2015 CARA Meeting

The Annual CARA Meeting took place on Sunday, 15 March, after the close of the MAA Annual Meeting at the University of Notre Dame. Twenty-eight representatives of Associations, Centers, Programs, and Libraries gathered to talk about what’s going on on campuses around the country and to brainstorm about how we can help each other succeed. We said good-bye to outgoing CARA Chair (and Kalamazoo director) James Murray, thanking him profusely for his years of service to CARA and to the field, and welcomed our new CARA Chair, Anne Lester (Univ. of Colorado Boulder).

Chair: Anne Lester (2018), Univ. of Colorado, Boulder
Secretary: Lisa Fagin Davis (ex officio, Medieval Academy of America)
Executive Committee
Phil Adamo (2017), Augsburg College
Tom Burman (2018), Univ. of Tennessee, Knoxville
Lilla Kopar (2017), Catholic Univ. of America
Frank Klaassen (2016), Univ. of Saskatchewan
Mike Ryan (2018), Univ. of New Mexico (Director of Conf. Programs)
International Medieval Networks Representative
Simon Forde (CARMEN)

MAA at Leeds

If you’re going to be at Leeds this year, please join us Tuesday evening at 7 PM for the MAA Annual Lecture, to be presented by Sara Lipton (SUNY – Stony Brook): “The Vulgate of Experience - Preaching, Art, and the Material World.” Afterwards, join Executive Director Lisa Fagin Davis for the Medieval Academy’s open-bar wine reception. We hope to see you there!

CARA at Kalamazoo

As always, CARA had a strong presence at Kalamazoo. The two CARA roundtables were well-attended, addressing important topics and sparking lively discussions: What’s New in Digital Humanities and Medievalists in the Media.

The annual CARA Luncheon followed a new model this year. Each of the thirty-two attendees was assigned to a table at which facilitated discussions of various topics took place: Public Programming; International Collaboration; Curriculum Development; Funding; Libraries, Museums, and other Resources. Participants shared issues of concern and helped each other think about solutions and strategies. Some discussions have continued by email as participants follow-up on ideas and suggestions. Reports from a few of the moderators can be found on p. 2 of this newsletter.

We hope to have even more CARA Representatives in attendance next year. Please plan on joining us!
INTERNATIONALIZATION

The discussion on internationalization, attended by a dozen scholars from small and large institutions alike, fell into two equal halves. The first half focused on "study abroad" possibilities. Since students are opting more frequently for short-term study abroad, many go during the summer. The key issues raised concerned (i) the viability of getting large enough groups from within small institutions, and whether two or more similar institutions could work together for these short-term experiences; and (ii) the costs incurred by students and ways of minimizing the expense. In particular, the group wished to explore whether US institutions that already had bases in Florence or similar cities might make them available for other universities, as a means of reducing costs and maximizing use of their own facility.

The second half focused on international research collaboration, and particularly the chance for US institutions to piggy-back on well-funded European collaborative projects. While paying for salaries or staffing costs in US institutions was not possible, opportunities for funding were possible to enable one or more US scholars to attend all the project meetings, and for a US institution to be a designated specialist partner which delivered specific expertise. This funding could be significant and valuable. However, it did mean getting in at the ground floor onto these European-based projects, knowing the themes that would be funded, preparing the ground in the US, and using the MAA's offices as a go-between.

- Simon Forde, table moderator

BUDGETING AND FUNDRAISING

The discussion of budgeting and funding concerns was attended by representatives from larger, well-established programs as well as fledgling centers, a combination that made for a very productive discussion. The more experienced fundraisers were able to offer sound advice to those who were relatively new at the game. All participants came away with ideas for approaching Deans, Chancellors, and Presidents as well as outside donors. The discussion continued long after the luncheon had concluded, with email follow-ups and exchanges of document templates to be used in fundraising endeavors.

- Lisa Fagin Davis, table
Program Updates

The Medieval and Renaissance Studies (MARS) program at the University of Missouri oversees interdisciplinary minors at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and sponsors/cosponsors several MARS events during the academic year, including lectures, abstract workshops, reading groups, and social events. We currently have around 40 graduate and undergraduate students studying medieval and Renaissance material in our constituent departments, most of whom are earning the interdisciplinary minor.

