The Ralph Waldo Emerson Society is pleased to present its 2012 Distinguished Achievement Award to Laura Dassow Walls, William P. and Hazel B. White Professor of English at the University of Notre Dame. Professor Walls is the author or editor of several books and articles on Transcendentalist authors, including Seeing New Worlds: Henry David Thoreau and Nineteenth-Century Natural Science (Wisconsin, 1995), Emerson's Life in Science: The Culture of Truth (Cornell, 2003), and, most recently, the award-winning Passage to Cosmos: Alexander von Humboldt and the Shaping of America (Chicago, 2009). With Joel Myerson and Sandra Harbert Petrulionis, she edited the recent Oxford Handbook of Transcendentalism (Oxford, 2010). For the project on which she is currently under way, a new biography of Thoreau, Professor Walls was awarded a Guggenheim fellowship in 2010.

Professor Walls earned her B.A. and M.A. at the University of Washington and her Ph.D. at Indiana University. Before joining the faculty at Notre Dame in 2012, she taught at Lafayette College and the University of South Carolina. Her scholarship has restored vital components of their intellectual foundation to American Transcendentalist authors—their identities as natural philosophers and committed members of a transnational, cosmopolitan society and culture. Working against the "two cultures" divide, she recovers the Transcendentalists as thinkers consumed with the ideas of nineteenth-century science, as authors who were not just familiar with but deeply immersed in the "very intimacy" of the material world and its theoretical underpinnings. Cued by Thoreau's acknowledgement that "every poet has trembled on the verge of science," Professor Walls examines the close alignment of the Romantic authors' thinking with the tangible, physical world. Thanks to her insights, Thoreau's copious phonological charts have become central to our understanding of his insistence on wildness; the importance of Emerson's visit in 1833 to the Paris Muséum d' Histoire Naturelle grounds her conclusion that Emerson "becomes a lens through which to survey the wider world of the meaning of science to readers and writers of the nineteenth century."

Leading figures across the disciplines attest to Professor Walls's success in achieving this manifest goal of re-joining the disciplinary chasm. Pulitzer-prize winning historian Daniel Walker Howe recognizes her for "bridg[ing] the worlds of science and the humanities with learning and sensitivity." Lawrence Buell calls for Passage to Cosmos to be "required reading for all students of nineteenth-century U.S. literary, cultural, and environmental history." Robert D.

(Continued on page 16)
2012 Emerson Society Donors

Emerson Society members continue generously to join at “water-marked” levels of membership. All donations above the $20 annual regular membership go to support special programs of the Society. Donations are life (Sustaining), (Contributing) ($30), (Regular) ($20), and Student ($5). Please send check payable to The Emerson Society (U.S. dollars only) to Todd H. Richardson, Dept. of Literature and Languages, University of the Permian Basin, Odessa, TX 79769-0001.

Life Members
Benjamin W. Andrews
Elizabeth Addington
Joel C. Bullock
Margaret Emerson Bancroft
Jerald B. Beck
Paul S. Christensen

Sustaining Members
Duane H. Cox
Sterling F. Delano
Mark Hicks
Michael J. Keating
Joel Myerson
Samuel K. Parish
Frank Martucci
Linck Johnson
John Miller
C. Jack Orr

Contributing Members
James Albert
Antonia Amore
Gary B. Arnold
Nelre Binker
Peter Balbach
Shui Burger
Bob Bouldin
Bradley Brown
Stephen Bosso
Charles W. Call
Courtney Cavagnal
Dana C. Cox
Robert F. Doobner
Leslie E. Eickel
Lauren Emerson
Karen English

ProSPECTS.

