

SCSECS

South Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies

Newsletter

September 2019



TWU graduate students (L-R) Madison Graves, Shannon Baughman, and Taylor Fitzgerald during SCSECS 2019 welcome reception, with their exhibition of eighteenth-century cookbooks, Thursday, 2-21-2019

Conference Report: SCSECS 2019 — by Ashley Bender

In February 2019, SCSECS returned to the North Texas area for its 44th annual meeting at the magnificent Magnolia hotel in Downtown Dallas. Over 100 people participated in the weekend's events, which included twenty-six sessions, two plenary talks, special sessions on publishing and retirement, a cookbook exhibit, and a museum tour. The conference drew participants from across the US, as well as Singapore, China, and Japan.

The weekend opened and closed with presentations on women and the archives. During the welcome reception on Thursday night, Shannon Baughman, Taylor Fitzgerald, and Madison Gravens, graduate students from Texas Woman's University, presented on eighteenth-century cookbooks, showcasing some of the primary materials for their research in a special exhibit of artifacts from the TWU special collections.

A highlight of the weekend was the closing talk by plenary speaker and longtime SCSECS board member Phyllis Thompson. Her talk "Scribbled Recipes, Tattered Pages, and Absent Affections: Bearing Witness and the Stuff of Archives," examined three archival research strategies: locating absences, valuing disorder, and surfacing affect. In making these moves, she suggests that we can better understand the material and affective conditions of women's lives in the eighteenth century.

Plenary speaker Jacqueline Chao, Senior Curator at the Crow Museum of Asian Art, took us across the globe with her talk,

"Imperial Taste, Global Ambitions: Art from the Qing dynasty (1611–1911) China in the Crow Museum of Asian Art," which was followed by the much anticipated private tour of the Crow Museum to see in person the artifacts that she showcased.

Other features during the weekend included "Perspectives on Retirement" and a graduate student professional development session, as well as a lively roundtable on publishing in eighteenth-century scholarship. We are grateful to Samara Cahill, Kit Kincade, Mona Narain, and J. T. Scanlan for their