In addition to our usual potlucks and coffee hours, we hold a semi-annual seminar on a topic that reaches across our disciplinary and chronological constituencies. In fall 2014 we continued this series with a very stimulating session on "Emotion," and followed it up with two well-attended and lively sessions on "Medieval Emotions: Affect and the Medieval Experience" at the 50th annual Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo in May 2015. We will announce the topic of our next seminar, which will be held during the fall of 2016, in the next CARA newsletter.

Our annual MARS lecture in April 2015, was presented by Dr. Lynn Ransom, Project Curator at the Schoenberg Database of Manuscripts at the University of Pennsylvania, on "An Open Access Project Before the Internet Age: Ernest Cushing Richardson's 'Union World Catalogue of Manuscript Books'.” Our next MARS lecture, in November of 2015, will be presented by Prof. Dimitri Krallis (Department of History, Simon Fraser University), on categories of nationhood in the medieval era. Prof. Roberta Krueger (French, Hamilton College) will speak on Saintré and gender in April 2016.

MU's MARS faculty are collaborating with faculty at other University of Missouri campuses. During the 2014-15 year, faculty and staff at MU's Special Collections and Department of Art History and Archaeology worked with faculty and staff from the departments of English, Chemistry, and the libraries at the University of Missouri at Kansas City on a project to use new non-invasive scanning technologies on incunables and manuscripts. MU and UMKC faculty also are collaborating with the Benedictines of Conception Abbey and Seminary in Conception, MO, and Mount Scholastica’s Monastery in Atchison, KS, to offer an intensive short course on Monastic Worlds, beginning in the summer of 2016. This course will incorporate traditional lectures, online tutorials, and experiential onsite learning to introduce students to medieval and modern monastic cultures.
During the past year Duke’s Program in Medieval and Renaissance Studies has continued to work on improving the public face we put forward on campus. We have found that we have to care much more about public relations in order to catch undergraduate students’ attention in a pragmatic “What can you do for me now?” atmosphere. Our PR efforts included placing professionally designed bookmarks in key spots around campus; taking out advertisements in the campus newspaper to publicize courses just before registration; revising our mission statement to be more compelling and justifying; and even directly e-mailing students who have taken MedRen courses to invite them to a free lunch at which they could learn about what our major and minor can indeed do for them. We offer over twenty courses each semester, and over a thousand students take a MedRen course each year (about 15 percent of the undergraduate student body), but getting the word out about the major and minor remains a challenge. We spoke to humanities advisors in the General College, clarifying why our major should attract students. We also revised our offering in the Duke Focus Program, a first-semester academic option in which students take courses and live together. The rather vague “Medieval and Renaissance Worlds” was updated to a format that we hope will connect better with student ambitions. The new “Lawyers, Scientists, and Merchants in Medieval and Renaissance Europe,” as we say in the cluster’s description, “introduces students to the roots of these disciplines, exploring the lives of far removed people while providing essential contexts for study of the modern world.” Thinking in terms of PR has forced us to be more intentional about attracting students; we can’t take for granted the value of our undergraduate program any longer.

Our graduate program remains strong, with over fifty affiliated PhD students from a dozen departments. Much of last year’s activity was centered on “Conversions: Medieval and Modern,” a five-year project funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and administered at McGill University, which has great potential to illuminate many aspects of medieval and early modern Christianity in revolutionary change, and in sometimes striking continuities across what seems a cultural revolution. Four scholars gave presentations for our “Conversions” lecture series: Andrew Escobado (Ohio University), Lee Manion (Univ. of Missouri), James Wetzel (Villanova), and Nicolette Zeeman (King’s College Cambridge). A “Conversions” working group, meeting throughout the year, engaged with readings and in conversation with the hope of fostering shared critical vocabularies and inquiries around this capacious topic. The grant also funded graduate student awards for pursuing research growing out of this activity.
The Mid-America Medieval Association (MAMA) had a typically low-key, yet successful year. Our 39th annual conference was hosted by the University of Missouri-Kansas City (the regular venue in odd-numbered years) on Saturday, February 28, 2015. Organized by Dr. Virginia Blanton, Professor of English at UMKC, on the theme of “collectivity and exchange,” the conference was one of our largest ever, requiring six concurrent sessions (for a total of 18 sessions) to fit in some 59 speakers, hailing from 19 different states as well as Poland and Croatia! Dr. Theresa Coletti of the University of Maryland offered a stimulating plenary lecture on, “Networks, Intertexts, Exchanges: Some Perspectives from Medieval English Drama.” Special pre-conference events included a lab demo of CODICES, an interdisciplinary book history & multispectral imaging project based at UMKC, and an open house at the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art Library, featuring the Karen Gould Collection of Medieval and Early Renaissance Manuscript Leaves.

