

# SWOSU Student Honored at National Literacy Conference

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University senior English major Corey Mingura (left) of Hollis recently received high praise for a research paper he delivered at the William Gilmore Simms Symposium in Athens (GA). He was the only undergraduate student selected to present at the event. Pictured with Mingura is SWOSU Department of Language and Literature Assistant Professor Dr. Kevin Collins.

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Mingura's paper, entitled "'Cash is Conqueror': The Critique of Capitalism in Simms's 'The Western Emigrants' and 'Sonnet – The Age of Gold,'" pointed out the historical connections he had identified in Simms's poetry between the materialist ethics of 19th-century American capitalists and the forced removal of the Choctaw nation from their Mississippi homeland to Oklahoma.

The symposium featured the work of professional scholars from as far away as Germany and Japan, several prominent American scholars, and three advanced graduate students. Mingura's paper, however, was the only undergraduate work accepted for presentation.

The unanimously positive response to Mingura's paper was summed up by the symposium's director, University of Georgia English professor James Kibler.

"Corey's paper would have been significant if it had come from an established Simms scholar," Kibler said. "Coming from an undergraduate student, it can only be called miraculous."

Mingura was also invited to submit his paper—the product of 11 months of research and revision—for publication in *The Simms Review*.