

NCSA 2013 President's Award

J. Andrew Hubbell

Associate Professor of English and Department Chair, Susquehanna University

From a boarding school to the well known Gettysburg College, where his love for literature emerged and was confirmed, this gentleman progressed through postgraduate studies at the University of Maryland at College Park, emerging as a leading Romantic nature scholar whose strong work and life ethics inform all parts of his research, teaching, and service. Whether he is talking about having a picnic with William and Dorothy Wordsworth at NCSA in New Orleans in 2003, or Byron's argument with Elgin in Messolonghi, Greece in June 2011 (or his talk about Byron here in Fresno later today), J. Andrew Hubbell's presentations are always worth hearing. With lively and informed prose, Drew's work explores the nuances of the complex texts and lives he is examining, and the ecological focus of his cutting edge scholarship is evident throughout. Drew's papers are also rich in meticulous and innovative research of cultural and social contexts. An eminently readable scholar, his articles have appeared in all his field's leading journals, ranging from the *Keats-Shelley Journal* in 2002 to the *European Romantic Review* in 2009 to the *Wordsworth Circle* and *Modern Language Quarterly* in 2010.

Drew is a very calming and logical presence; he rarely gets frustrated and is far too wise to express it openly when he does. A nature lover, he is passionate about humanity's interaction with the world around, as is evident when you explore an NCSA location with him, but as is also clear from his engagement in exposing students to different ways of thinking about nature, whether it is kayaking with the Outdoor Club or in the classroom at Susquehanna University, where his academic career took root in 2001. His colleagues there quickly came to understand his value to their enterprise, and he has earned tenure and then his colleagues' trust, obviously, as Department Chair since 2009; his colleagues speak highly of his leadership and administrative skills. Drew also served in the position of Newsletter Editor of the *John Clare Association Newsletter* as well as serving as a reviewer for various different journals in recent years. His contributions as a teacher should be noted too: he takes students on trips abroad as well as organizing an annual undergraduate literature and creative writing conference that draws in students from neighboring states as participants too. Such professionalization for his undergraduate students is something he obviously both nurtures and models.

Drew blames Rob Ryan for bringing him into the fold of NCSA, but Drew joined the conversations and quickly demonstrated that he wanted to be even more involved—he became a Board member in 2002 and served for six years in that role. He hosted the conference in Pennsylvania in 2007 and, being Drew, also applied successfully for grants to support the Association's efforts and ensure not only that the conference would balance its books but that it would also be rich indeed in its speakers and events. Drew's success in running the conference and his obvious administrative and mathematical talents set him up to be the Treasurer of NCSA, a post to which he was elected in 2010 and to which he has been reappointed again today, to my great relief. Drew has managed to streamline and update the ways in which NCSA's fiscal health will be assured in the future, consolidating and managing the fundamental investments of the Association in such a way that he can ensure our prize funding will be secure. His thoughtful devotion of time and talent ensures the Association acts responsibly in terms of its spending and record keeping, while his grace and quick wit make such meticulous business enjoyable. It is indeed a pleasure to be able to recognize the diversity and excellence of his contributions to nineteenth century studies with this award today and it is my pleasure indeed.

Lucy Morrison

NCSA President

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