

SCE NEWS AND NOTICES
Spring, 1983

We are pleased to announce that SCE's Board of Directors have elected Ralph Cohen, University of Virginia, the President of the Society for Critical Exchange. At the December meeting of MLA in New York, Professor Cohen will be installed as SCE's President for 1984-85. He will deliver an Address, followed by a "cash bar" reception for him at which the newly elected members of the Board will be introduced to the membership.

For the last several years Ralph Cohen, Patricia Harkin, Vincent Leitch, Jeffrey Plank and Leroy Searle have served as Directors of the Society for Critical Exchange. The work they have done has shaped SCE. Now that their terms of office have expired, we would like to express our thanks and appreciation for their service to SCE.

Last December, three new Directors, Jonathan Arac, Don Bialostosky and David Shumway, were elected to SCE's Board of Directors and James J. Sosnoski was appointed SCE's Executive Director. This Spring, three additional SCE members were nominated by the Board as Directors for terms beginning in January 1, 1984 and ending in December 31, 1988:

David Bleich, Indiana University

Paul Bove, University of Pittsburgh

Jeffrey Peck, University of Washington (Seattle)

If SCE members wish to nominate additional candidates for the Board, they should submit to the Administrative Committee a letter of nomination and the nominee's resume together with a letter from the nominee authorizing her nomination and a letter of support from at least one other member of SCE. The deadline for nominations is September

1, 1983. They should be mailed to SCE, P.O. Box 475, Oxford, Ohio, 45056.

We hope that all of SCE members attending MLA will be present at the installation of Professor Cohen as President and at the various SCE sessions (see below).

UPCOMING SCE EVENTS

November
The Work of
WOLFGANG KULLMANN
Miami University
Oxford, Ohio

April
A Symposium with
JACQUES DERRIDA
Miami University
Oxford, Ohio

FORTHCOMING IN Critical Exchange

"The Institutionalization
& Professionalization
of Literary Studies"
STANLEY FISH
WALTER BENN MICHAELS
RICHARD OHMANN
DAVID SHUMWAY
SAMUEL WEBER

THE GRIP PROJECT

The centennial of the formation of the Modern Language Association in 1983 presents SCE with the opportunity to review the history of the profession of literature. In this context, the Group for Research on the Institutionalization and Professionalization of Literary Study (GRIP) has been examining the conditions of professionalization in English, French and Classics departments and in cross-departmental movements like American Studies and Comparative Literature. For the last two decades sociologists, historians and philosophers have been researching the phenomenon of professionalization. Though professionalization is an historical phenomenon and does not exist in all times and places, social scientists and intellectual historians have isolated specific patterns that professions take at particular historical moments. The papers central to the GRIP project are based on well-defined historical situations concerning literary studies which permit the investigation of the mechanisms of authority identified by the scholars who have studied professionalism in other areas. For example, one research unit investigates how the founders of American Studies (historians and literary critics) employed the concept of interdisciplinarity to create another discipline which in turn was replaced by a conception of interdisciplinarity sponsored by a rival group of scholars who (by incorporating the social sciences) successfully gained authority for the work conducted in their home institutions. By emphasizing particular situations the project avoids hasty generalizations about authority that ignore the material and historical pressures creating and transforming this authority. The GRIP project is a two year national inquiry into the professional and institutional nature of literary studies. About forty scholars from every section of the country and from several different disciplines are organized as a research group. Essays generated by the GRIP project will be published as "research in

progress" in various drafts of The GRIP Report that will be circulated among the GRIP researchers and will be the focus of some fifteen research meetings across the country in a two year period.

The result of the exchange of these drafts of GRIP "research in progress" will be that scholars from different disciplines sharing each other's work will produce a set of essays about ways in which literary studies has been influenced by the concurrent and parallel development of the professions and the American university system in the last century. The research design of the GRIP project is itself an innovative alternative to traditional literary research, since it is collective. The research results will be continuously evaluated by informed scholars both within and without the project. Our assumption is that these evaluations will lead to substantial revisions in the original GRIP research.

