

MALCS NOTICIAS

Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social

Newsletter: January 2003



Letter from our MALCS Chair...



Over the past several years, the Coordinating Committee of MALCS has been discussing the need to rethink the structure and direction of MALCS to better serve the needs of our members and regions. This discussion has been primarily propelled by concerns raised at business meetings regarding communication, process, representation and budget concerns. As many of you know, limited representation from regions at our MALCS summer institute business meetings has been a constant concern. This often has made it difficult to address concerns and/or forge new directions.

Consequently, at the Summer 2002 Coordinating meeting in Berkeley we began an analysis and developed some recommendations that focus on organization models, governing values, and priorities to meet current and future needs. The following represents our discussion and is open to review and critique. This proposal will be discussed at length at the Annual MALCS summer institute in San Antonio, Texas. Please note that MALCS has been successful with the present structure, but we need to constantly reevaluate and explore how we can be more effective in this decade.

Currently, the by-laws state that the membership elects the chair, chair-elect, treasurer, membership coordinator, and secretary to the Coordinating Committee. Regions and caucuses elect their own representatives who also have voting status on the Coordinating Committee. Three other positions comprise the Coordinating Committee, the ex-officio chair and two other appointed positions that do not have voting status, archivist and the list-serve manager.

Given that MALCS was established within the context of social justice and equitable representation, we are concerned that the current model of regional representation does not promote a balanced system. For example, some regions are more populated than others, some regions benefit from ease of inter-state transportation and weather, and some regions include several states. In addition, regional representation has not produced an effective method to develop sustained leadership opportunities to serve on the Coordinating Committee. In the last several years we have had difficulty ensuring broad base representation because often region representatives are not at the annual symposium. Finally, we are concerned that those elected to the coordinating committees or caucuses often do not complete their terms by not attending meetings, etc.

We propose that the Coordinating Committee is reconfigured with:

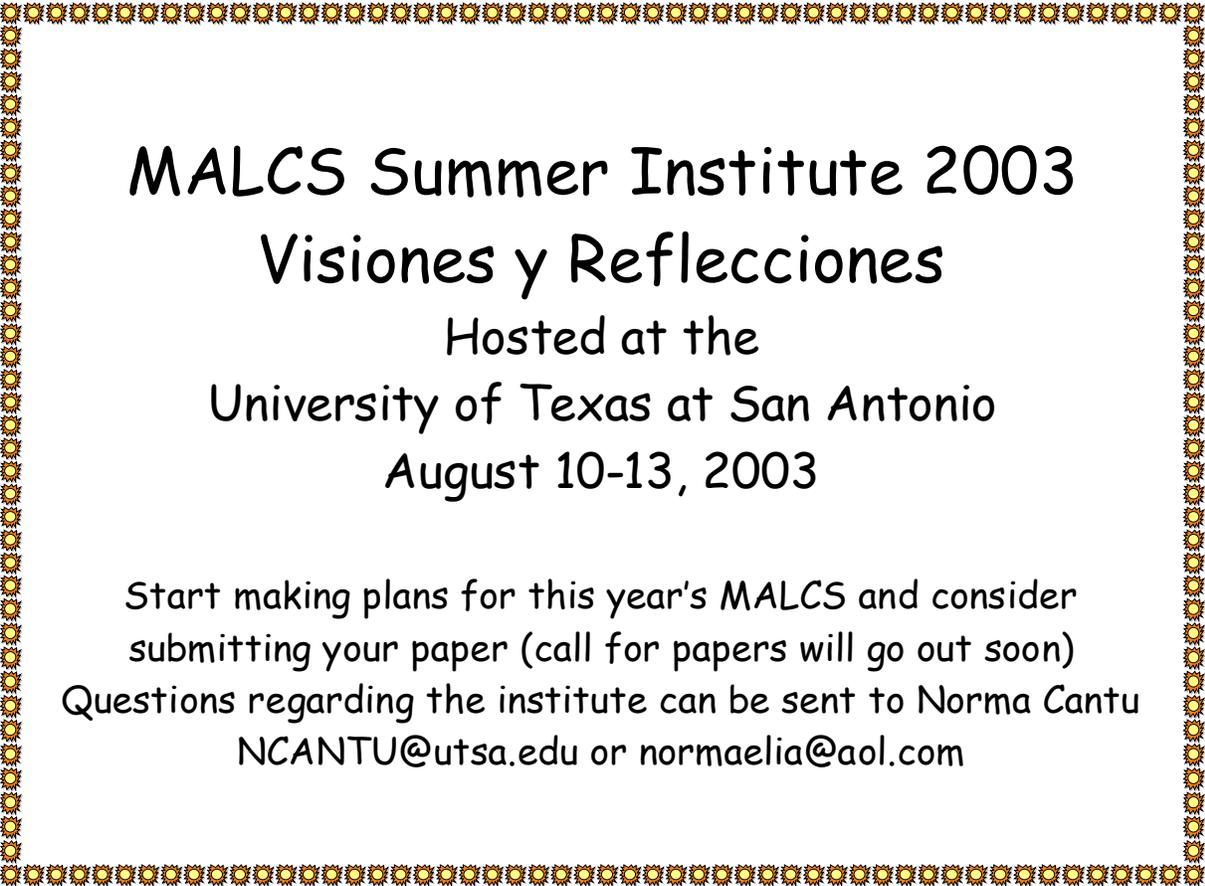
- 5 executive members comprised of the chair, chair elect, secretary, treasurer, and membership coordinator
- 3 caucus members comprised of: 1 undergraduate, 1 graduate, 1 lesbian which are each elected through student and lesbian caucuses