The Jim Falls Paper Prize, given to the best paper delivered at the annual conference by a graduate student was awarded to Autumn Dolan, Ph.D. candidate (at the time, she is now Dr. Dolan—congratulations!) at the University of Missouri-Columbia for her paper, “Rise and Take Them from the Altar: Women's Devotional Exchanges at the Translation of Roman Relics in Carolingian Francia.” (photo of Dr. Dolan at left.)

In perhaps the most unexpected, yet welcome, news of the year, MAMA members voted (unanimously) to move the date of the conference from the last Saturday in February to a Saturday in mid-September, beginning with MAMA XL. Although the date will change, the location will be as tradition dictates: MAMA XL will be hosted by Emporia State University in Kansas on September 17th, 2016. All MAMA’s devotees who have ever driven or flown to the annual conference are thrilled to be moving away from what has traditionally been the snowiest weekend of the year in the central great plains!

In addition to our home conference, MAMA was a presence once again this year at the Annual Medieval Congress at Western Michigan University. MAMA sponsored a session at the ‘Zoo focused, as is also traditional, on the theme of our annual conference. Organized by Dr. Lois Huneycutt, Assoc. Professor of History at the University of Missouri-Columbia, “Collectivity and Exchange” included papers by Damon Kraft (A MAMA alumnus, now teaching at Kansas Wesleyan University); Stephanie Mooers Christelow, Idaho State Univ.; and a trio of colleagues: Michael Dietz and John Staek, College of DuPage and Matthew Shaw, Univ. of Missouri–Columbia. (photo at right: Damon Kraft presenting at K’zoo.)

(Photo Credits: Dr. Lois Huneycutt)
OU’s CMRS had slipped into inactivity but has been reviving itself in the past couple years. Elected as director in 2013, Joyce Coleman (English Department) has worked with her colleagues to create a website (cas.ou.edu/cmrs), revive the Medieval & Renaissance Studies minor, revise the MRS course-list, and involve the Center in various med/Ren-related activities.

The public lecture series organized by Prof. Coleman and Joe Sullivan (German), in cooperation with the university’s very successful Medieval Fair, has been brought within the CMRS’ bailiwick, while Prof. Sara Coodin (Letters) has launched a CMRS brown-bag series. The Center’s most notable programming achievement to date, however, is its successful application to host a copy of Shakespeare’s First Folio at the University of Oklahoma. The book will visit the university as part of a 50-state (multi-copy) touring exhibit (sponsored by the Folger Shakespeare Library, the Cincinnati Museum Center, and the American Library Association) in honor of the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s death. The CMRS is currently involved in planning events to accompany the exhibit in January 2016.

Granted, Shakespeare is not, or mostly not, medieval—but our success in this venture is getting us noticed by the College of Arts & Sciences, and as our profile rises and we build our CV, we hope to connect with sources of regular funding that can allow us, for example, to buy out teaching time for cooperatively taught MRS courses. A seat at CARA’s “Funding” table at the most recent Kalamazoo provided some helpful advice, support, the discovery that Lisa Fagin Davis is from Oklahoma, and even—thanks to Yale grad student Anya Adair—a dossier of sample begging letters (the *ars dictaminis* lives on!). We hope that within a few more years, the CMRS will be a well-recognized part of the intellectual and pedagogical life of the university.

Joyce Coleman
Rudolph C. Bambas Professor of
Medieval English Literature & Culture
English Dept.

