

SWOSU English Professor Sworn in as President of National Literary Society

10.02.2012

SWOSU English Professor Dr. Kevin Collins is serving as president of the William Gilmore Simms Society. Collins has published extensively on Simms in refereed literary journals and recently produced a critical introduction in a novel (pictured) released by the University of California at Santa Cruz Press.

SWOSU English Professor Kevin Collins was recently elevated to the presidency of the William Gilmore Simms Society at the group's biennial conference at the University of South Carolina in Columbia.

Dr. Collins had served for the last two years as the society's president-elect.

The Simms Society is composed of scholars from universities across the country and around the world, including individuals from such prominent research institutions as the University of Georgia, University of South Carolina, Penn State University, Clemson University, University of Arkansas, University of California at Santa Cruz, Boston University and Indiana State University as well as universities in such foreign countries as Japan, Russia, and Northern Ireland. The group is dedicated to scholarly work on Simms, one of the most popular and prolific of American authors during the first half of the nineteenth century.

Collins has published extensively on Simms in refereed literary journals. In addition, he edited a new scholarly edition of Simms's novel, *The Cassique of Kiawah*, published by the University of Arkansas Press in 2003. More recently, he has produced a critical introduction for a print-on-demand electronic republication of Simms's *Vasconcelos* on *The Simms Initiatives*, a website sponsored by the University of South Carolina. This introduction was included in the paper version of the novel released this August by the USC Press.

Collins's upcoming publications include "How Sharp Snaffles Had His Cake and Ate It Too," an essay in *William Gilmore Simms's Unfinished Civil War*, a collection of studies on Simms's wartime and post-war writings scheduled for release next February by the USC Press. In addition, his new scholarly edition of *Vasconcelos* is scheduled for release by the University of Arkansas Press in the fall of 2013.