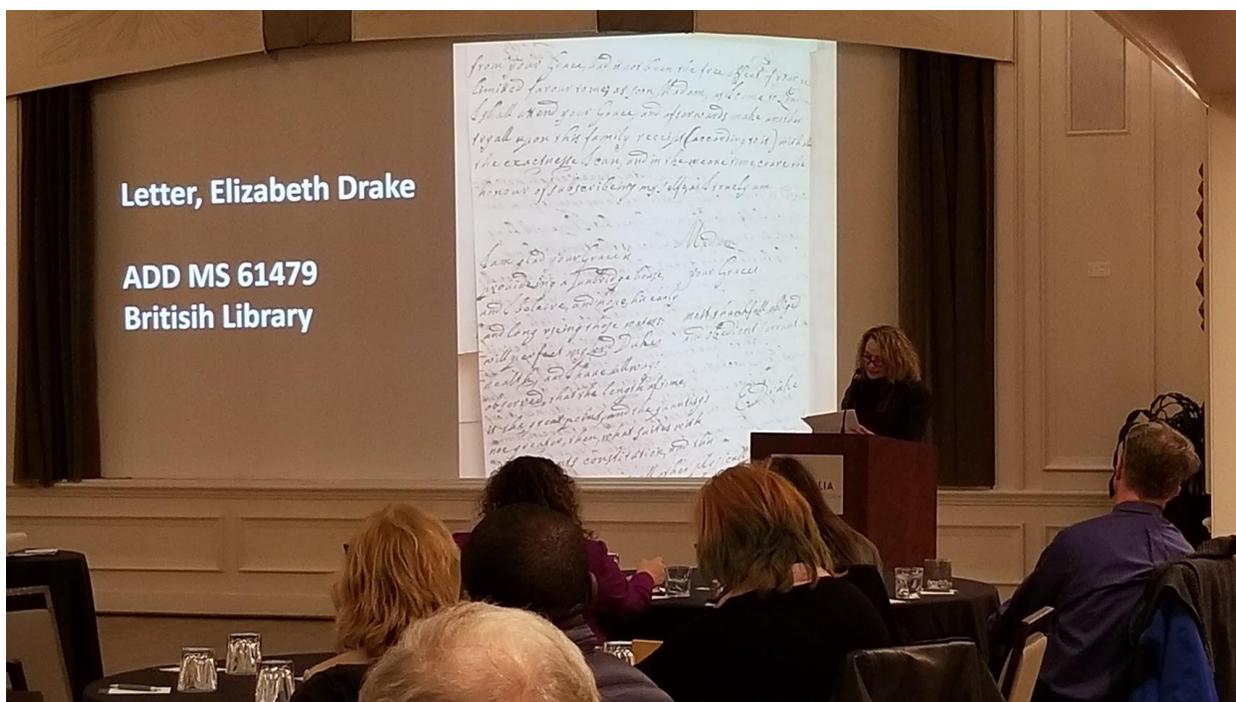


Jaqueline Chao during her plenary lecture, Friday 2-22-19

participation. Other sessions included old favorites like "Approaches to Overlooked texts," "The Long Reach of the Long Eighteenth Century," and "Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Long Eighteenth Century," as well as sessions on

drama, religion, Asia in the eighteenth century, women's rhetorical performance, portraiture, the environment, transatlantic identity, and encyclopedias and dictionaries, among other topics.

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the conference. We look forward to seeing you in St. Augustine in 2020!



Phyllis Thompson's Plenary Talk, Saturday 2-23-19

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Copy of Conference Call]

South Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies

Call for Panel and Paper Proposals

**The Speedy Enlightenment:
Moving, Racing, Quickening, and
Otherwise Accelerating the Long
Eighteenth Century**

February 7-8, 2020

Are you the kind of adventurous, highly organized, and inquisitive scholar who plans ahead while combing the beaches of the imagination? If so, then the scholarly conference for you is the next annual meeting of SCSECS, the South-Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (SCSECS). That much-anticipated conference is scheduled for February 7th and 8th of a year, 2020, that eponymously recalls clarity of vision.

First, let's talk about the venue, which qualifies not only as a "destination" city, but two destinations in one. First, there is the magnificent city of St. Augustine, the oldest continuously inhabited city in north America (even older than Jamestown or the Massachusetts Bay Colony). Alternately under the influence of Spain, Britain, the United States, and indigenous cultures, St. Augustine abounds with historical structures, eclectic architecture, and nearly five centuries of western cultural remnants, all layered atop the legacies of an assortment of local cultures. All the pieces in the American puzzle are present, yet the moving picture of modern life is still resolving!



But St. Augustine is not only a venue for art-historical or cultural studies lecturing and data gathering. It's the preeminent beach, sun-and-fun venue of north-eastern Florida. Acres upon acres of deep, groomed, sandy beaches invite visitors—SCSECS conventioners!—to frolic in brisk Atlantic waves. From our hotel, we can look directly out into the same bounding main that buoyed up eighteenth-century ships and indeed that rinsed Ponce de Leon after his first bath in the Fountain of Youth!

Deep south venues sometimes raise understandable scruples. Our history is not without its troubled moments. Fortunately, the deep history of St. Augustine yields plenty of good memories. Over its dozens upon dozens of decades, St. Augustine has offered refuge to many persecuted and endangered peoples. Today it is second only to Miami when it comes to festive and friendly interculturalism.

St. Augustine and St. Augustine beach definitely qualify as 24/7, around-the-clock venues. During the day, its radiance shines from its countless historical monuments (including mighty Fort Matanzas, a national historical park). Clear views of evolving colonial architecture mix with recreational opportunities to open panorama after panorama of edifying adventure.

The other half of that 24/7 St. Augustine mode-de-vie is its sizzling, scintillating night life. Abounding in locally owned restaurants, cafes, shops, museums, and attractions, St. Augustine is the Mecca of mixology, the Oz of artistry, the Taj Mahal of tunefulness, and the ultimate forum for fun! Bustling streets bounce with busyness around the clock. Bring your best case of insomnia, for there is a lot to do under the moonlight!