**The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA**
Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies

Director: Thomas F. Madden
Associate Director: Thomas J. Finan

The first half of 2015 has been a busy time at the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Saint Louis University. As always, we hosted a wide variety of conferences, lectures, and symposia and promoted medieval studies in general across the humanities disciplines.

**Conferences:** On February 20-21 the CMRS hosted the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Illinois Medieval Association. Plenary lecturers for the conference were John Van Engen (University of Notre Dame) and Cynthia Robinson (Cornell University). Then, only a few days later on February 26-28, we hosted another major interdisciplinary conference, *Vesalius and the Invention of the Modern Body*. Timed to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the birth of Andreas Vesalius, the conference included paper presentations, rare book workshops, and even an anatomy demonstration with a real cadaver! Plenary speakers included Daniel Garrison (Northwestern University) and Sachiko Kusukawa (Cambridge University). Our Madrid, Spain campus was the site of our next conference, held April 10-11. *Religious Alterity and Political Power in Medieval Polities*, attracted a large number of attendees from many disciplines. Speakers included Nora Berend (Cambridge University) and Marina Rustow (Johns Hopkins University). We continue our long-standing partnership with Royal Holloway College, University of London to organize sessions at Leeds showcasing new research in Crusade Studies undertaken at our two centers. The CMRS funds graduate student travel to the Leeds conference.

The Third Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies will be held on campus June 15-17. It continues to enjoy steady growth, with many learned societies now organizing sessions, meetings, and
receptions. The plenary speakers for 2015 are Kenneth Pennington (Catholic University of America) and Ingrid Rowland (University of Notre Dame). Planning for the 2016 Symposium, which will be held June 20-22, 2016, is well underway. The 2016 plenary speakers will be Barbara Newman (Northwestern University) and Teofilo Ruiz (UCLA). More information is available at http://smrs.slu.edu.

Lectures: The CMRS has hosted many public lectures in the months since January. The CMRS Annual Lecture will be delivered on November 6 by Constance Bouchard (University of Akron).

Fellowships: NEH Research Fellows for 2014-15 were Alice Chapman (Grand Valley State University) and Christopher Gillett (Brown University). NEH Research Fellows in 2015-16 will be Nancy van Deusen (Claremont Graduate University), Brian Matz (Carroll College), and Isabel Mogollon (University of Delaware). Fellowship application information is available online at the CMRS website (http://cmrs.slu.edu).

Overall, 2014-15 was a highly successful year for the CMRS and medieval studies in general at Saint Louis University. The administration at all levels continues to support the Center and to make faculty strength in the field a priority. Currently, we have 66 full-time faculty affiliates of the CMRS – all specialists in medieval and early modern studies. In Fall 2015 we launch our B.A. in Medieval Studies. We are looking forward to further growth.

Medieval and Early Modern Studies at UMKC, 2014-15

We are delighted to announce the official birth of MEMS (Medieval and Early Modern Studies) at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. The program had a long gestation period, with several efforts over the years stymied by economic downturns, administrative shifts, etc. A reorganization of UMKC’s MALS and BLA degrees provided the opportunity to create both a graduate certificate and an undergraduate minor in Medieval and Early Modern Studies, allowing MEMS to have a place in the catalog and thus an official existence. Hoorah! MEMS includes faculty from the Departments of English, Foreign Languages & Literatures, History, and Art & Art History, as well as the Conservatory of Music; with Kathy Krause, Professor of French, serving as director.

Faculty obviously did not wait for MEMS to have official existence to be active in their fields. Indeed, in collaboration with faculty at the University of Missouri-Columbia, MEMS faculty received two major intercampus grants this past year. First, Virginia Blanton, with colleagues Reza Derakhshani, Stuart Hinds, Nathan Oyler, Jeff Rydberg-Cox (UMKC), and Alla Barabtarlo and Anne Stanton (MU) received a $95,000 interdisciplinary intercampus grant (IDIC) to further development of CODICES, a digital studio for the optical, chemical, and computational analysis of manuscripts, texts, and early printed books. The project began with an NEH Digital Humanities Start-Up grant to examine an incunabula of Pierozzi’s Summa Theologica. The IDIC
grant allows the project to expand to include three additional manuscripts and incunabula. See: http://daedalus.umkc.edu/CODICES/.

