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Femininity and the Gothic Animal: Spofford and Bierce, Gender and Genre

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American Literature Association Symposium

**Fear and Form:
Aspects of the Gothic in American Culture**

February 21-23, 2013

**Location: Hyatt Regency Savannah
Two W Bay Street
Savannah, Georgia 31401**

**Keynote Speakers:
Teresa A. Goddu, Vanderbilt University
Eric Savoy, University of Montreal**

**Conference Directors:
Alfred Bendixen, Texas A & M University
Rene H. Trevino, Texas A & M University**

Acknowledgements: Both Alfred Bendixen and Rene H. Trevino want to express their appreciation to our two distinguished keynote speakers, to all of those who organized panels, or proposed individual papers, and to the Department of English at Texas A&M University for its continued support of the American Literature Association as well as of this conference. We also want to thank Olivia Carr Edenfield and Georgia Southern University for serving as the local host of this symposium and for taking care of countless details.

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Thursday, February 21, 2013

Registration: Pick up programs and badges.

(Scarborough Foyer) 3:00 to 6:00 pm

Opportunity to visit Flannery O'Connor's childhood home:

Although the O'Connor home is normally closed on Thursday, February 21, they have graciously agreed to offer a tour to members of our symposium from 4-6 pm. They request a donation of \$5 per person. If you are interested in this opportunity, you can gather in the Hyatt lobby just before 4 pm so that people can either share cabs or walk to the O'Connor home, which is about a mile away (roughly a 20 minute stroll). If you prefer, you can also join the group at about 4:30 pm at the home which is located at 207 East Charlton Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401 (phone: 912.233.6014).

The home is also open Fridays through Wednesdays from 1 – 4 pm.

Ghost tours of Savannah at 6 pm and 9 pm:

On Thursday, February 21, we have also arranged for a guided "Ghost Tour" of Savannah, which proclaims itself the most haunted city in the United States. This 90 minute walking tour provides a pleasant introduction to this wonderful city. The Ghost tour will begin and end at the Hyatt Hotel and you can decide whether to go before or after dinner. It is normally \$20 per person but the conference has negotiated a special arrangement which will make it free to all conference participants. Please meet in the lobby of the Hyatt at about 5:45 and 8:45pm.

Friday, February 22, 2013

8:00-8:45 Registration: Programs and badges available.

Morning coffee

Scarborough Foyer

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8:45-9:50 Welcome and Opening Plenary Session

Scarborough 3-4

**Why the American Gothic Matters:
A Roundtable**

Moderator: Rene H. Trevino, Texas A & M University

1. Alfred Bendixen, Texas A&M University
2. Monika Elbert, Montclair State University
3. Teresa A. Goddu, Vanderbilt University
4. Eric Savoy, University of Montreal
5. Susan Elizabeth Sweeney, College of the Holy Cross
6. Jeffrey A. Weinstock, Central Michigan University

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10:00-11:20 am Friday, February 22, 2013

1-A Rooms of One's Own: Opening Up the Haunted Spaces in Women's Ghost Stories (Room: Scarbrough 1)

Chair: Susan Elizabeth Sweeney, College of the Holy Cross

1. "Uncanny Domestic Spaces and Queer Narrative Places in Madeline Yale Wynne's 'The Little Room.'" Susan Elizabeth Sweeney, College of the Holy Cross
2. "Haunted Bedrooms, Haunted Lovers, and Nineteenth-Century Sexuality in the Short Stories of Mary E. Wilkins Freeman." Leah Blatt Glasser, Mount Holyoke College
3. "Gothic Traditions and Innovations in Edith Wharton's Fiction." Carol Singley, Rutgers University-Camden

1-B Theorizing & Historicizing the Southern Gothic (Room: Scarbrough 2)

