

M E M S

PROGRAM IN MEDIEVAL & EARLY MODERN STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2012



GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's generous gift provided the Program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies with its fifth productive and intellectually stimulating year in 2011–12. As in past years, the Crossroads lectures brought us impressive and engaging visitors; our colleagues and graduate students continued to undertake innovative scholarly work; and many participated in national and international conferences and arranged workshops with our partners in Berlin and London.

My tasks as director have, as always, proven both fun and manageable, made easy by the generous contributions of the MEMS “cabinet”: **Professor David Baker** (English and Comparative Literature, early modern), who chaired all the grant competitions for a second year; **Professor Jane Burns** (Women's Studies, medieval), who managed the Crossroads lectures and lunchtime colloquia for a fifth year; **Professor Marsha Collins** (English and Comparative Literature, early modern), who continues to promote and oversee our collaboration with King's College, University of London; **Professor Kathryn Starkey**, (German, medieval) who has led our partnership with the Freie Universität Berlin; and **Professor Brett Whalen** (History, medieval), supervisor of the minor. In addition to those specific tasks, the cabinet members have continuously provided me with essential advice and support. **Nancy Gray Schoonmaker** once again kept all MEMS activities on schedule, well advertised, efficiently funded, and hospitably managed.

A number of changes are now under way. After five years, our funding from the Andrew W. Mellon has reached its official end, though we have been granted two more years in which to expend remaining funds. As noted below, I will be succeeded as director on July 1 by the able and energetic **Brett Whalen**. The new director will offer my cabinet members a well-earned respite by appointing successors to them. We will also lose our invaluable founding director, **Kathryn Starkey**, whom we congratulate on her move this summer to a professorship at Stanford.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to direct MEMS for the past three years. This position has been a source of new learning and intellectual excitement for me, the kind of excitement that only broad, multidisciplinary awareness and intellectually engaging colleagues can provide. I owe hearty thanks to everyone who has

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The Program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies (MEMS) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill supports scholarly work that expands the traditional focus of Medieval and Early Modern Studies. Of particular interest are cultural contacts and exchanges within and beyond Europe: to Byzantine and Ottoman lands, to Africa, China, Southeast Asia, and Japan, and to the New World of the Caribbean and the Americas.

participated in MEMS's activities during my directorship, but I expect to continue to be involved in those activities hereafter, and to help find ways to sustain MEMS for future generations of faculty and students.



PLEASE WELCOME THE NEW DIRECTOR

I am extremely happy to announce that **Professor Brett Whalen** will become the director of the Program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies on July 1, 2012. He has already devoted a good deal of energy and time to this post, having become in late April the primary organizer of the upcoming conference on Anachronism/Achronicity, of which a report appears on page four, and the chair of a committee that has prepared a plan for the future of MEMS.

Brett Whalen works on Christian intellectual and cultural history during the High Middle Ages (c. 1000–1350). He earned a B.A. and M.A. from the University of Vermont, and a second M.A. and a Ph.D. from Stanford University. Among other topics, he teaches courses on the crusades, apocalyptic thought, and the medieval Roman Church. His first monograph, *Dominion of God: Christendom and Apocalypse in the Middle Ages* (Harvard University Press, 2009), explores the medieval belief that Christianity would spread to every corner of the earth before the end of time. Whalen's most recent book is a source-reader, *Pilgrimage in the Middle Ages* (University of Toronto Press, 2011). The documents assembled in this collection illustrate the far-reaching significance and consequences of pilgrimage for medieval culture, society, economics, politics, and spirituality, showcasing the ways in which pilgrimages inspired and shaped the experiences of commoners and nobles, men and women, clergy and laity for over one thousand years.

Professor Whalen is currently working on a brief history of the medieval papacy for Palgrave MacMillan, and a second monograph on mendicant missionaries in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Besides being an active member of the MEMS cabinet during the past five years, Professor Whalen has also directed the MEMS minor program, chaired the committee that developed a plan for that minor and for a major, and has directed the History Department's honors program.