And what about our venue and our conference environment? SCSECS 2020 will take place in a brand-new hotel: the fabulous Embassy Suites, freshly opened

for business in December 2018 and ready for a ravishing future filled with happy conferees! This glorious establishment extends its broad and welcoming arms onto an expansive poolside environment and a lovely beach!



“Freshness” is the watchword for everything at the Embassy Suites, whether the constellated reception hall, with its dazzling modern sculptures and fixtures, the artisanally designed rooms and suites, or the unique arc pool that seems to bend into the Atlantic foam!

As wondrous as our hotel venue may be, it could not outshine the supernova of innovation that is SCSECS! Just take a look at some of the features that are already in place—whether special-feature panels or forums on the scholarly life cycle or lavish meals or a still super-secret plenary speaker who may even be moving in the halls of the Dallas meeting!

After seeing how many wonders will grace the SCSECS 2020 meeting, everyone will surely want to submit proposals soon!

“Soon” is definitely a keyword in this search for excellence. In keeping with SCSECS tradition, another innovative theme will guide our meeting: “The Speedy Enlightenment: Moving, Racing, Quickening, and Otherwise Accelerating the Long Eighteenth Century.” Of course, SCSECS is quick in every way, including being quick to accept papers on every stimulating topic. But maybe you have something about speed just itching to jump out of your sleeve?



Now is the time to start thinking about SCSECS 2020!

Everyone will be racing to this best of all possible conferences.

Would you like

to **propose a panel or paper**? Write to conference organizer Kevin Cope at encope@LSU.edu. You'll get a speedy reply—and acceptance! We're looking forward to a wonderful learning and



delighting event, and you are our favorite guest!

BEACONS ATTRACTING CONFEREES!

- A special feature event on deleted and discarded scholarship!
- An ingenious bivalent feature panel on youthful and retiring scholars!
- A secret super plenary speaker to be announced!
- A pre-conference warming reception!
- An outdoor, al fresco plenary luncheon bash!
- A signature SCSECS social, cultural, and culinary closing event!

And much, much more to be announced!

Follow-up Note from Kevin, September 2019

As the calendar always turns, leading us from festivity to festivity, so SCSECS travels through the years, proceeding from brilliant sunrise to brilliant sunrise to ever-breaking new day! And so it is that, with the arrival of the crisp new fall semester, SCSECS members will already begin contemplating our next sunlit meeting, which will convene on the dazzling shoreline of historic St. Augustine, Florida. In another compound first—in an unprecedented combination of new and

old—SCSECS will unveil the fresh works of its members in America’s oldest continuously inhabited city, a multicultural marvel that has hosted everyone from English privateers to artistic Bohemians to peoples from every continent, culture, or cohort. Better still, SCSECS will benefit from placement in a brand-new hotel that provides direct access to a soft-sand, wave-rich beach as well as to the lively historic city district, the latest pop-up food, entertainment, and general delectation center in the new world.

SCSECS is known for the ingeniousness of its conference themes. Our 2020 meeting is no exception to this gladly-obeyed rule. The core topic for this meeting: “The Speedy Enlightenment: Moving, Racing, Quickening, and Otherwise Accelerating the Long Eighteenth Century.” Of course, just as there is no core without surrounding fruit, there is no SCSECS that limits its inquiries to one topic; all panels and papers are welcome! Take a look at the panels that are already available and recognize that your paper is already welcome—and know that, if you travel even further afield in search of new ideas, a panel will be found for you, or will spring up from the kernels of your imagination! The panels received to date:

Frances Singh, Hostos Community College of CUNY, “Lives Cut Short: The Death of Young Persons in the Eighteenth Century and How (if at all) they were Remembered” [FSINGH@hostos.cuny.edu]

Ashley Bender, Texas Woman’s University, “Long Eighteenth Century Drama” [abender@twu.edu]