NEH Summer Institute on Transcendentalism and Popular Action, 2013

Life Member Sterling F. ("Rick") Delano sends us that he has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to direct a two-week Summer Institute on “Transcendentalism and Social Action in the Age of Emerson, Thoreau, and Fuller.” The Summer Institute will be held in Concord, Massachusetts, from July 7 to 20, 2013. A team of scholars have been selected to participate. Three Summer Institute courses are reserved for current full-time graduate students in the humanities. Community college faculty, adjunct faculty, and first-time participants are also encouraged to apply. A generous stipend is provided to participants. S.1. Scholars will stay at Concord’s historic Colonial Inn. From 2009 to 2012, Rick was Co-Director of the popular NEH “Landmarks of American History and Culture” program held each year in Concord, Massachusetts, so it’s fair to say that he has traveled a good deal in Concord. And the NEH Summer Institute held in July 2013 will have the opportunity to work closely with many distinguished colleagues who comprise the program faculty, among them Phyllis Cole, Robert Gross, John Matte son, Wessely Mott, Joel Myerson, Sandra Petelos, Laura Dawson Walls, and Leslie Perrin Wilson. S.1. Scholars will also spend time in the Special Collections of the Concord Free Public Library, and visit all the relevant literary and historical sites in Concord. Two days of the program will be spent in Boston at the Massachusetts Historical Society and on the African American Heritage Trail. For further information, visit www.neh.gov/projects/si-university.html, or contact Rick directly at sterling.delano@vilanova.edu. Application deadline is March 1, 2013.

Emerson Sightings/ Citings

Clarence Burley, transcendental scholar, has noted the commemoration of Emerson’s birthday in the Writer’s Almanac for May 25, 2012. Garrison Keillor quotes from the poem “Merlin’s Song” — “Live in the sunshine, swim in the sea, drink the wild air” — and notes that Emerson’s birthday is shared with fellow writers Ray mond Carver and Theodore Roethke. Read the full article at http://writers.almanac.publ ishers.org/index.php/ann2012/0525.

Bethany Stewart, an English Education student at Ball State University in Michigan, a group that goes by the name “Emersonians,” the organization was founded in 1919 as the Emerson Literary Society and has retained that name in honor of their “patron saint.” For a history of the fraternity and its connections with Emerson, visit www.howard.edu/student/life/greek/ emersonianhistory.html.

My friend and Ball State colleague Paul W. Ranieri spotted this Emersonian reference in a somewhat unlikely place: Chad Harbach in The Art of Fielding (Little, Brown, 2011) frames his narrative with the story of Emerson’s opening up the coffin of his first wife, Ellen (pp. 118, 489, 490). Harbach’s first novel, which blends university life, baseball, and multiple references to American literature and culture, has been well received by critics. In his acknowledgments he credits Robert D. Richardson, Jr., Emerson Sightings/Citings

1 From the President...

Our June 2012 board and business meetings in Florence, Italy were memorable not only for their stunning location but for several decisions that will strengthen the Society as we move into the third decade. The minutes printed elsewhere in this issue of ESP give the full story, but here are some important highlights:

• Expansion of our web presence. In addition to the biannual Emerson Society Papers, we continue to develop our web site at emersonsociety.org, thanks to the work of Amy Earhart, who succeeded in her first reception of the news that the “comparatively unknown of Lincoln” had been selected: “we heard the result coldly and sadly. It seemed too rash, on a purely local reputation, to build so grave a trust in such anxious times.” (xv-xvi)

From the President...
Prospects (Continued from page 3)

- Options for the delivery of ESP. Beginning with the spring 2013 issue, members may now choose to receive ESP either electronically as a pdf attached to email, or in paper form via surface mail. We encourage electronic delivery: it is faster, more environmentally friendly, and less expensive, as we continue to cope with rising costs of production and postage.
- PayPal option for paying dues. Thanks to our work of treasurer, Todd Richardson, members may now pay their annual dues electronically via our PayPal account, which digitally streamlines the process of both paying and depositing dues, especially for our international members.
- New membership goals. Our membership remains robust at around 200, but we have set an ambitious target: to double our membership to 400 over the next few years. Help us achieve it by recommending the Society to interested friends and colleagues, involving students in the Society, giving gift memberships, and encouraging your friends to renew their memberships with the Society. We will consider all gifts to the Society's library to subscribe to ESP. At $20/year, it’s an unheard-of bargain for libraries!