The first draft of The GRIP Report, constituted by drafts of investigations on GRIP issues, was distributed to the participants in the "Inaugural GRIP Research Meeting". At this research meeting we discussed with scholars from other disciplines and key members of the GRIP project how research into the institutional and professional conditions of literary study should be continued: what problems exist in the research of the contributors to the initial draft of the monograph, what questions should be pursued.

During this summer, the contributors to the first draft of The GRIP Report will revise their essays and the questions, expand the bibliography and rewrite the introduction. The GRIP staff will then distribute the monograph to all of the other GRIP members.

In the Fall of 1983 there will be a series of follow-up meetings in which the GRIP researchers will present their work in progress to various kinds of commentators. This series of meetings will begin with SCE's annual conference at Indiana University which will be devoted to the issues in the GRIP project. Prior to the conference we will distribute to all conference participants the

second draft of The GRIP Report which will include essays by all of the GRIP researchers. The first day of the conference will consist of a series of seminars in which these essays will be criticized. The second, third and fourth days of the conference will feature various kinds of exchanges between the GRIP researchers and commentators both within and without the GRIP project. This conference will be followed by SCE sponsored sessions at two regional MLA meetings (SAML A and MMLA) in which the GRIP researchers and their commentators will continue to criticize and revise their work.

In December of 1983 SCE will sponsor two sessions at the centennial meeting of MLA: one in which GRIP research will be assessed by GRIP commentators and a second in which the issue of authority in teaching literary criticism will be addressed. In addition, the Associated Departments of English (ADE) will sponsor a session in which the GRIP issues will be addressed by administrators, editors, and others whom these essays implicate. There will be two MLA sessions in addition to the ones already mentioned also devoted to the GRIP project (see below).

In the Spring of 1984 the GRIP members will convene once again at the University of Washington in Seattle to discuss final revisions of their research which will become the final draft of The GRIP Report. The following summer will be spent editing it. At this stage, Alvin Sullivan, the editor of PLL and Bruce Henricksen, the editor of the theory issue of NOR will do the final editing (submitting the essays to the readers of their respective journals). They will then publish selected essays in a double issue of PLL and in NOR in the Fall of 1984 and the Winter of 1985.

Schedule of GRIP Events.

April, 1983

1. The GRIP Report was distributed to the participants in the Inaugural GRIP Meeting.

April 14, 1983

2. SCE GRIP Session at the NEMLA meeting in Erie, Pa.

Topic: Authority in the Profession of Literary Study

Participants:

Paul Bove, Univ. of Pittsburgh

Susan Elliott, Clark Univ.

Karl Kroeber, Columbia Univ.

Stephen Carr, Univ. of Pittsburgh

James Sosnoski, Miami Univ.

May 6 - 8, 1983

3. The INAUGURAL GRIP RESEARCH MEETING was held in Oxford, Ohio, convening scholars who have studied professionalism and several key GRIP members.

Participants:

Jonathan Arac, (Engl), Univ. of Illinois - Chicago

Burton Bledstein, (Hist), Univ. of Illinois - Chicago

Paul Bove, (Engl) Univ. of Pittsburgh

Phyllis Franklin, (ADE), MLA

Jane Gallop, (Fr), Miami Univ.

Steve Mailloux, (Engl), Univ. of Miami

Jonathan Moreno, (Phil), George Washington Univ.

Steve Nimis, (Classics), Miami Univ.

Karlis Racevskis, (Comp Lit), Wright State Univ.

David Shumway, (Am St), Miami Univ.

James Sosnoski, (Engl), Miami Univ.

Sandra Stahl, (Folklore), Indiana Univ.

Gene Wise, (Am St), Univ. of Maryland

Summer, 1983

4. The revised first draft of The GRIP Report will be distributed to the GRIP members and other interested parties.

5. The GRIP Researchers participating in the Indiana University Conference will submit drafts of their essays which will be included in an expanded version of The GRIP Report. [August 26 = deadline for submissions.]