The second grant was awarded to MEMS faculty Virginia Blanton, Kathy Krause, and Linda Mitchell, along with Rabia Gregory, Lois Huneycutt, Anne Stanton, Johanna Kramer, Megan Moore, and Emma Lipton (MU) to develop an innovative, interdisciplinary cross-campus course entitled “Monastic Worlds,” which will involve both distance and experiential learning components, including a short-term immersion in monastic life at Mount Saint Scholastica and Conception Abbey. The course will debut in Maymester 2016.

MEMS faculty organized a public lecture and two conferences this past year. Co-sponsored by the Departments of English and History, and the School of Graduate Studies, and organized by Jennifer Frangos, Associate Professor of English, the Midwestern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies held their annual conference at UMKC this past October. In addition to the more typical paper presentations, the conference included a Regency Ball, co-sponsored with the Kansas City chapter of the Jane Austen Society of North America. On February 28th, UMKC hosted the 39th annual Mid-America Medieval Studies conference, organized this year by Virginia Blanton, Professor of English (see the MAMA report to CARA for more information).

Many MEMS students and faculty participated in the conference, giving papers, chairing sessions, and working the registration table. Finally (in chronological terms), on April 23rd, Dr. Gale Owen-Crocker, Professor Emerita of the University of Manchester and world-renowned expert on Anglo-Saxon textiles and dress, presented a very well-attended, fascinating public lecture on The Significance of the Bayeux Tapestry.

College of William & Mary Program in Medieval and Renaissance Studies

This year, the program had a transitional year, as Prof. Suzanne Hagedorn of the English Department took as Director, succeeding Prof. Monica Brzezinski Potkay, who became W&M's Assistant Dean for Academic Advising. In the Fall, Med-Ren co-sponsored the annual John Boswell Memorial Lecture, which brought Prof. Daniel Rivers of Ohio State University to campus to speak on "Sexuality and the Policing of the Family." During the spring semester, Med-Ren co-sponsored a symposium on Early Modern Germany, featuring Prof. Joy Wiltenburg, of Rowan University, speaking on "True Crime in Early Modern Germany" and Prof. Alisha Rankin of Tufts University, speaking on "Pharmacy for Princesses: Noblewomen as Healers in Early Modern Germany." The program also reached out to the local community, with the director presenting talks on "Geoffrey Chaucer and Scribal Culture" at a local high school and passing around quill pens, medieval ink, and fragments of a medieval chant manuscript.

During 2015-6 the Med-Ren program will celebrate the 25th anniversary of its founding and its minor; we hope to remember the program’s past and look to its future by bringing together the faculty who began it and program alumni at a spring event. In fall of 2015, we'll kick off a new monthly brown bag lunch series so that affiliated faculty can share research and teaching interests. Prof. Tom McSweeney of the William & Mary Law School will give the first presentation on "Magna Carta and the Fourth Lateran Council" in September in honor of the 800th anniversary of these events. Planning begins this summer for a new fall symposium on "Teaching the Middle Ages and Renaissance" aimed at local high school teachers. From October 16th through 18th, W&M's Institute for Pilgrimage Studies and the International Consortium for Pilgrimage Studies hold their 4th annual symposium on "The Interdisciplinarity of Pilgrimage Studies."
homecoming celebrations in October, the Med-Ren program will cosponsor the annual John Boswell Memorial Lecture; since this year also marks the 25th anniversary of Boswell's visit to campus to deliver a lecture on "The Abandonment of Children in the Middle Ages," in November, 1990, we will recall that event as well. Finally, the Med-Ren program will continue to work on outreach to the general public as the director teaches two six week courses on "Geoffrey Chaucer's Courtly Poetry" and "Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales" for the Christopher Wren Association, a local organization that provides classes for Williamsburg area retirees.

During the spring semester, the program will offer its gateway course "Introduction to the Middle Ages and the Renaissance" as part of W&M's new liberal arts curriculum. Two guest speakers will visit the course and deliver public lectures: Prof. Alex Novikoff of Fordham University, on "The Ars Disputandi and the 'Art' of Disputation" and Professor Anthony Grafton of Princeton University on "Traditions of Learning in the American Colonies," focusing on the alchemical interests of John Winthrop, Wait Still Winthrop, and Francis Daniel Pastorius.

