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The Center for Great Plains Studies is pleased to announce the formation of a new partnership with the University of Nebraska Press for the publication of Great Plains Quarterly and Great Plains Research.

The Center will continue to provide full editorial direction for both journals, while the Press will be responsible for the publishing and marketing of the journals.

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NOTES AND NEWS

2014 GREAT PLAINS SYMPOSIUM

The Center for Great Plains Studies announces that its 2014 annual symposium will address the issue of Drought in the Great Plains. The symposium is a collaboration with the National Drought Mitigation Center and the Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Institute, both at the University of Nebraska; it is scheduled for Spring 2014. During 2011 and 2012 we witnessed two of the worst Great Plains droughts in recent memory, a tragic counterpoint to the damaging floods of 2011 and a return to the stressful times of 1998–2006. Drought is a recurring pattern in this semiarid region, with severe droughts in the 1890s, 1930s, 1950s, and 1980s. Indeed, using tree-ring, lakesediment, and dune records, scientists have documented the periodic return of severe droughts; for example, during a period labeled the “sixteenth-century megadrought,” severe drought persisted for up to twenty years. On the basis of such evidence, some scientists have observed that drought was the dominant feature of climate rather than the exception. Drought has been and will continue to be a normal part of the climate of the Great Plains. Drought or the ever-present threat of it has had a pervasive effect on the region and its people. It has molded the region’s settlement patterns, agriculture, and commerce; stimulated innovation and new technologies; aroused conflict between agriculturalists and environmentalists; and fueled litigation between states in the region. Drought has shaped how the people of the Great Plains think of themselves and their region and influenced the culture, literature, and art they have created. Thus, there is increasing concern about whether the region will have sufficient water for its future, both for planned development and for sustaining the ecological services the region provides. Scholars from across the full spectrum of disciplines are invited to share their expertise and perspectives as the symposium explores all aspects, causes, impacts, projections, social and cultural consequences, and ramifications of drought.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The forty-eighth annual Western Literature Association conference will be held October 9–12, 2013, in Berkeley, California. The conference theme is Califia: The West Calling the World. The name of California derives from the legend of Califia, the queen of an island inhabited by dark-skinned Amazons in a 1521 novel, Las Sergas de Esplandian, by Garcia Ordonez de Montalvo. The “island” kingdom of California has been calling to the world ever since, a land of promise, myth, and dream, often a land of harsh reality. In addition to proposals on any aspect of western literature and culture, the WLA invites proposals on the West in general. Proposals may be for individual papers, panels, or roundtable discussions. Suggested topics may include but are not limited to the following: West Coast/Left Coast; California writers; Mark Twain; diversity and ethnicity in the West Gold Rush imagination; food and urban farming; San Francisco literary renaissance(s); Queer West. Submissions must include a 250-word abstract, name, affiliation, contact information, and audiovisual requests. Proposals for panels and roundtable discussions should include an abstract for each paper or presentation. Deadline is June 15, 2013. Submit abstracts or questions to Richard Hutson at WLAConference@gmail.com.
AIQ has earned its reputation as one of the dominant journals in American Indian studies by presenting the best and most thought-provoking scholarship in the field. AIQ is a forum for diverse voices and perspectives spanning a variety of academic disciplines. The common thread is a commitment to publishing work that contributes to the development of American Indian studies as a field and to the sovereignty and continuance of American Indian nations and cultures.
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Contact: gpr@unl.edu

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