- Increase in dues amounts at regular and contributing levels. Though the cost of virtually everything else we pay for has risen in the past 20 years, Society dues have remained the same since they were set in 1989. In order to continue the good work of our awards program, to pay for printing/designing/mailing ESP, and to seek out opportunities like the Florence conference held this summer, the Board, the recommended and the membership agreed to a modest increase at the regular and contributing member levels. Beginning with the 2013 dues, regular membership will be $20/year and contributing membership will be $35. Sustaining ($50) and Life ($500) memberships remain the same, and we will actively welcome student members at just $5.

- Tax-exempt status. Like several thousand other non-profits such as ESP, the Society has applied for its federal tax-exempt status, with the generous assistance of an experienced tax lawyer. Further news will be forthcoming.

- Changes on the Board. We welcome two new Board members, Noelle Baker and Joseph Urbas, whose three-year terms will begin on January 1, 2013. Both bring with them years of experience in the Association for American Studies, as well as a wide variety of interests. Noelle Baker is an independent scholar, working on the Mary Moody Emerson and Thoreau editions; Joseph is a professor of American literature at Universite Michel Montaigne in Bordeaux, France, working on Emerson and philosophy. Many thanks to outgoing Board members Saundra Morris and Bonnie O’Neill for their energy and ideas.

- New editor of ESP. For the past year, our editor has been Jennifer Gurley, who brought the Society a new look and an increased focus on the Emerson Society. We are pleased to announce that Jennifer will be succeeded by Leslie Eckel, who will begin her term on January 1, 2013. Leslie has a Ph.D. in American literature from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and has published widely on Emerson and Thoreau. Leslie’s term will begin with the fall 2013 issue of ESP.

The annual business meeting of the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society convened at 8:15 a.m., June 9, 2012, in the Cipressi Room at La Pietra, Florence, Italy. Robert D. Habich presided.

- 2011 minutes approved
- Treasurer’s report approved. President Habich thanked Todd Richardson for his excellent work as secretary/treasurer.

Announcements and updates
- Annual award winners (for details see ESP p6, p12) a) Illinois Humanities Council (Community Project) b) Mark Russell Gallagher, UCLA (Research) c) David LaRocca (Subscription) d) Deanna Rohr, U at Albany, and Andrew Kopec, Ohio SU (Grants)
- James E. Finley, U New Hampshire (Packer Fellowship)
- 2013 trip to the Society's annual meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. The 2013 trip will be held April 4-7. For further information, contact the Society’s president, Robert D. Habich.
- Student members at $20/year (regular membership) will now be eligible for a special offer: a free membership to the Emerson Society for the next year. The offer is limited to new members who sign up before the end of the 2013-14 academic year.

- Members are encouraged to attend the 2013 trip to the Society’s annual meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. The 2013 trip will be held April 4-7. For further information, contact the Society’s president, Robert D. Habich.

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Treasurer's Report: The Ralph Waldo Emerson Society, Inc.
June 8, 2012

Membership and Comparisons (as of May 17, 2012)

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<td>Total membership</td>
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<td>Non-U.S. countries</td>
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Our international membership includes the countries of Japan, France, United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Australia, Canada, Russia, Spain, Turkey, and India.

Finances (as of May 1, 2012)

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<td>$ 28,115 Balance, May 1, 2011</td>
<td>$ 4,359 Current balance, checking account</td>
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<td>5,803 Credits</td>
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<td>14,875 Debits</td>
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<td>$ 19,843 Balance, May 1, 2012</td>
<td>$19,043 Current assets, May 1, 2012</td>
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Major debits for the year ending May 1, 2012, include our donation of $10,000 to the American Antiquarian Society for the Barbara Packer Fellowship, the Graduate Student paper award ($750), Sorbonne award ($500), Research grant ($300), contribution to the Thoreau Society for the 2011 Annual Gathering ($250), printing and envelopes for Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 ESP ($1,255), design and layout of Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 ESP ($1,000).