THE WILEY ENDOWMENT

During the summer of 2011, **Senior Associate Dean William Andrews** generously proposed that as of Fall 2011 MEMS take over the use and management of the endowment for the Dorothy Ford Wiley Professorship of Renaissance Culture, established in 1983 by a gift from W. L. Wiley (Kenan Professor of French). Professor Wiley stated that the general purpose of his gift is “to further programs in the humanities” at the University and that the holder of the Dorothy Ford Wiley Professorship “be chosen from one of the following fields of scholarship: art, history, philosophy, language, and literature.” Preliminary discussions favored employing this funding to sustain the Crossroads lecture series and similar programs after the Mellon grant has ended.

With support from this endowment, MEMS was able this year to invite to campus a sequence of excellent visiting professors, two of whom offered lunchtime colloquia, had lunches and dinners with graduate students and faculty, and in one case lectured to a large undergraduate course in the Curriculum in Peace, War, and Defense. As noted in the report below, the Wiley Endowment funded lunchtime colloquia by independent scholar, historian, and cartographer **Svatopluk Souček** and **Ralph Bauer** (University of Delaware). **Claire Goldstein** (University of Miami) presented a lecture on “Visual Reading and Its Failures: The Comet of 1680” at the Carolina Conference on Romance Literatures. **Wendy Wall** (Northwestern), also visiting campus as a Dorothy Ford Wiley Visiting Professor, presented a keynote address at the King’s College/UNC-Chapel Hill conference on “Shakespeare and the Natural World.” Our decision to bring a sequence of short-term visiting professors this year enabled the Wiley professorships to increase the range of our explorations of early modern culture.

In the future, MEMS plans to draw upon this funding source to continue its mission of building bridges between UNC-Chapel Hill and other institutions. Rebranding the “Crossroads” lecture series, MEMS plans to host a premier “Dorothy Ford Wiley Crossroads” lecture each semester, bringing a leading scholar of premodern studies to campus. In addition, these funds will support annual “Compact Seminars.” Part lecture series, part colloquia, part workshop and mini-conference, these compact seminars will invite multiple scholars to the UNC campus for a stay of approximately a week, staging a series of interconnected events with a specific eye toward building ongoing relationships between UNC faculty, graduate students, and visiting scholars. In general, the program plans to take fuller advantage of the possibilities for building ongoing professional and intellectual links through its conferences, guest lectures, and compact seminars.

MEMS LUNCHTIME COLLOQUIA

On September 21, **Flora Cassen** (History, early modern) gave the first lunchtime talk of Fall 2011, which was organized by Carolina Center for Jewish Studies. Her topic was “The Last Spanish Expulsion in Europe: Milan 1565–1597.” MEMS Director **Darryl Gless** (English, early modern) shared his work in progress, “Ekphrasis and Religious Ideology in Spenser’s Legend of Holiness” on September 28. Rounding out the autumn colloquia was the November 9 talk by **Jessica Boon** (Religious Studies, early modern), who presented a well-illustrated talk on “The Mystical Science of the Soul: Medieval Cognition and Spirituality in Early Modern Spain.”

Reuven Amitai, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, started the Spring 2012 series on February 9 with “Mamluks, Mongols, and Franks: An Impossible but Necessary Relationship.” On February 29 independent scholar **Svatopluk Souček**, historian and cartographer, discussed “Five Famous Ottoman Turks of the Sixteenth Century.” **Ralph Bauer**, University of Delaware, was our guest on April 26; he spoke on “A New World of Secrets: Apocalyptic Materialism and the European Discovery of America.”


<p>MEMS Lunchtime Talk April 26, 12:00–1:00 Donovan Lounge, Greenlaw Hall</p>
<p>Ralph Bauer Dorothy Ford Wiley Visiting Professor of Renaissance Culture</p>
<p>A New World of Secrets: Apocalyptic Materialism and the European Discovery of America</p>
<p>Light Refreshments</p>
<p>MEMS.UNC.EDU</p>
 