Susan Spencer, University of Central Oklahoma, “Asia in the Eighteenth Century” [sspencer@uco.edu]

Susan Spencer, University of Central Oklahoma, “East Meets West in the Long Eighteenth Century” [sspencer@uco.edu]

Bärbel Czennia, McNeese State University, “Accelerating Growth: Velocity in Travel, Gardens, Population Development, and Other Aspects of Eighteenth-Century Experience” [bczenia@mcneese.edu]

Mimi Gladstein, University of Texas El Paso, “Approaches to overlooked Texts” [mgladstein@utep.edu]

Stacey Jocoy, Texas Tech University, “Cheap Print: Chapbooks, Ballads, News, Scandal, and Other Inexpensive Ephemera” [Stacey.Jocoy@ttu.edu]

C. Earl Ramsey, University of Arkansas—Little Rock, “Teaching Tough Texts” [ceramsey@ualr.edu]

John Scanlan, Providence College, “London High and Low: Streets, Roads, Courts, Alleys, Squares, Parks, Bridges, and Docklands” [HAMBONE@providence.edu]

Brett McInelly, Brigham Young University, “Moving Toward (or away from) God in the Long Eighteenth Century” [brett_mcinelly@byu.edu]

Allen Driggers, Tennessee Tech University, EXACT TITLE PENDING; TOPIC: “History of Science” [edriggers@tntech.edu]

David Eick, Grand Valley State University, EXACT TITLE PENDING; TOPIC: French Studies [eickd@gvsu.edu]

Samara Anne Cahill, Blinn College, “Women and Religion in the Enlightenment” [samara.cahill57@gmail.com]

Samara Anne Cahill, Blinn College, “St. Augustine, Colonial History, and the Catholic Enlightenment” [samara.cahill57@gmail.com]

Kathryn Duncan, Saint Leo University, “Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Long Eighteenth Century” [kathryn.duncan@saintleo.edu]

Janet Wolf, SUNY Cortland, “The Long Reach of the Long Eighteenth Century: Long Eighteenth-Century Influences on Later Literature” [llwolf@syr.edu]

Judith Broome, William Paterson University, “Quickening: Mothers, Matrons, and Midwives; or, Pregnancy in the Long Eighteenth Century” [BROOME1@wpunj.edu]

Victoria Warren, Binghamton University, TITLE OF PANEL TBD, WILL STAFF THE PANEL FULLY HERSELF [bi90144@binghamton.edu]

Charis Homes and D. Christopher Gabbard, University of North Florida,
“Eighteenth-Century Life Writing and its Impact on the Enlightenment”
[n01415210@ospreys.unf.edu]

Rachel Mann, University of South Carolina, “Natural Philosophy, Literature, and the Embodied Imagination” [mannrj@email.sc.edu]

Gloria Eive, St. Mary’s University, “Aesthetic Challenges and Conundrums: Musical, Artistic, and Literary Composition and Expression in the Changing Aesthetic Canons and Demands of the Eighteenth Century” [gloriaeive@gmail.com]

Phyllis Thompson, East Tennessee State University, “An Eighteenth-Century Cultural Politics of Emotion: Racing toward Resilience, Reconciliation, and Reparation” [THOMPSOP@mail.etsu.edu]

Michael Edson, University of Wyoming, “Poet, Sailor, and Lexicographer: William Falconer” [medson@uwyo.edu]

A survey of that astounding list will show that your paper is not only already admissible, but avidly pursued! Or that there will be plenty of emergent panels ready to receive the outpouring of your genius!

So, please do send a proposal to one of the panel chair mentioned in the foregoing list, or, if you prefer, send your paper directly to the conference organizer, Kevin L. Cope, at encope@lsu.edu . The conference will be a wonder—mostly because you are there!

See you all in St. Augustine!



☞ Dear SCSECS-Members: Feel free to send your own SCSECS-related news items to treasurer **Kathryn Duncan** (kathryn.duncan@saintleo.edu) or to newsletter editor **Bärbel Czennia** (bczennia@mcneese.edu)