Credits for the four months ending May 1, 2012, include membership dues and donations ($5,575) and interest on savings ($46).

Additional notes:
- Total membership is up by 21 members—a very favorable development. There is a discrepancy between this figure and the 13 new members. Most likely this can be attributed to lapsed members returning to the fold and to new members who did not indicate on the membership form that they were new members.
- Our balance is down about $9,000 from last year. This can be attributed exclusively to our contribution to the Packer Fellowship. Aside from this one-time charge, our credits have increased for the year.
- Our affiliation with the West Texas Educators Credit Union has ended. I cashed in our CD held at that institution for the Packer Fellowship. We incurred a small charge ($23) for early withdrawal.

Respectfully submitted,
Todd H. Richardson, Secretary/Treasurer, RWE Society

Emersonians Gather in Florence for Conversazioni in Italia: Emerson, Hawthorne, and Poe

On a warm day in early June, three years of planning culminated in the international conference “Conversazioni in Italia,” cosponsored by the Emerson Society and our friends in the Poe Studies Association and Hawthorne Society. The conference was held from June 8 through 10, 2012, at La Pietra International Conference and Events Center, a 56-acre estate on the northern edge of Florence, Italy, overlooking the Tuscan hills. Some 120 participants from 19 countries and four continents participated in three days of presentations, shared learning, and good company, with musical performances, fine meals, a visit to the world-famous Uffizi art gallery, plenary addresses by Richard Kopley and Emerson Society Board member Dieter Schulz, and the occasional glass of wine. The photographs reproduced here can only hint at what was, for the conference’s participants, a thoroughly memorable event.

Sincere thanks to those Emerson Society members who were instrumental in the planning of the event: Sue Dunston, Jennifer Gurley, Dan Malachuk, and Todd Richardson.

A program is posted online:
http://web2.uconn.edu/transatlanticlit/Schedule.pdf
David Greenham discusses “Emerson and Europe” with panelists Andrew Sidle and Kristin Boudreau, and moderator Todd Richardson.

Jennifer Garlies, one of the Society’s members on the conference committee, introduces board member Dieter Schulz, who gave the closing address, “Transcendence: Emerson, Poe and the Metaphysics of the One.”

Some of the Emersonians attending the Florence conference gather on the grounds of La Pietra (photo: Sandy Mott).

Clockwise, from left: Masahiko Narita, Todd Richardson, Nikhil Bilwakesh, and Neal Dolan pause after their session “Emerson and Social Reform.” Moderator Yuji Kato and program chair Leslie Eckel relax after her presentation on the panel “Emerson’s Politics in Europe.” Past president David M. Robinson discusses Emerson’s philosophy with Heikki Kovalainen. Sandy Mott and past president Wes Mott relax near the Ponte Vecchio on Florence’s Arno River. Conference participants on their way to Villa Sassetti, the conference headquarters on the grounds of La Pietra. Brenda Yates Habich and friends on Florence’s Piazza della Signoria. Emersonians visit the tomb of Michelangelo in the Basilica di Santa Croce in Florence. Brenda Yates Habich, Sandy Mott, Todd Richardson, and Wes Mott. The Arno, viewed from the balcony of the Uffizi Gallery, where conference participants toured the collections.
Emerson Society Panels

at the American Literature Association, 2012

The Emerson Society presented two panels at the 23rd Annual American Literature Association Conference, which was held from May 24 to 27, 2012 at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco in Embarcadero Center. The sessions were ably (as always) arranged by Leslie Echek, program chair. Abstracts appear below.