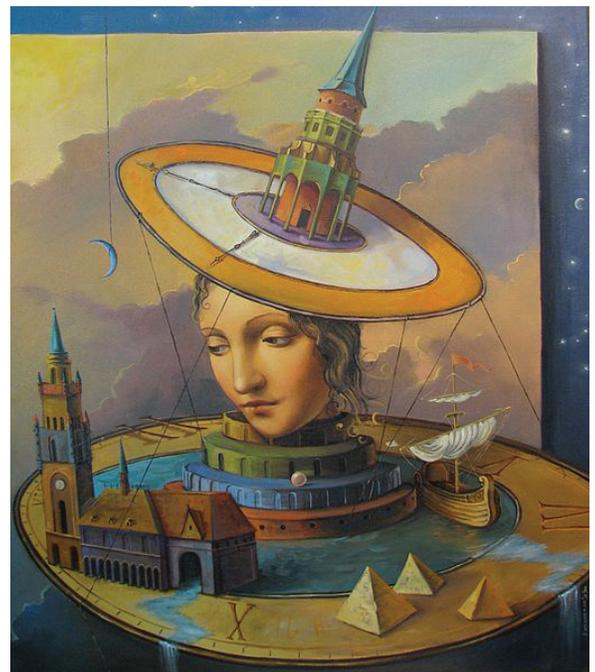
INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN AND KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

THE ANACHRONISM/ACHRONICITY CONFERENCE

Looking ahead to Spring 2013, planning is under way for “The Uses and Abuses of Time: Anachronism and Achronicity in the Premodern Era (1000–1700),” March 22–23, 2013.

This international conference, part of ongoing collaborative relationships between MEMS, Kings College London, and the Freie Universität Berlin, promises to create a dynamic venue for scholarly discussion about the manifold meanings of time within the framework of premodern studies. Keynote speakers will include **Professor Andrew Johnston** (Freie Universität) and **Professor Margreta de Grazia** (University of Pennsylvania). Conference information will be posted on our conference web page: <http://achronicity.web.unc.edu/>. (This site is still under construction and will be updated periodically.)



KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

“SHAKESPEARE AND THE NATURAL WORLD,” MARCH 30–31, 2012 IN CHAPEL HILL

Organized by University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill graduate students in English and Comparative Literature in collaboration with King's College London, the “Shakespeare and the Natural World Graduate Conference” explored the recent “natural turn” in Shakespeare studies. With the advent of ecocriticism and



posthumanist thinking, a “green Shakespeare” has begun to emerge. Conference panel themes included Rhetorical Devices, Language, and the Natural; Ecologies of Violence and Disease; Intellect and the (un)Natural Psyche; Posthuman Shakespeare; Female Forces; and Fantasy and the Supernatural.

A reception March 29 celebrated the exhibition “Nature and the Unnatural in Shakespeare's Age”

at Wilson Library, which was curated by UNC graduate student **Jennifer Park**. **Professor Mary Floyd-Wilson** gave a lecture to mark the occasion, “‘Maidens call it Love-in-Idleness’: Potions, Passion, and Fairy Knowledge in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.”

On March 30, **Gordon McMullan** (King's College London) delivered a lecture on “Cormorant: A History of Greed in Shakespeare, Marvell and Milton” and **Wendy Wall** (Northwestern University) spoke on “Recipes for Thought: Shakespeare and the Art of the Kitchen.”

HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITÄT, FREIE UNIVERSITÄT, AND UNC-CHAPEL HILL

In collaboration with MEMS, the project on the Transformations of Antiquity at the Humboldt Universität hosted a productive and collegial conference on May 11–13 this spring. The conference, titled “Zwischen Ereignis und Erzählung,” focused on conversion as a means of self-description and self-understanding during the Middle Ages and early modern periods. **Ruth von Bernuth** (German, early modern) of UNC-Chapel Hill was a primary organizer of the event, at which she, **Carmen Hsu** (Romance Languages, early modern), and **Darryl Gless** (English and Comparative Literature, early modern) presented papers. **Jonathan Boyarin** (Religious Studies, medieval) presented the conference’s plenary address.