Chair: Benjamin Fisher, University of Mississippi

1. "Erskine Caldwell's 'Kneel to the Rising Sun' & William Faulkner's 'The Hound': Tales of the Haunted Flesh, or When Bodies Express the Silenced Past." Elsa Charléty, Sorbonne University
2. "The International Communist/Cthulhu Conspiracy: *Absalom, Absalom!* & 'The Call of Cthulhu' in the Contexts of the Gothic & Racial Capitalism." Bob Hodges, University of Washington
3. "Reassessing the Red Death: The Corruption of Capital and the Economies of Disease in the Short Fiction of E.A. Poe." Joshua Lundy, University of Mississippi
4. "Nationhood, War, and the Return of Repressed Guilt in Elizabeth Madox Roberts's 'Record at Oak Hill.'" Travis Rozier, University of Mississippi

1-C The Gothic in Literature, Film, and TV (Room: Savannah)

Chair: Olivia Carr Edenfield, Georgia Southern University

1. "Elizabeth Kostova's *The Historian*: The Vampire as the American Historical Icon." Shannon Forbes, University of St. Thomas, Houston
2. "Monsters, Madness, and Mothers: Cultural Anxiety and the Female Gothic in American Literature and Film." Tracie Church Guzzio, SUNY Plattsburgh
3. "*The Master* and the Gothic." Deborah Scaperoth, University of Tennessee

11:30 am -12:20 pm Friday, February 22, 2013

2-A Transcendental Gothic (Room: Scarbrough 1)

Chair: Alfred Bendixen, Texas A&M University

1. “Transcendental Gothic: Margaret Fuller’s Autobiographical Experiments.”
David Robinson, Oregon State University
2. “Transcendentalism and the Gothic.” Daniel S. Malachuk, Western Illinois
University

2-B Self and Society in the Gothic (Room: Scarbrough 2)

Chair: Ivonne M. García, Kenyon College

1. “Classing *The Mysterious Stranger*: The Social Work of the Gothic in Progressive
Era Fiction.” Gillian Bauer, Loyola University Chicago
2. “Toni Morrison’s *A Mercy*: Shaping the Self in Darkness.” Norlisha F. Crawford,
University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

2-C Forms of Fear (Room: Savannah)

Chair: Jeffrey A. Weinstock, Central Michigan University

1. “The Twin Caves at Glens Falls: Gothic Techniques in James Fenimore Cooper’s
The Last of the Mohicans.” Gautam Kundu, Georgia Southern University
2. “The Importance of Being Frightened: Gothic Elements in Children’s Literary
Culture.” Jessica R. McCort, Duquesne University

12:20-1:30 pm LUNCH
(Room: Scarbrough 3-4)

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1:40 – 3:00 pm Friday, February 22, 2013

3-A Gothic Strains in American Poetry (Room: Scarbrough 1)

Chair: Alfred Bendixen, Texas A&M University

1. “Fever-Dreams: Southern Women Poets and the Gothic Poe.” Paula Bernat Bennett, Southern Illinois University
2. “Sarah Piatt and the Haunted South of Memory.” Elizabeth Renker, The Ohio State University
3. “The Gothic Grip on American Popular Poetry.” David E.E. Sloane, University of New Haven

3-B Religion and the American Gothic (Room: Scarbrough 2)

Chair: Susan Elizabeth Sweeney, College of the Holy Cross

1. “Catholicism and Gothic Form in Crèvecoeur’s *Letters from an American Farmer*: Writing Across American Borders.” Farrell O’Gorman, Belmont Abbey College
2. “‘In a cell for life’: Henry James’s Expropriation of the Convent-Escape Narrative in *The American*.” Nancy F. Sweet, California State University, Sacramento
3. “Papal Persecution: Tracing the Gothic in Martha Finley’s Anti-Catholic Novels.” Allison Giffen, Western Washington University

3-C Dracula and Other Vampires (Room: Savannah)

