**RMMLA Slate of Candidates for Executive Board**

**Voting takes place in Dec 2021. Term Begins January 1, 2022**

**Vice President (Vote for One)**

**Marshall Lewis Johnson**, University of Nevada, Reno. I have been an active member of RMMLA since 2014. In that time, I have established two Special Topics panels on Narratology and Irish Studies, respectively. In the role of vice president, I would cultivate RMMLA membership in the present and future. As someone whose expertise is in Literature yet has taught First-Year Writing for my entire career, I want to help RMMLA move forward into a continuously hybridized version of the Humanities that has always been my passion. With years of past experience working with and being contingent labor, I also wish to more fully connect RMMLA with the labor issues our profession currently faces. The Humanities is not in crisis but presented with an opportunity to show broader communities what exactly it is that we offer. We create the myriad of ways we can imagine and understand the human condition. We teach, in the present in the classroom, and in the future through our research, how to be imaginative and curious and to ultimately view any border as malleable, not permanent, when it arises.

I finished my doctorate at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale in 2016. My research and teaching interests are 20th Century Irish Literature and First-Year Composition as intellectual cartography. I am drawn to Irish literature for it’s the interesting immediacy of boundaries but also the excitement with which that same literature often revels in the ability to imagine a nation anew and redraw these boundaries. In the classroom, I want my students to appreciate what it means to live with a sense of infinite horizons and to see borders as malleable, not permanent, when they do arise. My recent publications and book chapters include work on Oscar Wilde’s *Dorian Gray,* James Joyce’s *Ulysses,* and the 20th-century Irish *Bildungsroman.*

**Delegate-At-Large—Faculty (Vote for One)**

**Géraldine Fiss** (許潔琳) is an Associate Teaching Professor in Inter-Asia and Transpacific Studies at the Department of Literature at the University of California, San Diego, where she teaches modern Chinese literature and film, as well as East Asian humanities. Her work lies at the intersection of modern Chinese literature, culture, and film studies; comparative literature; women’s studies; and interdisciplinary studies in literature and the environment. She is interested in tracing the cross-cultural nexus of forces that influence literary, cultural, and cinematic production in modern China and throughout East Asia in the early modern, modern, and contemporary periods. In particular, her research illuminates the ways in which Chinese poets, writers, thinkers, and filmmakers synthesize modern Western (especially German) and non-Western impulses with classical Chinese aesthetics to create new, distinctly Chinese modern (and modernist) works and philosophical ideas. In her current work, she is focusing on modern and contemporary Chinese poetry and cinema, and the trans-cultural influences that inform these literary and visual modes. Her work has been published in *Chinese Poetic Modernisms*; *Frontiers of Literary Studies in China*; the *Routledge Handbook of Modern Chinese* Literature; and *A New Literary History of Modern China*. From 2016 to 2021 she served as member and chair of the LLC East Asian Forum at the Modern Language Association (MLA).

I would be honored to serve as Faculty Delegate at Large on the RMMLA Executive Board in order to contribute to, strengthen, and uphold the organization’s core mission: to foster the cultivation of languages and cultures, as well as the exchange of ideas in scholarship, teaching, and the humanities more broadly. I have been deeply involved in the RMMLA since 2003, have participated in many conventions in numerous amazing locations across the Mountain States, and have enjoyed organizing and chairing a long list of interesting, thought-provoking sessions. As a member of the Executive Committee, I would dedicate myself to continuing the incredible work that the RMMLA is accomplishing every year. In particular, I would like to help organize each year’s convention; attract new members from across the United States and around the world to join and participate in the RMMLA; and support the crucial work of *The Rocky Mountain Review of Language and Literature*. Since the RMMLA is an important intellectual meeting point for scholars and teachers in many different academic disciplines and geographic locations, I would endeavor to bring high-profile speakers to the convention, while making it possible for junior faculty and graduate students to attend. At the same time, I would also encourage members in different academic fields to engage in fruitful interdisciplinary dialogue, so as to expand the potential of intellectual inquiry and collaboration.

**Maria Mikolchak**, professor in the Department of Languages and Cultures at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota. I have been a faculty member at SCSU since 2001, so I just celebrated 20 years of service. My Ph. D is in Comparative Literature from University of South Carolina, and over the years I have taught various languages and literatures, based out of Languages and Cultures, Global Studies, Women’s Studies and English. I’ve been teaching Russian, French and German on a regular basis and once had a chance to offer Danish, a rare occurrence and now, unfortunately, not an option anywhere in Minnesota. My research focus over the years has been changing, but I’ve always been not only an enthusiastic teacher of languages, but also a learner. The most unfortunate situation with Covid inspired me to look for new ways to learn and I undertook a new project — mastering Spanish, with multiple options now open to learn online. Since the start of Covid, I’ve been taking classes in Spanish with a language school in Peru, once again being a student and learning from personal experience the pedagogies of teaching and learning a language online. I’ve found this very useful for my own teaching. My research focus thus moved from literature to pedagogies, and I am very excited about having a sabbatical next year, which will allow me to continue the research on language acquisition in particular.

 Over my entire career at SCSU, I’ve been a faithful attendee at RMMLA, presenting and chairing various panels and contributing to the journal. About ten years ago, I also served as a Vice President, President and Past President. My term partially coincided with my sabbatical, which allowed me to allot more time to this professional service.

I would like to apply for the Delegate at Large position at RMMLA in the upcoming election. I would like to serve since, after twenty years in profession and as many years as a RMMLA member, I believe I can bring to the board expertise and enthusiasm for the work that RMMLA is doing and once again make myself useful as a board member.

**Delegate-At-Large—Graduate Student (Vote for One)**

**Mary Sullivan:** I am a Graduate Teaching Assistant in the Spanish Master’s Program at the University of Wyoming. After earning my BA in Journalism at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, I built upon my skill sets while working at Tours at Guinness Travel Agency, Guatemala as an Assistant Manager of Tours, which introduced me to Eco and Cultural Tourism and Spanish. I studied Spanish linguistics at UNL and moved to Chile as an exchange student studying culture, (art) history and literature at the *Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso*. I developed an appreciation for the collective voice of the native communities within Chile and knew that this would be a reoccurring theme throughout my academic career. I worked as an English Teacher at the *Academia Politécnica Naval* on the Chilean Naval Base and returned to complete my BA in Spanish at UNL. My time as a Graduate Assistant at UW is well spent by teaching introductory Spanish classes, taking coursework, serving on the Arts and Sciences Central Committee as the Graduate Representative, actively organizing Spanish Club events, and attending conferences like the 2021 Wyoming Association of Language Teachers Virtual Conference. I dedicate most of my time to my thesis work, which is to analyze folkloric and eco-socio lyrics in bilingual Spanish-Mapudungun rap music and techniques used by the artists to promote kinship throughout the diasporic Mapuche community in Chile. My topic requires interdisciplinary research beyond traditional Spanish language and literature studies, and includes anthropology, anthrozoology, ethnozoology, history, eco-poetry, rap and folkloric music and sociology.

Throughout my undergraduate student, graduate student, and graduate assistant experiences, I have enjoyed talking to my students and peers about their thoughts and opinions regarding their program, college, and/or department. As a student, instructor, committee member and member of student organizations, I have obtained valuable insight into a range of diverse perspectives. My ability to relay thoughts, concerns, and suggestions that accurately represent those of a range of students with various perspectives, as well as my own perspective, would be beneficial to the RMMLA Executive Board to have insight to graduate student’s perspective and involvement and needs in the profession. As the Graduate Student Delegate, my voice and perspective will serve as a resource to contribute to advancing and achieving the goals of the RMMLA.