SESSION I: Emerson and African American Writers, Friday, May 25
Chair, Richard Hardack, Independent Scholar

Emerson, Douglass, and the Politics of Private Life

BONNIE CARR O’NEILL, Mississippi State University

Drawing on theories of public and private spheres as well as analysis of the works of both Ralph Waldo Emerson and Frederick Douglass, the paper traces the political dimensions of Douglass’s claims to privacy. Douglass’s writings. He highlights the ways that the privacy Emerson values and his claims of privacy. Because it is earned through public action, Douglass’s privacy differs profoundly from the condition of the slave, whose existence is restricted to the master’s private sphere. Resting on his claim of public authority on his carefully protected privacy, Douglass’s work makes explicit the assumption of privilege in Emerson’s writings. He highlights the ways that the privacy values in not just a counterpart to public action but a privilege of citizenship and a sign of political legitimacy.

Emotions, Ethics, and Double Consciousness in the Work of Emerson and Du Bois

RYAN SCHNEIDER, Purdue University

This paper examines the role of affect in shaping the concept of double consciousness in the reform writings of Emerson and Du Bois. While I touch briefly on the intellectual origins of double consciousness (Hegelian philosophy, Lamarckian science, Jamesian psychology), my analysis is devoted mainly to the emotional discourse that gives this idea its shape and substance—and how Du Bois’s and Emerson’s respective strategies for articulating the affective qualities of doubleness (Hegelian philosophy, Lamarckian science, Jamesian psychology) justify the long delay between Fort Sumter and the Emancipation Proclamation by citing Lincoln’s arduous process.

SESSION II: Emerson and Lincoln, Friday, May 25
Chair, Susan Dunston, New Mexico Tech

The Emerson-Lincoln Relationship

JEAN M. MUDGE, Independent Scholar and Documentary Filmmaker

This paper explores how Emerson’s and Lincoln’s paths crossed over several years, beginning in the early 1850s, first tracing how each came to know the other, then following their relationship as it climaxed over the issue of emancipation after the two met at the White House in early February 1862. Both Emerson and Lincoln agreed about the need to end slavery but differed on its place and pace as a Civil War goal. At their meeting, each took measure of the other. Later, Lincoln could appreciate Emerson’s measured views on emancipation and his political savvy when his January “American Civilization” speech on that subject was published with a new coda in the April issue of the Atlantic Monthly. He also read Emerson’s Representative Men. Emerson cheered Lincoln’s public progress throughout 1862 as the president waited for a Northern victory to strengthen his hand before issuing a preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. Finally, Antietam’s Northern “victory” in late September gave him that opportunity. Emerson’s transcendentalist ideas as applied to slavery appear to have influenced Lincoln’s thinking, evidently his perspective, and perhaps even his expression. And thereafter Emerson promoted Lincoln at every opportunity, including a penetrating elegy for Lincoln after his death.

Lincoln, Emerson, and the American Representative Man

MATTHEW MCELLERAY, New York University

This paper situates Emerson’s 1850’s idea of the “Representative Man” within the context of the public address he delivered in Concord on April 19, 1865—just four days after Lincoln’s death. It shows how for Emerson, Lincoln became “the true history of the American people in his time,” and thus allowed Emerson to recast a singularly American version of what had previously been his own non-nationalistic idea. Drawing upon a little known fact of commemorative American history, the man responsible for the statue of Lincoln at Washington, D.C.’s Lincoln Memorial, Daniel Chester French, was also one of Emerson’s young protégés, the paper also explores the distinction between the private and public intellectual, arguing that the literary monument that is Emerson’s work secures a “infinitely private” mutability that does not seem available to the public works demonstrated by Lincoln’s presidency, or the cultural representations that have served to depict Lincoln.
My Giant Goes With Me: The Travels and Travails of Emerson and Thoreau

Nikhil Bhumikesh, University of Alabama

Is Walden, Thoreau rejects the hypothetical proposition of two young men traveling the world together, one without money and another with a bill of exchange in his pocket, seeing that "they would not long be companions or cooperate, since one would not operate at all. They would part at the first interesting crisis in their adventures."