A CELEBRATION OF THE CAREER OF UNC PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF HISTORY, JOHN M. HEADLEY

On November 11–12, 2011, MEMS and the UNC Department of History sponsored an impressively well-attended and successful conference titled “From the Renaissance to the Modern World: A Symposium in Honor of John Headley.” The symposium reflected the remarkable range of **Professor Headley’s** intellectual interests in a plenary address and three sessions devoted respectively to the Renaissance, Early Modern Intellectual History, and Global History. The event was organized and hosted by **Melissa M. Bullard** (UNC-Chapel Hill), **Paul F. Grendler** (University of Toronto, emeritus), **Lloyd Kramer** (UNC-Chapel Hill), **Darryl Gless**, and MEMS’s program coordinator, **Nancy Gray Schoonmaker**.



Professor John O'Malley (Georgetown University) opened the conference with a stimulating plenary Crossroads Lecture entitled “Art, Trent, and Michelangelo’s *Last Judgment*.”

There followed a series of fascinating scholarly papers by a select group of Professor Headley’s fellow specialists in early modern history, among them several of his Ph.D. students. The lecturers included **Ronald Witt** (Duke University), **John McManamon** (Loyola University, Chicago), **Constantin Fasolt** (University of Chicago), **John Jeffries Martin** (Duke University), **Kate Lowe** (University of London), **Jerry Bentley** (University of Hawaii at Manoa), **David Gilmartin** (North Carolina State University), **Peter Kaufman** (University of Richmond), **T. C. Price Zimmermann** (Davidson College, emeritus), **John Tomaro** (Aga Khan Foundation, Geneva), and **James Weiss** (Boston College). Panel chairs included **Valeria Finucci** (Duke University) and three of Professor Headley’s colleagues at UNC-Chapel Hill: **Jessica Wolfe**, **Katherine McGinnis**, and **Melissa Bullard**. John himself provided a response and closing comments, in which he presented, with characteristic frankness, an assessment of recent developments in the broad range of subfields in Early Modern European and Global History in which he has worked and on which he has exerted considerable influence. The symposium demonstrated that Professor Headley’s wide-ranging intellectual horizons and influence as both scholar and teacher have won him the admiration and affection of many accomplished scholars and students. Professor Headley has long been a firm friend and supporter of our MEMS program through the Ryan-Headley graduate fellowship that he endowed.

CROSSROADS: A MEMS LECTURE SERIES



The fall MEMS Crossroads Lecture on November 11, 2011 by **John W. O'Malley**, S.J. (University Professor, Georgetown University) served as the plenary for the Symposium honoring the work and career of John M. Headley. In his lecture, "Art, Trent, and Michelangelo's *Last Judgment*," Professor O'Malley presented a detailed and engaging discussion of how and why the Council of Trent developed its widely influential resolution governing the character and use of images in churches. Because Pope Pius IV was dangerously ill, and his passing would have required that the Council be re-authorized by his successor, the resolution on images was adopted in a flurry of fast-paced meetings. The French delegation, headed by the formidable Charles de Guise, brought to the Council a resolution on images previously developed at the Council of Sens. This resolution was the basis of the one adopted at Trent. Images were to be allowed in churches, could be venerated (but not worshipped), and should represent no "lascivia." The records provide no suggestion that Michelangelo's *Last Judgment* was ever mentioned at the Council. That resolution led directly, nonetheless, to the clothing of the nude figures in the *Last Judgment*, which had remained as the artist had created it for the previous 22 years.

John O'Malley's specialty is the religious culture of early modern Europe, especially Italy. The best known of his many prize-winning books are *The First Jesuits* (Harvard University Press, 1993), which has been translated into ten languages, and *What Happened at Vatican II* (Harvard, 2008). He has also edited or co-edited a number of volumes, most notably *The Jesuits and the Arts* (Saint Joseph's University Press, 2005), co-edited with Gauvin Alexander Bailey.



Sarah Kay (Professor of French, New York University) delivered the spring MEMS Crossroads Lecture on January 23, 2012. Her lecture, "Celestial Readings/Bestial Readers in Medieval Vernacular Bestiaries," drew on her extensive research into the manuscript tradition of medieval bestiaries, and Professor Kay discussed a wide range of texts and images. Medieval bestiaries were illustrated volumes of beasts, birds, and other creatures, often based on classical natural histories. The medieval accounts, while sometimes highly fanciful, were widely read and known for the moral lessons they provided. Professor Kay's remarks, however, focused on the complex relations between images of beasts represented on the manuscript skins of medieval bestiaries and the human readers, both medieval and modern, of those bestial images.