Chair: Jeffrey A. Weinstock, University of Central Michigan

1. “Bret Easton Ellis’s California Gothic.” Charlotte Quinney, The Women’s College of the University of Denver
2. “The Literary and Cinematic Fortunes of Dracula and Vampires.” Tomasz Warchol, Georgia Southern University

3:10 - 4:30 pm Friday, February 22, 2013

4-A Poe and His Contexts (Room: Scarbrough 1)

Chair: Monika Elbert, Montclair State University

1. “The Story within the Frame: Edgar Allan Poe’s ‘The Oval Portrait’ and Washington Irving’s ‘The Adventure of the Mysterious Picture.’” Matthew Forsythe, Rollins College
2. “The Fall of the House of Nedeed: Finding Poe in Gloria Naylor’s *Linden Hills*.” Sandra Liggins, SUNY Fredonia
3. “Recoiling at Whiteness: Quarantine, Racial Purity, and the Critique of Racial Theories in *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym*.” Rene H. Trevino, Texas A&M

4-B Roots and Routes of Gothic Souths (Room: Scarbrough 2)

Organized by the Society for the Study of Southern Literature:

Chair: Eric Gary Anderson, George Mason University

1. “Racial Torment and Haunted Swamps: The Roots of Southern Gothic in Garcilaso de la Vega’s *The Florida of the Inca*.” Matthew Wynn Sivils, Iowa State University
2. “Through a Darkened Lens: The Intersection of Historic Fiction and Gothic in Seth Grahame-Smith’s *Abraham Lincoln, Vampire Hunter*.” Denise R. Shaw, University of South Carolina Union
3. “‘I Always Feel Like Somebody’s Watching Me’: Voyeurism as Social Control in *Reflections in a Golden Eye*.” Erica Abrams Locklear, University of North Carolina at Asheville
4. “What Remains? Sally Mann, History, and the Gothic South.” Chris Lloyd, Goldsmiths, University of London

4-C Crime and the Gothic (Room: Savannah)

Chair: Susan Elizabeth Sweeney, College of the Holy Cross

1. “Negotiating the Haunted ‘mean streets’ of Neptune in *Veronica Mars*.” Taryn Norman, University of Tennessee
2. “Failed Detectives Make a Case: (Un)Solving the Poe Mystery in Matthew Pearl’s *The Poe Shadow*.” Ki Yoon Jang, Sogang University

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4:40-6:00 pm

Friday, February 22, 2013

5-A Gothic Indifference: A Roundtable Discussion (Room: Scarbrough 1)

1. Sarah Blackwood, Pace University
2. William Hunting Howell, Boston University
3. Sarah Mesle, University of California, Los Angeles
4. Jeff Clymer, University of Kentucky

5-B Goth Flannery?: A roundtable discussion sponsored by the Flannery O'Connor Society (Room: Scarbrough 2)

Chair: Michael Schroeder, Savannah State University

1. Craig Amason, The Flannery O'Connor-Andalusia Foundation
2. Doug Davis, Gordon State College
3. Susan Copeland, Clayton State University
4. Jordan Cofer, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

5-C Varieties of the Female Gothic (Room: Savannah)

Chair: Vernon G. Miles, Henderson State University

1. "Southern Virgins, Whores, and Menopausal Monsters." Deborah Wilson, Arkansas Tech
2. "Consanguine Confusion: The Incest Motif in American and English Gothic." Janet S. Zehr, Salem College
3. "Gothic Elements in Jhumpa Lahiri's 'The Third and Final Continent.'" Brad Edwards, Georgia Southern University

6:00-7:30 pm Reception and first keynote:

"The African American Slave Narrative and the Gothic"
Teresa A. Goddu, Vanderbilt University

(Room: Windows)

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Saturday, February 23, 2013

9:00-10:20

Saturday, February 23, 2013

6-A Gothic Faulkner (Room: Scarbrough 1)