The Center for Medieval Studies at Fordham (http://www.fordham.edu/info/23000/medieval_studies) currently serves 80 registered graduate student medievalists, 25 of which are enrolled in the Center’s MA program and four of which are working towards the Doctoral Certificate. We could welcome a new colleague: Dr. Sarit Kattan Gribetz, an expert in the history of Jews and Christians in antiquity with a focus on rabbinic literature, who joined the Department of Theology. This year also saw an impressive cohort of Medieval Fellows/Visiting Fellows working at the Center for a semester or a year: Nicola Bergamo from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris, Helen Birkett from the University of Exeter, Emma Campbell from the University of Warwick, Isabelle Levy from Harvard, Elena Putti from the University of Milan, Chelsea Shields-Mas from Suffolk County Community College, and David Wrisley from the American University of Beirut. (For more information on Fordham’s Medieval Fellows program, see http://www.fordham.edu/info/23062/fellows/4448/medieval_fellows_program.)

Two of the Center’s digital projects

CU Boulder CMEMS – CARA Update
https://cmems.colorado.edu

In the fall of 2015 CMEMS will host its Second Annual Conference on the topic of “Religion and (the Master) Narrative: An Interdisciplinary Conference on Medieval and Early Modern Belief and Practice,” 22-24 October 2015, on the CU Boulder campus. John Van Engen (History, University of Notre Dame) will give the Third Annual James Field Willard Lecture in Medieval History on the evening of October 22. Other plenary speakers at the conference include: Sarah Beckwith (English, Duke University), Kenneth Mills (History, University of Toronto/University of Michigan) and Nina Rowe (Art History, Fordham University). A full conference program will be available on the CMEMS website in late August. Over the course of 2015/2016, we will host several speakers in our invited lecture series, including Alexa Sand (Art History, Utah State University), Elisheva Baumgarten (History, Hebrew University), Leslie Lockett (English, Ohio State University), and Christopher A. Jones (English, Ohio State University). After a short hiatus due to research leave, our monthly newsletter Mirabile dictu! will resume publication in August.
recently went live: We launched our French of Italy TimeMap, now visible at http://frenchofoutremer.com/omeka/exhibits/show/french-texts-in-italy. This interactive map plots the creation of French language texts in Italy from 1250 to 1500, providing a visual representation of scholarship on these texts. Our French of Italy TimeMap will be introduced at the Keystone Digital Humanities Conference (http://sceti.library.upenn.edu/KeystoneDH/). The Center is also making the final adjustments and additions to the Oxford Outremer Map project, now visible at http://frenchofouvremer.com/omeka/exhibits/show/oxford-outremer-map/outremercontributors. The Oxford Outremer Map project features an interactive, research-enriched digital reproduction of a thirteenth-century map first created by famed chronicler Matthew Paris, along with project essays, exportable data, and a forum for scholarly discussion. This newly available resource will be of great interest to cartographers, paleographers, Old French scholars and those working on the literature and culture of the Holy Land. We will initially present the map at the St. Louis University Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies (http://smrs.slu.edu/schedule.html) and officially launch it with a symposium on April 9, 2016. In the upcoming academic year 2015/16, there will be four conferences of interest to medievalists at Fordham: The Symposium on Religiosity in Late Medieval and Early Modern Scandinavia (September 25, 2015), The Forty-First Annual Byzantine Byzantine Studies Conference (October 22-25, 2015), the Oxford Outremer Map Symposium, April 9, 2016, as well as the 36th Annual Conference, March 5-6, 2016: Manuscript as Medium, with plenary speakers speakers Jessica Brantley (Yale University), University), Kathryn Rudy (University of St. St. Andrews) and Andrew Taylor (University (University of Ottawa). The call for papers is here: http://www.fordham.edu/info/23072/conferences. (For information on any of those conferences, please refer to our homepage at http://www.fordham.edu/info/23072/conferences or contact medievals@fordham.edu).
Newberry Center for Renaissance Studies

Our annual medieval studies symposium this year will be on New Approaches to Medieval Drama, with a keynote address by Carol Symes, a roundtable discussion with Claire Sponsler and Susannah Crowder, and a staged reading of a new English verse translation of the Latin comedy, *Babio*.

