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56th
Annual
RMMLA
Convention
October 10-
12, 2002
Scottsdale,
AZ



Arizona sunset (Photos courtesy of Scottsdale CVB)

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Report on 2002 RMMLA Convention

The 2002 RMMLA convention was held at the lovely [Chaparral Suites Resort Hotel](#) in Scottsdale, AZ, from October 10- 12, 2002. Our local hosts for this convention were the **Department of Languages and Literatures** AND the **Department of English** at [Arizona State University](#) in Tempe. We wish to thank David Young, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Arizona State University for his generous support of the RMMLA convention. The Local Arrangements Committee includes David W. Foster, Deborah Losse, Aleksandra Gruzinska, Hyae-Weol Choi, Mark Lussier, and OM Brack. Peter Lafford and Paul Estes provided audio-visual support. The Asian Pacific American Studies Program also supported the convention.



Native dancer

[Elaine Kim](#), Professor in the Asian American Studies Program at UC-Berkely and Associate Dean, Graduate Division, was the keynote speaker at this convention. In addition, [Ofelia Zepeda](#) of the University of Arizona, a McArthur Genius grantee, a poet, a nationally recognized specialist on the condition of Native American Languages in the United States, and the author of the only pedagogical textbook on the Tohono O'odham language, *A Papago Grammar*, was one of our guest speakers. Local Chicano/a writers [Alberto Rios](#) and [Margarita Cota-Cárdenas](#) were featured speakers and read from their works.



Hikers on Camelback Mtn.



Back by popular demand was **William Germano** from Routledge Publishers. Bill has published extensively (University of Chicago Press, *PMLA*, *Chronicle of Higher Education*) on the topic of scholarly publishing and gave a talk in our Publishing Forum entitled "Publishing the Academic Book: An Essential Survival Guide." **Maureen Smith** was back to give a very important session on "Interview Etiquette." Maureen is with Human Resources Development at the University of Idaho and brought a wealth of information to our members. On Thursday evening, members were invited to join us on a no-host trip to downtown Scottsdale to participate in [ARTWALK](#). Each night we showed a film. Our **Open Forum** (Friday) focused on "Curricular Change and Program Survival" and featured a panel of faculty members who have recently 'survived' major curricular reform in their departments. The **Graduate Student Forum** presented a panel of recent graduates who spoke on different career possibilities for English majors. Representatives from **ACLS** and **NEH** returned for two sessions to present valuable information on their grant and fellowship programs. **Michael Delahoyde** (Washington State University) and **Walter Tschacher** (University of North Dakota) offered a CV / Cover Letter Help Session. Bob and **Sura Rath** organized an open session on Tenure and Promotion. **Marjorie Lightfoot**, from Arizona State University, and members of the Readers Theatre Group performed a dramatization of Virginia Woolf's *The Waves*. The Women's Caucus Luncheon on Saturday featured **Dianne Wolfthal**, Professor of Art History at Arizona State University, who gave a talk entitled "The Woman in the Window: Gender and Spatial Topography in Images of Brothels." Finally, members took part in an excursion to [Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West](#) and the [Desert Botanical Garden](#) near Scottsdale. All in all, it was a great convention and we appreciated seeing so many of you there.