Chair: Olivia Carr Edenfield

1. “‘And you are-----?’: Gothic Soundings in Faulkner and Wright.” Philip M. Weinstein, Swarthmore College
2. “Rosa Coldfield’s Gothic in *Absalom, Absalom!*” Wendy Kurant, University of North Georgia
3. “Haunted Hospitality in *Intruder in the Dust*.” Sharon Paradiso, Endicott College

6-B Contemporary Gothic (Room: Scarbrough 2)

Chair: Meredith Dobson, Georgia Southern University

1. “‘The Matrix of Many Things’: Forms of the Female Gothic in Contemporary American Literature and Erna Brodber’s *Louisiana*.” Peggy Dunn Bailey, Henderson State University
2. “The Native American Vs. the Vampires in A. A. Carr’s *Eye Killers*.” Michael Cody, East Tennessee State University
3. “Macabre in the Mountains: Gothic Musings in the Poetry of Ron Rash.” Alana D. Sherrill, Johnson & Wales University

6-C The Gothic in Twain and Hawthorne (Room: Savannah)

Chair: Monika Elbert, Montclair State University

1. “Rhetorical Violence & Hawthorne’s Narrative Scarifiction.” Joanne Valin, Nipissing University
2. “Haunted Huckleberry: Mark Twain’s Deployment of the Gothic in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.” Susan Kalter, Illinois State University
3. “‘Fantastical adventures into the phantasmal realm’: Charles Ives Channels Nathaniel Hawthorne.” Bruce Ronda, Colorado State University

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10:30-12:00 Saturday, February 23, 2013

7-A Roots and Routes of Undead Souths (Room: Scarbrough 1)

Organized by The Society for the Study of Southern Literature:

Chair: Erica Abrams Locklear, University of North Carolina at Asheville

1. “The Fall of the House of Po’ Sandy: Poe, Chesnut, and Southern Undeadness.”
Eric Gary Anderson, George Mason University
2. “The Undead Horsemen of the Apocalypse: Faulkner, Porter, McCarthy, and the
Infinite Road to Redemption.” Melanie Benson Taylor, Dartmouth College
3. “Daryl Gregory’s Southern, Gothic, Post-Apocalyptic, Unintentionally Parodic,
Hyperreal Town of Switchcreek, Tennessee: An Examination of *The Devil’s Alphabet*.”
Kathaleen E. Amende, Alabama State University
4. “Zombie South: Cormac McCarthy’s Architectures of the Undead.” Daniel Cross
Turner, Coastal Carolina University

7-B Slavery and the Gothic (Room: Scarbrough 2)

Chair: Jeffrey A. Weinstock, Central Michigan University

1. “Infiltrating the Sea: The Ghost of Guy Fawkes and the American Maritime.”
Steven Bellomy, University of South Carolina
2. “Ghostly Historiography: The Legacy of Harriet Beecher Stowe’s Main History in
The Pearl of Orr’s Island.” Bethany Aery Clerico, University of Albany
3. “White Fear, Black Doubles, and Imperiled Women: Colonial Gothic specters in
Martin R. Delany’s *Blake, or The Huts of America*.” Ivonne M. García, Kenyon College
4. “‘John Lamar’ and the Ghost of Freedom: Gothic (Mis)Understandings of Race in
U.S. Civil War Literature.” Amelia Keller, University of Connecticut

7-C Female Gothic (Room: Savannah)

Chair: Monika Elbert, Montclair State University

1. “Femininity and the Gothic Animal: Spofford and Bierce, Gender and Genre.”
David Greven, University of South Carolina
2. “‘There is a secret down here, in this nightmare fog’: Urban-Industrial Gothic in
Nineteenth Century American Literature.” Bridget M. Marshall, University of
Massachusetts, Lowell
3. “The Shadow Self in Edith Wharton’s ‘The Eyes.’” Cindy Murillo, Tennessee
State University
4. “Emily Dickinson Invokes Witchcraft: Nineteenth Century Spiritualism in
‘Necromancy Sweet!’” Eleanor Elson Heginbotham, Concordia University, St. Paul