- 3 at large representatives, two elected at the business meeting of the Summer Institute; with 2 year terms, and one of them being a lesbian representative
- 1 ex-officio (tie breaker)
- 1 archivist, appointed by the CC

We believe this configuration of the CC will strengthen campus/institutional chapters facilitated by a representative/contact person and a sponsoring department faculty or staff person. The rationale for this change will give autonomy and flexibility to each chapter and will begin to establish consistency across institutions, within the broader context of the transformations taking place in higher education.

This is not a perfect proposal but we hope a starting point for a discussion to create greater solidarity and a better organization. This proposal is not meant to be divisive; instead it is an effort to garner thoughts about what is possible. We may come up with an entirely different model following the discussion. I hope each of you will join us in San Antonio to participate in this important discussion. MALCS has been instrumental in so many of our lives and careers. Your input is needed so that MALCS can continue to be an important foundation for those who follow us. Please feel free to send comments if you cannot join us

Rusty Barcelo
MALCS Chair



MALCS Summer Institute 2003

Visiones y Reflecciones

Hosted at the
University of Texas at San Antonio
August 10-13, 2003

Start making plans for this year's MALCS and consider submitting your paper (call for papers will go out soon)
Questions regarding the institute can be sent to Norma Cantu
NCANTU@utsa.edu or normaelia@aol.com



Join Us!

2002-2003 MALCS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Be a part of a great organization and a part of history. MALCS membership lasts from August to August. New memberships are accepted year round, but those received after March 1 will be members for the following year. You will not be added to the membership until your payment has been received. Members can obtain an annual membership card by including a self addressed stamped envelope with payment. Your membership includes the MALCS Newsletter published biannually, a registration discount for the Summer Institute, and inclusion in our listserv.

Last name: _____ First name: _____

Permanent address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ zip: _____

Home phone: _____

Campus/ mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ zip: _____

Work phone: _____

Email: _____

Please indicate your category and the amount paid below:

_____ \$10 Student/Community

_____ \$20 Assistant Professors/other occupations

_____ \$25 Associate Professors/administrators

_____ \$30 Full Professors/Executive Administrators

Please make checks payable to: MALCS

Mail form and check to: MALCS
1404 66th St.
Berkeley, CA 94702

Checks are sent to the Treasurer of MALCS, Lupe Gallegos (lupeg@uclink4.berkeley.edu) and then your membership information will be directed to the Membership Coordinator, Adriana Ayala (aayala@nhu.edu).