Fall, 1983

September 29, 1983

6. Symposium on the Institutionalization and Professionalization of Literary Study: At this meeting GRIP researchers will convene to discuss their papers in a series of seminars. (The program is in the planning stage. If you wish to participate, contact J. Sosnoski by phone [513 523 8574 (home)] before June 30)

Participants (tentative list):

Jonathan Arac Paul Bove Joseph Buttigieg Brian Caraher
David Downing James Fanto Patricia Harkin Kenneth Johnston
Steven Mailloux Larysa Mykyta Steve Nimis Richard Ohmann
Jeffrey Peck Dana Polan Karlis Racevskis Jeff Rider Michael
Ryan Henry Schmidt David Shumway James Sosnoski Richard
Spuler

September 29 - October 2

7. The Annual SCE Conference at Indiana University

Topic: Deciding What To Know:

The Professional Authorization of Knowledge in the Humanities

Dialogue Participants:

Burton Bledstein (History) Univ. of Illinois - Chicago

Laura Bornholt (V.P. for Higher Education), Lilly Endowment

Colin Evans (French), Univ. of Cardiff

Phyllis Franklin, MLA & ADE

Eleanor Leacock (Anthropology), Columbia Univ.

Richard Ohmann (English), Wesleyan Univ.

Hortense Spillers (English), Haverford College

Gayatri Spivak (English), Univ. of Texas

Jeffrey Stout (Religion), Princeton Univ.
Paul Strohm (Vice Presid. AAUP), Indiana Univ.

[Note: Several GRIP members not listed above will be participants in various sessions.]

October 28-30

8. SCE's GRIP Session at the SAML A meeting in Atlanta.

TOPIC: "The Institutional History of Literary Studies."

CHAIR: Steven Mailloux, Univ. of Miami

November 3 -5, 1983

9. SCE's GRIP Sessions at the MLA meeting in Minneapolis, Minn.

SESSION I

TOPIC: The Institution of Literary Studies

CHAIR: Patricia Harkin, Denison University

PANELISTS:

Michael Ryan, Miami University

"Rereading English:

Deinstituting 'The Heart of Darkness'"

James Phelan, Ohio State University

"Brilliant Originality Vs. Plodding Rigor:

The Problem of Validating New Readings"

Larysa Mykyta, North Carolina State University

"The Question of Power:

Authorization of Knowledge in Literary Studies"

James Sosnoski, Miami University

"Examining Exams"

Joseph Buttigieg, Notre Dame University

"The Myth of Marginality"

SESSION II

TOPIC: The Institution of Literary Studies

CHAIR: James Sosnoski, Miami University

PANELISTS:

Brian Caraher, Indiana University

"The Work of Discourse in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction"

David Downing, Eastern Illinois University

"Alienation and the Abuse of Authority

in the Establishment of Literary Disciplines"

David Shumway, Miami University

"The Discipline of a Profession

and the Profession of a Discipline"

Steve Nimis, Miami University

"Scholarship: Apparatus for Reproduction"

Jeffrey Rider, Wesleyan University

"R. S. Loomis and the Institutionalization

of the Study of Medieval Literature."

MLA Meetings: December 27-30

10. SCE MLA

SESSION ON CRITICISM

David Shumway, Miami University, is organizing and chairing a session on a GRIP related topic in which Stanley Fish, Johns Hopkins Univ., will coauthor a position paper with Walter Benn Michaels, Berkeley, to which Samuel Weber, Johns Hopkins Univ., and Richard Ohmann, Wesleyan, will respond. [The proceedings of this session will be edited by Prof. Shumway and published in CEx #15.]

11. SCE MLA

SESSION ON TEACHING CRITICISM

Sandor Goodhart, Univ. of Michigan, and Leroy Searle, Univ. of Washington (Seattle) are organizing a session on: "Teaching Literary Criticism: Problems of Authority." [Format: panel; no papers; discussion of set of questions circulated in advance; drafts of answers will be circulated prior to the meeting but not read.]