Noon to 1:30 pm LUNCH

(Room: Harborside Center East)

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1:30-2:50 pm Saturday, February 23, 2013

8-A Small Town American Gothic (Room: Scarbrough 1)

Chair: Benjamin F. Fisher, University of Mississippi

1. “Haunted Castles/Haunted People in Grace Metalious’ *Peyton Place*.” Melanie R. Anderson, University of Mississippi
2. “Henry Bellamann’s *King’s Row*: Midwestern Mayhem, Murder, and So Much More.” Harry M. Bayne, Spartanburg Methodist College
3. ‘Down...into the Pit:’ Mark Nowak’s *Coal Mountain Elementary*.” Anne Shea, California College of the Arts

8-B Gothic Monsters (Room: Scarbrough 2)

Chair: Susan Elizabeth Sweeney, College of the Holy Cross

1. “Seeing Monsters.” Jeffrey A. Weinstock, Central Michigan University
2. “The End of the Symbolic Liminal: Brian Keene and the Rise of the Fast Zombie.” Andrew P. Williams, North Carolina Central University
3. “The Hawkline Monster and the Disintegration of Richard Brautigan’s Career.” Donald Pharr, Saint Leo University

8- C Early American Gothic (Room: Savannah)

Chair: Bob Hodges, University of Washington

1. “An Early Critique of Plantation Gothic: Charles Brockden Brown’s *Memoirs of Stephen Calvert*.” Len von Morze, University of Massachusetts
2. “Where are the Slaves in *Wieland*?” Victoria Olwell, Univeristy of Virginia
3. “The Gothic and Rhetorical Strategy in Brown’s *Clotel*.” Brian Fonken, University of California, Irvine

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3:00-4:20 pm Saturday, February 23, 2013

9-A Science Fiction and the Gothic in American Culture (Room: Scarbrough 1)

Chair: Nicholas Lawrence, University of South Carolina

1. “‘Only One Cure’: Gothic Aspects of Ray Bradbury’s *The Martian Chronicles*.”
Christopher Bundrick, University of South Carolina Lancaster
2. “‘Good and Safe’: Race, Violence and the Gothic Pedagogy of Appropriateness in
the *Hunger Games* Trilogy.” Meghan Gilbert-Hickey, Queensborough Community
College and St. John's University
3. “‘The only light came from a monitor screen’: Gibson’s ‘Burning Chrome’ and
the Gothic Monstrosities of Cyberspace.” Nicholas Lawrence, University of South
Carolina

9-B The Ghosts of Slavery (Room: Scarbrough 2)

Chair: Rene H. Trevino, Texas A&M University

1. “Ghostly Garments: The Rise of Gothic Feminine Psychological Power in *Uncle
Tom’s Cabin* and *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*.” Vernon G. Miles, Henderson State
University
2. “Domestic Gothic in Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward’s and Ambrose Bierce’s Civil
War Fiction.” Monika Elbert, Montclair State University
3. “The Ghost of Slavery in Hopkins and DuBois.” Christine A. Wooley, St. Mary’s
College of Maryland

9-C Gothic Architecture (Room: Savannah)

Chair: Olivia Carr Edenfield, Georgia Southern University

1. “Housing American Gothic.” Dongshin Yi, Seoul National University
2. “‘Absolute Reality’/Absolute Terror: Shirley Jackson’s *The Haunting of Hill
House*.” Mary Pharr, Florida Southern College
3. “‘Deeply and Dangerously Inside’: Representations of the Home in Elizabeth
Madox Roberts’s *My Heart and My Flesh*.” Lyndsey Brown, Georgia Southern
University

4:30-6:30 pm Reception and second keynote:

“Between ‘as I’ and ‘is’: Shirley Jackson’s Gothic.”

Eric Savoy, University of Montreal

(Room: Harborside Center East)

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