

THE SEASECS GAZETTE

September 2011

<http://seasecs.net/>



2012 SEASECS TO MEET IN DECATUR, GA, MARCH 1-3

Legacies of the Enlightenment

The 38th Annual Meeting of SEASECS will take place from **Thursday, March 1 through Saturday, March 3, 2012** at the Holiday Inn Decatur-Atlanta Conference Plaza, a stone's throw from the many restaurants and shops of Decatur's charming downtown square, which can be reached via MARTA rail service from the Atlanta airport. The hotel, currently completing renovations, is slated to reopen as an Indigo hotel, promising us swank and nicely appointed spaces.

The plenary speakers for the meeting will be: Robert Williams and Tamara Livingston on the History of the Book, the distinguished Defoe and Fielding scholar Dr. Paul Hunter, and eminent French *dix-huitiémiste*, Dr. Malcolm Cook.

We welcome proposals for panels and individual papers. Please note that all presenters must be members of the society. Check out our [website](http://www.seasecs.net/) for more information about the society, the meeting, and membership. **There is still time to apply with either individual papers or complete panels!** Panel and individual submission deadlines have been **extended to September 29th**. For individual paper proposals, please send the title of the paper and a brief description of your topic; your contact information; and any a/v needs. For complete panels, please submit the title

and panel description; the name of the chair with contact information; the name of each panelist with the title of the paper, any a/v requirements, and contact information. The latter should include email and snail mail addresses and affiliations. **Deadline: Oct. 1, 2011.**



Please send proposals, inquiries, and notes of good cheer to: Martha F. Bowden, Program Chair, mbowden@kennesaw.edu. Joe Johnson (joejohnson@clayton.edu) and Kay Doig (kdoig@gsu.edu) will be responsible for local arrangements.

Conference participants must be members of SEASECS. To join the Society or renew your membership, go to <http://www.seasecs.net/>

A limited number of travel fellowships for graduate students will be available.

*All the dix-huitiémiste
news that's
fit to print*

The Society also awards two prizes of \$300 each for the best graduate student papers presented at the conference.

WAKE FOREST SEASECS A SMASHING SUCCESS

SEASECS MEMBERS ENJOYED A LOVELY

first night reception, beautiful meeting facilities right on the Wake Forest campus, and an embarrassment of intellectual riches on the program. The plenaries kicked off with Mark Evan Bonds' delightfully lucid (even for those non-musicologists among us) answer to the question "What Do Sonatas Want? The Paradox of Musical Language in the Enlightenment." The talk was followed by a wonderful performance of Bach and Mozart sonatas from Jacque Carrasco at the violin, and Peter Kairoff at the fortepiano. Peter Reill fascinating "Aesthetics, the Life Sciences and the Construction of Gender in the Enlightenment and Romanticism" followed on the next day by Felicity Nussbaum's beautifully illustrated talk, "The Tragic Muse Speaks: The Eighteenth-Century Orient on the Stage." Throughout, we were feted, fed, and entertained in the heart of the stunning Wake Forest campus. Our deep thanks to Byron Wells and Claudia Kairoff for organizing such a splendid meeting, and to all who came to their aid, including Vickie Cutting (our patron saint), Margaret Ewalt, Cynthia Hall,

2011 SEASECS CONFERENCE A ROARING SUCCESS!

THANKS TO BYRON WELLS AND CLAUDIA KAIROFF

David Levy, Grant McAllister, Morna O'Neill, Irene Picconi, Jessica Richard, and Elizabeth Way.

THE WITLINGS SHOWCASES SEASECS TALENT, BIG LAUGHS

Frances Burney's comedy *The Witlings*, written in 1778, was a wonderful hit the night her family and close friends read it in the drawing room while a nervous Frances waited outside. But her father, Charles Burney, after speaking with Samuel Crisp, abruptly reconsidered his enthusiastic response and told young Frances she would not be able to pursue production, even though Richard Brinsley Sheridan was keen to put it on stage. At SEAECS, a cast of brave (some would say foolhardy) souls were ready, willing, and more than able to right this wrong and bring Burney's sparkling, at times searing wit to life for a grateful audience.

The play opens in Mrs. Wheedle's milliner's shop and features the landlady Mrs. Voluble, characters who embody the lives of working women in later eighteenth-century London. As people flow in and out of the shop, we discover that Beaufort's fiancée Cecilia has failed to materialize for their meeting, and that young Jack has failed to deliver the message about her delay. Meanwhile, Cecilia, who is staying with Lady Smatter, Beaufort's aunt, has been suddenly bankrupted, and Lady Smatter is prepared to cut off the engagement to keep her nephew from marrying a penniless woman. Smatter's hypocrisy and literary pretensions unfold in her "Esprit Party," a satire on salon culture and literary pretensions. The dreadful poet Dabler much petted and adored by Smatter and her frienemy, Mrs. Sapient, reigns supreme at these gatherings. Young Jack bounces in and out of scenes as he races through the town, a conduit of news and goad to his painfully slow father Codger. Jack's friend Censor provides a critical and moral center to the play. Ultimately, Smatter's hypocrisy is both exposed and reformed when she is threatened with the greatest of terrors: print culture.



Mrs. Sapient (Martha Bowden) tries on caps at Mrs. Wheedle's (Emily Friedman's) shop with help from her apprentice milliner Miss Jenny (Mary Mechler).