We will also host one ten-week graduate seminar and three one-day graduate workshops on medieval topics ranging from manuscript studies to French poetry to Dante. Speaking of whom, our annual Dante lecture will be delivered by William Franke, on "Dante and the Inauguration of the Modern Era."

For full details of all our 2015-16 medieval, Renaissance, and early modern programs, and links to online registration, see [http://www.newberry.org/center-renaissance-studies-programs](http://www.newberry.org/center-renaissance-studies-programs).

The Institute for Medieval Studies at the University of New Mexico
(http://www.unm.edu/~medinst/) hosted its thirtieth Spring Lecture Series, “Earth and Heaven in the Middle Ages,” April 13–16. The event was attended by some sixteen hundred members of the public. The speakers and their topics were: Christopher Kleinhenz (University of Wisconsin), “Dante’s Vision of Earth: The *Inferno* and the Earthly City as the Land of the Dead” and “Dante’s Vision of Heaven: *Purgatory* and *Paradise* as Lands of the Living”; Benjamin Anderson (Cornell University), “The Throne of Khosrow: Cosmos and Empire between Antiquity and the Middle Ages”; Martin Foys (University of Wisconsin), “Medieval Maps and Their Unearthly Data”; Kristine Larsen (Central Connecticut State University), “Medieval Computing: The Astrolabe’s Contributions to Science and Religion”; and Laura Smoller (University of Rochester), “The Fault in Our Stars, or, the Medieval Two-Step on Astrology.” The program also included a concert by the UNM Early Music Ensemble, “Heaven or Earth? The Goal of Life in the Middle Ages.” John Lindow, Professor of the Graduate School at the University of California, Berkeley, was the Institute’s 2015 Visiting Scholar in Medieval Scandinavian Studies, teaching the popular undergraduate course, “Viking Mythology.” Lindow also spoke to a well-attended meeting of the Medieval Work in Progress Seminar on “Rethinking and Rewriting the Religion(s) of the Vikings and Their Forebears.” In late May, Institute faculty Michael A. Ryan (History) led a Smithsonian Institution tour of Spain and Portugal. Sarah Davis-Secord (History), a specialist on high medieval Sicily, will participate in the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute “Negotiating Identities: Expression and Representation in the Christian-Jewish-Muslim Mediterranean,” to take place in Barcelona during July. On June 15, Institute Director Timothy Graham will deliver a public lecture on “Magna Carta: The 800th Anniversary” to Albuquerque OASIS Group. The Institute will host next year’s meeting of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association,
The Research Group on Manuscript Evidence exists to apply an integrated approach to the evidence of manuscripts and other written forms across the ages. It is a small organization, without buildings or paid staff, so that donations in funds and in kind principally support the activities themselves. As a sort of university without walls, it is open to the academic and wider worlds, including established as well as independent scholars and others alike.

In 2014, we celebrated dual anniversaries, marking 15 years as a nonprofit educational corporation based in Princeton, New Jersey, and 25 years as an international scholarly society founded in the United Kingdom as part of a collaborative research project at the Parker Library of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. For its early years, the Group focused on a selected group of Anglo-Saxon and related manuscripts and their contexts. Based in Princeton since 1994, the Group has expanded the range of interests and activities, which our unofficial name reflects (‘Research Group on Manuscripts and Other Evidence’) and our newly updated website documents and illustrates.

During the 2014 anniversary, events took place at Princeton University, with institutional and individual sponsorship:

1) a symposium in May on “Recollections of the Past: Editorial and Artistic Workshops from Late Antiquity to Early Modernity”

2) a colloquium in November on “When the Dust Has Settled, Or, When Good Scholars Go Back . . .”

3) and a seminar in December on “Show & Tell: Medieval Manuscripts & their Photographs”.

