



NCSA 2017 President's Award

Susan Cook

Associate Professor of English, Southern New Hampshire University

Today's recipient of the NCSA President's Award has been a member of our community as a conference presenter, attendee, organizer and officer. She has moved quickly within our group from participation in a forum where she can mesh her own interdisciplinary interests to emerging as a leader within it, a quality that is evident in her service in other academic societies too. With diverse interests within and far beyond the classroom, she is a passionate, hardworking, and positive individual whose wit and drive further our Association. I am delighted to recognize the contributions of Susan Cook, Associate Professor of English at Southern New Hampshire University.

Heralding from upstate New York but raised mostly in Arizona, Susan completed her undergraduate and Master's degrees at Boston College before completing her Ph.D. at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Such geographic diversity reflects a personality that is open to trying new experiences and opportunities. She changed coasts to complete a postdoc at the University of South Florida before starting her career at Bemidji State University and settling at Southern New Hampshire University, where she has earned tenure and a reputation as a dedicated and effective teacher. I know (from witnessing her interactions with graduate students under her supervision) that she is also a generous and inspirational mentor. She has already served as Director of Undergraduate Research at her institution, assisting both undergraduate and graduate students into scholarly ventures and identities. Susan is, of course, herself a confident and successful Victorian scholar whose interests range from "Mapping Hardy and Brontë" published in a 2014 collection to recent work on "Reading Communities in the Dickens Classroom" in 2015. Dickens reappears in the titles of her publications and conference presentations as her central scholarly interest, but she also stretches into other Victorian era works and genres; she guest-edited, for example, an issue of *Literature, Theory, Interpretation* on "Literature and Photography" in 2013. Indeed, the eye, vision, and photography are recurrent interests in conference papers she has presented on topics ranging from *Dracula* to Sherlock Holmes, from Virginia Woolf to Irene Adler. Having presented papers at MLA repeatedly, it is no surprise that she now serves as a Delegate Assembly Representative for New England and northeast Canada. She has also presented her work consistently at NCSA and, finding the group to her liking, agreed to serve as conference organizer in 2015. To commit to running our annual meeting is no small undertaking, and Susan and the team made Boston a great success. At every turn, the care and thoughtfulness of Susan's efforts were both evident and appreciated. Her unfailing commitment to details brought us a program and abstract booklet that serve as a reminder of the excellent gathering she enabled. To then accept nomination to and win election as an officer of the group just underscores her commitment.

Susan is cheerful and open to change and to ideas; she has participated with us all in such efforts by striving for excellence consistently—and with good humor. I have reveled in those traits continuously, as we are in frequent contact about various Association matters throughout the year. I have come to rely on Susan for prompt replies and information, and she is also carefully considerate of enquiries and suggestions before offering a thoughtful response. Evidently, she is committed to our group and the work it does. Always professional and ready to work, Susan has been a pleasure to have as our Treasurer. She has cemented our financial management, and Susan has reviewed all our investments and balances in an effort to shore up our ongoing financial commitments, as well as to ascertain the possibility of increasing our awards. Her dedication to managing the fiscal affairs of our non-profit group is accompanied by full transparency of the accounts and their activities, which has helped those of us less fiscally capable to understand where the Association stands. She is a gifted organizer and leader and will, I trust, lead the Association forward as President in subsequent years. She is a pleasure to work with; Susan has moved our Association to grow and to sustain itself through its operations—and it is my pleasure to recognize her contributions to NCSA today with the President's Award.

Lucy Morrison
NCSA President
February 3rd, 2017