12. SCE MLA

SESSION ON DEPARTMENTALIZATION

Jeffrey Peck, Univ. of Washington (Seattle) has organized a session around the question: "Has departmentalization instantiated

national traditions of literary theory?" Patricia Harkin, Denison Univ., will chair the session; Larysa Mykyta, North Carolina State Univ., David Shumway, Miami Univ., and Jeffrey Peck will present papers.

13. GRIP RELATED ADE SESSION ON AUTHORITY IN THE PROFESSION

Phyllis Franklin, MLA & ADE, and Britton Harwood, Miami Univ., have organized a session in which administrators, editors and officers of professional societies whose policies and decisions shape literary studies will address themselves to the issues in the GRIP project.

14. ENGLISH PROGRAMS MLA SESSION ON THE GRIP PROJECT

Henry Schmidt, Ohio State Univ., and Jonathan Arac, Univ. of Illinois-Chicago, have organized a session on the GRIP project.

TITLE: "The Discipline of Literary Studies in America: A New Project for Collective Inquiry"

CHAIR: Henry Schmidt, Ohio State Univ.

PANELISTS:

Jonathan Arac, Univ. of Illinois-Chicago

"Is the History of Scholarship a Counterdisciplinary Practice?"

Patricia Harkin, Denison Univ.

"The GRIP Project: An Overview"

James J. Sosnoski, Miami Univ.

"Critical Protocols"

Paul A. Bove, Univ. of Pittsburgh

"The Theory of Collective Research"

Winter, 1984

15. The fourth draft of The GRIP Report will be edited. It will include revised versions of the initial GRIP research papers and commentaries, and a bibliography.

Spring, 1984

16. A conference at the University of Washington, Seattle, convening the GRIP researchers and commentators for a final discussion of the GRIP Project. After this research meeting, the GRIP members will submit a final draft of their papers.

Summer, 1984

17. Alvin Sullivan, editor of PLL, and Bruce Henricksen, editor of the Theory issue of NOR will select, group and edit specific GRIP papers for publication in their respective journals.

Fall, 1984

18. Publication of selected essays from The GRIP Report in PLL and NOR

Of Note:

THE FOUNDATIONS OF
CRITICAL PLURALISM

March 22-24, 1984

Univ. of Nebraska

Lincoln

Cosponsored by Critical Inquiry

Wayne Booth Kenneth Burke Donald Cushman Arthur Efron Bruce Erlich Stanley Fish Richard McKeon Andrew J. Reck Hayden White

Two papers may be chosen from submitted manuscripts. Sample topics: critical pluralism and the arts, the pluralism of one or a number of philosophers of critics, the fallacy of critical pluralism, critical pluralism from other perspectives. [Deadline: 15 December 1983. Send manuscripts to James E. Ford, Department of English, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68588]

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MODERN CRITICAL THEORY GROUP

M. C. T. G.

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PARAGRAPH

The Journal of MCTG

"The MCTG arose out of a need for theoretically-minded people in French, in this country [England], to get support and stimulation from one another, as we all work in Departments which are at best indifferent to our interests." [WRITE Felicity Baker, Dept. of French Lang. & Lit., University College London, Gower Street London WC1E 6BT, LONDON, ENGLAND for further information.]

SCE DEADLINES

- Aug. 12: "briefs" due at MLA office & SCE headquarters
- Aug. 26: GRIP papers for 2nd Draft of The GRIP Report due
- Aug. 31: Information for Fall issue of SCE N&N due
- Sept. 1: at large nominations for Directors due

REMINDER

GIVE AN SCE MEMBERSHIP FORM TO A FRIEND

SCE News & Notices

Any correspondence concerning SCE News & Notices should be sent to James J. Sosnoski, SCE N&N, The Society for Critical Exchange, P. O. Box 475, Oxford, Ohio 45056. We will be happy to announce events, sessions, projects and information of interest to SCE members in this newsletter. SCE N&N is published by The Society for Critical Exchange.

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