While Emerson and Thoreau spent a great deal of time together, much of it walking, their long-distance travelling diverged. While Thoreau's circle of travel was much smaller than Emerson's, which ranged from California to Egypt, the ensuing writings that came from travel - A Week, The Maine Woods, Cape Cod, among many others - quantitatively and qualitatively distinguishes Thoreau from Emerson, whose English Prose is his only notable "travel" volume, and is, in fact, something of an anti-travel narrative. Emerson considered the noblest "magics" of travel to be great men, though he sometimes found those to be the ruins, as in the case of Worsworth, but he also travelled to make money, and he travelled with a reputation that preceded him and paid his way.

Thoreau's errands had other, more ambiguous ends. Sometimes they were at the behest of Emerson - to State Island to tutor William Ellery Channing, to Fire Island to retrieve the remains of Margaret Fuller, and at least apocryphally, away from jail and back into a Concord that immediately became dreadfully foreign to him. In a letter to Emerson, Thoreau advised his friend Harrison Blake to "live at home like a traveler, take advantage of all the advantages," to remain, as the Puritans would, a "pilgrim" without a terrestrial homeland.

The latter half of Time in American and East Asian Thinking are thematically extended process of ongoing transition, marked by the dynamic that "everlasting Now" is "inherently dynamic and progresses, as a temporal extending process of ongoing transition, marked by the dy


Flanigan, Gary. "Emerson's Democrician Pragmatics in Representative Men." Pp. 413-449 in Levine and Malachuk. [Emerson's pragmatism in comparison to William James and Oliver Wendell Holmes]


Fuller, Kristen. American Pragmatism and Poetic Practice: Crosscurrents from Emerson to Marianne Moore. Minneapolis. [Well-crafted and imminently readable study of the first six full-length biographies of Emerson]


Hahich, Robert D. Building Their Own Waldos: Emerson's First Biographers and the Politics of Life-writing in the Gilded Age. Iowa. [Intimate and well-written biography of Emerson's first six biographers]

Hohmann, David. "The Limits of Self-Reliance: Emerson and the 'Robust Soul.'" Walt Whitman Quarterly Review 28:122-140. [Emerson's idealism and his recognition of America's empire within]


Levine, Alan. "Skeptical Triangle? A Comparison of the Political Thought of Emerson, Nietzsche, and Montaigne." Pp. 23-36 in Levine and Malachuk. [Emerson's political thought in comparison to other philosophical thinkers]

Levine, Alan, and Daniel S. Malachuk. eds. A Political Companion to Ralph Waldo Emerson. New York: Columbia University Press. [Primarily interested in Emerson's early dealings with skepticism, based on a study of the late 1820-1830s journals]

Miller, John P. Transcendental Learning: The Educational Legacy of Alcott, Emerson, and Thoreau. Boston. [Emerson's early dealings with skepticism, based on a study of the late 1820-1830s journals]

Owls, Frank M. "Emerson Between Faith and Doubt." New England Quarterly 83:621-654. [Impact of Emerson and Emerson's early dealings with skepticism, based on a study of the late 1820-1830s journals]

Robertson, Susan L. "Emerson's English Tract and the Panorama of Empire." New England Quarterly 82:265-285. [Emerson's engagement with the political and cultural landscape of the United States]

Calls for Proposals

American Literature Association
The Emerson Society will sponsor two panels at the annual meeting of the American Literature Association, to be held in Boston from May 23 to 26, 2013. For information about the conference, see americanliterature.org. Members are encouraged to submit abstracts on the following topics:

Emerson and the Mechanism of Fame
The rise of “Emerson mania,” a phrase coined disapprovingly by the English Review, simultaneously inspired a new generation of young followers and raised the ire of the conservative Unitarian church, drawing Emerson into the limelight and eventually propelling him to fame. The Emerson Society invites new research on Emerson and the mechanism of fame, from the antebellum period to the present, and on Emerson’s core ideas about literary production, promotion, and publicity. Papers might address the multiple biographies of Emerson and the construction of his reputation to serve various intellectual, literary, and political interests. E-mail 300-word abstracts to David Dowling (david-dowling@uiowa.edu) and Leslie Eckel (leckel@suffolk.edu) by January 15, 2013.

