV to sail.editors@gmail.com by March 15, 2020.

MLA

It seems like a long way off, but the planning for the annual MLA conference 2022 is already underway. ASAIL has one guaranteed panel each year. The theme for MLA 2022 is “Multilingual U.S.”; in keeping with this theme, ASAIL extends a call for abstracts for the following ASAIL sponsored panel:

Indigenous Languages As/In Literatures:

This panel seeks papers examining the way authors across genres engage Indigenous languages in their work. Panelists are invited to consider how oral and written literature composed in Indigenous languages introduces culturally-specific Indigenous literary methodologies

Submission Deadline: Friday, March 19, 2021

Email: momcglennen@vassar.edu

If you want to explore other MLA CFP’s, you can check out the [MLA website](#).

ASAIL Membership

Support for graduate students and contingent faculty

Thank you to Gabriella Friedman for raising this issue with the ASAIL officers about the creation of a sliding scale membership fee for graduate students and contingent faculty. This is an issue the ASAIL board will take up this year. Given the extraordinarily difficult job market, hiring freezes,

and dearth of graduate placement, the board wants to find ways to sustain connections between graduate students and contingent faculty and our field. We know this engagement is not only important but a matter of ethical responsibility.

Rethinking Membership Renewal

An agenda item for the ASAIL board this year will be to think through how we can make membership renewal easier for members and the Treasurer, including the possibility of an annual automatic renewal.

AWARDS

Because of the many difficulties of this past year, the awarding of the Beatrice Medicine and Electa Quinney Awards, which normally occur at NALS, were postponed. We are now proud to announce the winners of the 2020 Awards (for works published in 2019):

Beatrice Medicine Award for Best Monograph

Spiral to the Stars: Mvskoke Tools of Futurity by Laura Harjo (U of Arizona Press)

Beatrice Medicine Award for Best Essay

“Red Paint: Transnational Movements of Deconstructing, Decolonizing, and Defacing Colonial Structures” by Jeremiah Garsha (*Transmotion* 5.1)

Electa Quinney Award for Published Stories

The Beadworkers by Beth Piatote (Counterpoint Press)

The **call for nominations** for the 2021 Beatrice Medicine and Electa Quinney Awards is now live. To learn more and to submit a nomination, visit [the ASAIL website](#).

SOCIAL MEDIA

We are beefing up our social media presence on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. You will see these become active in conjunction with the launch of the first issue of *The SAIL Review*.

We hope this can help sustain and build ASAIL membership!