The cast included some familiar names and faces: immediate past president Martha Bowden as Mrs. Sapient, your faithful but sometimes tardy secretary Misty Anderson as Lady Smatter, your always accurate and trustworthy Treasurer Dan Ennis as Mr. Censor, last year's conference host Judy Slagle as Mrs. Voluble, SEASECS stalwart John Vance as a particularly fine Mr. Dabler, the dashing Jack DeRochi as our leading man Beaufort, Shelby Johnson as the petite and earnest heroine Cecilia, Misty Krueger as Bob, Micah Rickerson as Codger, Neil Norman as Jack, Teresa Saxton as the servant of all works, Emily Friedman as Mrs. Wheedle, Mary Mechler as Miss Jenny, Mercy Cannon as Betty, and Catherine Ingrassia as, appropriately enough, a shopper.



Mrs. Wheedle (Judy Slagle) and Mr. Dabler (John Vance) confer about Mr. Dabler's latest creation.

(left) Lady Smatter (Misty Anderson) is horrified and Mrs. Sapient (Martha Bowden) smirks as Mr. Censor reads a satire on Smatter, while Mr. Dabler (John Vance) tries to stay out of it.

Prizes, Honors, and Accolades

GRADUATE STUDENT PRIZES

This year's close competition for the graduate prizes resulted in the following winners:

Shelby Johnson, English, University of Tennessee, for "History reduc'd into Patches: Narrating the Body in Jane Barker's *Galesia* Trilogy," and

Jessica L. Cook, English, University of South Florida, "Venturing on the Future: Female Perspectives on Courtship and Marriage on the Eighteenth-Century Stage."

Congratulations to both our winners on their excellent work.

GRADUATE TRAVEL GRANT WINNERS

Each year, SEAECS makes possible several travel grants to enable graduate students to attend the meeting. Congratulations to the 2011 winners Maria Iglesias, Cameron Strang, Kevin Jordan, Jessica Cook, Shelby Johnson, and Jennifer Keith.

PERCY ADAMS PRIZE

This year's Percy Adams Prize for best article goes to **Pekka Hämmäläinen** for "The Politics of Grass: European Expansion, Ecological Change, and Indigenous Power in the Southwest Borderlands."

William and

Mary Quarterly 67.2, April 2010, an analysis of changes in the political and environmental culture of the American Southwest and Great Plains that blends environmental history, transatlantic history, ethnohistory, and colonial studies.

Congratulations to the 2011 winners

SEASECS invites submissions for the **Percy Adams Prize**, an award of \$500 for the best article on an eighteenth-century subject published in a scholarly journal, annual, or collection between September 1, 2010 and August 31, 2011. Authors must be or become members of SEASECS, and only one submission per person will be considered for the prize. Submissions written in a language other than English must be accompanied by an English translation. Three copies must be submitted. Articles may be nominated by the author or by another member. Deadline for submission: **November 15**.

Please send submissions to:

Keith Pacholl

Department of History
University of West Georgia
Carrollton GA 30118
kpacholl@westga.edu

Graduate Student Prizes for 2012

SEASECS offers two types of graduate student support to attendees of the conference.

1) Four grants of \$350.00 each for travel to the conference. If you do not live in the immediate area of the conference venue and would like to apply for one of these grants, simply identify yourself as a graduate student interested in a travel grant when you send in your conference paper proposal. If you have already sent in a proposal, send a message to the 2011 Program Chair, Byron Wells, as soon as possible to let him know that you are interested in a grant.

2) Two graduate student essay prizes of \$300.00 each. The essay should be a carefully edited version of the paper you are planning to give at the conference. If you are a graduate student interested in having your essay considered for a prize, please send it by email attachment (Word or .rtf file) by the deadline of JANUARY 15, 2012 to the chair of the Graduate Prize Committee, Dr. Carol Howard, Theater and English, at Warren Wilson College, choward@warren-wilson.edu. If you have not received a response within 3 business days, please send your email again to ensure there have been no technical failures.



SEASECS Announcements and Notices

Have a new publication, a production, or an eighteenth-century event you would like to publicize? Send us word!

Upcoming Theater Events

- *Tartuffe*: U of Tennessee, Oct. 6-23
- *The Green Bird*, Vanderbilt, Oct. 28-Nov. 12
- *The Liar*, Vanderbilt, April 6-14
- *She Stoops to Conquer*, U of Florida, March 30-April 7

ASECS IN SAN ANTONIO

MARCH 22-25, 2012

The next ASECS meeting will take place in San Antonio, TX, at the Hyatt Regency Riverwalk. More information about the meeting can be found at [asecs.press.jhu.edu/2012 Annual Meeting.html](http://asecs.press.jhu.edu/2012%20Annual%20Meeting.html)

individual subscriptions to NPEC are remarkably inexpensive!!

SEASECS OFFICERS

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SEASECS Journal

XVIII New Perspectives on the Eighteenth Century

is an annual publication sponsored by SEASECS that seeks to provide insight into the best current scholarly research and writing on the long eighteenth century. For submission details, see the SEASECS website. Please address all queries to the Editor, Samia I. Spencer, spencsi@auburn.edu, and keep in mind that institutional and



Martha Bowden, Jack DeRochi, and Dan Ennis stealing the show in the barely rehearsed reading of Frances Burney's *The Witlings*.



Frances Burney looks on in mild amusement.