As customary, we sponsor and co-sponsor sessions at the International Congress on Medieval Studies. In 2014, there were 7 sessions, and 5 sessions in 2015, both with sessions co-sponsored by the Societas Magica and the Center for Medieval and early Modern Studies at the University of Florida. For the anniversary, we began the tradition of co-sponsoring a Reception at the Congress, which continued also in 2015. Our website reports our Congress activities through the years, with the Programs of the sessions and the Abstracts of many papers — newly with a full index of the Abstracts both by Author and by Year.

In 2014, we began the upgrade and redesign of our website — a task more complex than expected. We launched the RGME-newsletter, ShelfMarks, available in 2 forms: the online version in concise email format (ISSN 2377-4118), and the downloadable printed version (ISSN 2377-4096) with more illustrations, layout according to our Style Manifesto, and our own copyright font Bembino.

In 2015, the Group joined CARA. In time for the 2015 Congress, the Group launched its new (WordPress) official website and archived its old (Drupal) site, still available online. Our Style Manifesto has been updated. Responding to requests, we issued the next Version (1.3) of our multilingual digital font Bembino, available for FREE here.

In planning activities, the Research Group welcomes suggestions for subjects, venues, hosts, sponsorships, and contributors. We seek contributions and donations of various kinds, along with announcements, reports, questions, and news for the Newsletter. Please visit our website and our Facebook Page, Subscribe to the Newsletter, and Contact Us with requests, proposals, and comments.

http://manuscriptevidence.org/
In the academic year 2014-15, the Center for Medieval & Byzantine Studies at The Catholic University of America organized a number of exciting events and hosted wonderful scholars, both junior and senior. In October 2014, we welcomed Dr. Danielle Joyner (U Notre Dame / Dumbarton Oaks) for a public lecture on medieval art, and organized very well attended professionalization workshops for our graduate students. In November, the Center hosted, for the second time, an international DH workshop on controlled vocabularies under the aegis of Project Andvari (www.andvari.org), an NEH-funded digital humanities project on early medieval art and material culture of Northern Europe. The project has resulted in fruitful collaboration between LIS students and faculty, our library staff, and various content experts in the field of medieval art, archaeology, and material culture, as well as in a crowd-sourcing app via MicroPasts (http://crowdsourced.micropasts.org/app/andvari/). The Center has taken on a supporting role in other new DH initiatives on campus as well (http://syriacheritage.cua.edu; CUA Day of DH in fall 2015), supporting collaboration across academic units and exploring new avenues of research.

The spring semester of 2015 started with a bang: In late January we hosted a “professional” medieval banquet, facilitated by Prof. Gail Gibson (Davidson College / Folger Shakespeare Library), an expert on medieval food and feasting. The banquet provided a hands-on learning opportunity for the whole community, from young children of students and faculty who played the role of servers to our associate dean, the guest of honor and queen for a night. Food was prepared according to authentic recipes by students and faculty, and entertainment provided by talented students, professors, and our clergy. Harnessing the considerable culinary talent of our local medievalists, the feast may become an annual signature event of the Center.

Snow storms in February forced us to postpone to the coming fall a much anticipated visit by Prof. Jay Rubenstein (U Tennessee), but we were privileged to host another distinguished historian, Prof. Miri Rubin (U of London) for a seminar and a lecture. She visited DC and CUA in connection with the Honoring Mary event series (http://honoringmary.cua.edu), co-organized by the National Museum of Women in the Arts and CUA (http://nmwa.org/exhibitions/picturing-mary-woman-mother-idea). The Center took on a leadership role in organizing a graduate student conference on the Virgin Mary, held at the NMWA and on CUA campus on March 20-21, 2015. It was a wonderful event that highlighted the reception and influence of Mary from Late Antiquity to the modern era, and sparked interesting conversations across disciplines.

Submitted by Lilla Kopár, Director of MBS
New CARA Affiliates

We welcome these programs that have recently become official CARA Affiliates!

IPFW Medieval Studies (Indiana University-Purdue University, Fort Wayne, IN)
Medieval and Early Modern Studies, University of Missouri, Kansas City
Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program, William & Mary College

Medievalists.net
Research Group on Manuscript Evidence

Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies, Univ. of Pennsylvania

For information on these and all other CARA Affiliates, see:

https://medievalacademy.site-ym.com/?page=CARA_Affiliates

See you at Leeds...