Emerson and Utopianism
Emerson moved in utopian circles, keeping pace with the architects of Walden, Brook Farm, and Fruitlands, yet chose not to join a utopian community, telling George Ripley, “I think that all I shall solidly do, I must do alone.” The Emerson Society welcomes papers on Emerson’s ambivalence about utopian experimentalism, patterns of utopian language and thought in his poetry and prose writings, the competing demands of collectivism and self-culture, and his impact on utopian practitioners and social movements, including Thoreau, Alcott, Hawthorne, Albert Brisbane, Fourierism, and socialism. E-mail 300-word abstracts to David Dowling (david-dowling@uiowa.edu) and Leslie Eckel (leckel@suffolk.edu) by January 15, 2013.

Thoreau Society Annual Gathering
The theme of next year’s Thoreau Society Annual Gathering (Concord: July 11-14, 2013) is “Mystic, Transcendentalist, and Natural Philosopher to Boot.” The Emerson Society sponsors a panel at the Annual Gathering; the topic for 2013 is “Emerson as a Renaissance Man.” The Emerson Society invites proposals for brief papers that consider the interplay of Emerson’s many roles in public and private life: lecturer, friend, family man, individualist, essayist, journal keeper, traveler, minister, philosopher, mentor, reader, conversationalist. Papers also might address or interrogate his role in Americanist criticism as the leader of an “American Renaissance” movement. E-mail 300-word abstracts to David Dowling (david-dowling@uiowa.edu) and Leslie Eckel (leckel@suffolk.edu) by January 15, 2013.

Emerson Society Graduate Student Travel Award
This award provides up to $750 of travel support to present a paper on one of the Emerson Society panels at the American Literature Association annual meeting or the Thoreau Society Annual Gathering. Graduate students interested in applying should submit their abstracts by January 15, 2013 to David Dowling (david-dowling@uiowa.edu) and Leslie Eckel (leckel@suffolk.edu) and indicate their desire for consideration.

Laura Dassow Walls
Richardson Jr. credits her with no less than “chang[ing] an entire field of study.”

Laura is a frequent speaker on panels of the Emerson and Thoreau societies at American Literature Association conferences and at other scholarly venues. She also has a gift for presenting her remarkable findings to wide audiences, including the diverse group that assembles for the Thoreau Society’s Annual Gathering in Concord, Massachusetts. A couple of decades ago, it was common at the Gathering to hear Thoreauvians lament Ralph Waldo Emerson’s characterization of Thoreau; Emerson’s portrayal of his protégé in the famous eulogy, they believed, had delayed appreciation of Thoreau by a hundred years. Laura’s exploration of the rich sweep of the transnational Romantic project, and its manifestation in Transcendentalist Concord, has helped make clear that Emerson and Thoreau were uniquely accomplished thinkers and writers with a shared fascination with cosmic issues personally experienced. Thanks in large part to Laura’s example, Emersonians and Thoreauvians today enjoy civil explorations of these writers’ relationship and achievements. Professor Walls has served as the editor of the Thoreau Society’s Concord Saluter, on the boards of both the Emerson and Thoreau Societies, and on the editorial board of many scholarly journals, including NEQ and ESQ.

—Sandra Harbert Petrylak and Wesley T. Mott

For more information, see the story on the University of Notre Dame website: http://al.nd.edu/news/32828-english-professor-laura-dassow-walls-studies-emerson-and-science.