University of California, Santa Barbara
Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies
Chicana Studies Dissertation Fellowship

The Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies, at the University of California, Santa Barbara, invites applications for two Chicana Studies Dissertation Fellowships for 2003-2004. Candidates must be advanced to Ph.D. candidacy and expect completion of dissertation during fellowship tenure. In addition to completing dissertation, fellows will teach one undergrad course in the area of their expertise. The Dept. of Chicana and Chicano Studies is committed to assisting promising scholars complete the dissertation, prepare for university teaching and research, and achieve increased professional recognition and associations. We invite applications from candidates in the humanities, social sciences, and interdisciplinary studies whose research focuses on Chicana studies. The total award is \$20,000 plus benefits for a duration of nine months. Fellows are required to be in residence during the entire period and have highest priority for campus housing. To apply, send a cover letter (with date of advancement to candidacy), CV, description of completed and yet-to-be completed chapters of the dissertation, writing sample (approx. 25 pages), and 2 letters of reference to: Prof. Yolanda Broyles-Gonzalez, Dept. of Chicana and Chicano Studies/UC Santa Barbara/Santa Barbara, CA 93106. **Deadline for receipt of complete applications is 4:00 p.m. March 28, 2003.**

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Fellowship Corner Page 4



University of California, Davis
The Chicana/Latina Dissertation Fellowship

Fellowship deadline is in the spring. For more information, please call (530) 752-8882 or email clrc@ucdavis.edu

Feminist Editorial Practices: a proposal for the MALCS journal

Since the MALCS de-institutionalization in 2000, *Voces: A Journal of Chicana/Latina Studies* has been on hiatus. With the financial support of over two dozen *mujeres*, MALCS was able to produce the third volume that had been in production during the transition from the University of California to MALCS. We printed 500 copies of the double-issue volume and have sold approximately 280 to individuals, libraries, and bookstores. [Orders for Spring Quarter can be directed to Karen Mary Davalos]. Weekly inquiries about the journal (potential subscribers, contributors, and financial supporters) encouraged the Coordinating Committee and foundational MALCS members to look for a new home and create a sustainable infrastructure for the journal. We face new challenges with the complete fiscal responsibility of the journal (not to mention the fact that we will eventually need to determine a new name since the University of California owns copyright to the original journal's title) but we are excited about the new possibilities. MALCS expects to end the hiatus by November 2003.

Currently, I am leading an initiative to create a feminist editorial practice and process for the MALCS journal. At the NACCS 2002 Annual Conference in Chicago, I initiated a discussion of alternative methods, strategies, and lenses for publishing. The goal is to determine an operational plan for publishing that reflects, supports, and strengthens the mission of MALCS, a mission of mentorship, inclusion, and feminist theory and praxis. It is my premise that the content of a journal is not enough to qualify it as feminist (the editorial process must also challenge and transform patriarchy and other forms of oppression). Academic publication and circulation is dependent upon an exclusionary model. The rejection rate of a journal brings prestige and cultural capital. In addition, scholars and artists can build their reputation by destroying the works, ideas, and reputations of others. These western, patriarchal, and colonial practices and ideologies are embedded in higher education. Feminist practices in editing and publishing are fundamentally different. The creation of a feminist editorial infrastructure will allow MALCS to transform higher education by developing alternatives in academia.

In August 2003 at the Summer Institute in San Antonio, Texas, I will present to the Coordinating Committee and the Summer Institute participants a proposal for feminist editorial practices that can be used to guide the MALCS journal into the future. This is a collaborative endeavor and I look forward to participation from foundational members, new members, and potential members. Please contact Karen Mary Davalos at kdavalos@lmu.edu for questions, comments, interest, and support of this initiative.