A specialist in medieval French and Occitan literature, Professor Kay is perhaps best known for her books on *Subjectivity in Troubadour Poetry* (Cambridge University Press, 1990), *The Chanson de geste in the Age of Romance: Political Fictions* (Oxford University Press, 1995), *Courtly Contradictions: The Emergence of the Literary Object in the Twelfth Century* (Stanford University Press, 2001), and *The Place of Thought: The Complexity of One in French Didactic Literature* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007). She has also edited and translated the Old French epic *Raoul de Cambrai*, published a critical guide to *The Romance of the Rose*, authored *Zizek: A Critical Introduction*, and co-edited a number of important collections of essays. Currently, she is working on a collaborative project entitled "Poetic Knowledge in Late Medieval France," which documents and analyzes the role of poetry in transmitting and shaping knowledge in the later Middle Ages.

MEMS WELCOMES NEW FACULTY



Cemil Aydin joined the faculty as Associate Professor in the Department of History in January 2012. His B.A. is from Bogazici University, Istanbul, his M.A. from Istanbul University, and his Ph.D. from Harvard. His first book was *The Politics of Anti-Westernism in Asia: Visions of World Order in Pan-Islamic and Pan-Asian Thought* (Columbia University Press, Global and International History Series, 2007). Aydin's interests focus on both Modern Middle Eastern and Modern Asian history, with an emphasis on the international and intellectual histories of the Ottoman and Japanese Empires—particularly the historical processes that shape transnational racial and civilizational identities, such as Muslim, Asian, African, and the historical roots of the contemporary world order, especially from the perspective of non-Western actors of the Muslim world and East Asia.



Brandon Bayne joins the faculty in the Department of Religious Studies in July 2012. He received his B.A. in History from Columbia University; his M.Div. in Church History from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; and his doctorate of Theology from Harvard University. He is currently preparing his dissertation, “A Passionate Pacification: Sacrifice and Suffering in the Jesuit Missions of Northern New Spain, 1594–1767,” for publication. The work centers on discourses of missionary death, native suffering, victimization, and violence in the Spanish colonial missions of North America. He also maintains research interests in borderlands and Latina/o religion, having published on the twentieth-century healer Teresa Urrea as well as the recovery and memorialization of Father Eusebio Kino. His teaching experience includes courses on American Religious History, Latin American Religion, Early Modern Catholicism, and Global Christianity.



Emma Jane Flatt joined the faculty as Assistant Professor in the Department of History in January 2012. She received a B.A. from Cardiff University in Wales in 1998, and an M.A. in 2000 and Ph.D. in 2009 from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Flatt studies mentalities and practices in the courtly societies of the Indo-Islamicate Deccani Sultanates of South India. She is preparing *Courtly Culture in the Indo-Persian States of the Medieval Deccan, 1450–1600* for publication. A second project concerns the history of the practices and philosophies of friendship and sociability in medieval South Asia and the way in which courtiers developed and maintained relationships with their peers, superiors, and subordinates. Flatt is also exploring the history of magic and the history of the senses in South Asia, particularly the cultural construction of the sense of smell in medieval India and its intersection with discourses of class, aesthetics, sociability, medicine, and the body.

Michael Silk, Professor of Classical and Comparative Literature at King's College London, one of Carolina's international strategic partner institutions, has been appointed an adjunct faculty member in the Department of English and Comparative Literature. Dr. Silk received his Ph.D. from Cambridge University, and is the author of *Sophocles and the Greek Tragic Tradition* (Cambridge University Press, 2009) and *Pindar's Poetry, Patrons, and Festivals* (Oxford University Press, 2007), among many other books and articles. Much of his scholarship focuses on drama and poetry, and he is currently involved in a collaborative study of the classical tradition in art, literature, and thought from the Middle Ages to the present. Silk also has a longstanding interest in jazz and is a jazz trumpeter. He has visited the Carolina campus in recent years, presented lectures and workshops, and currently serves as a reader on several dissertation committees.

FACULTY AND GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

FACULTY LEAVE



Carmen Hsu (Associate Professor of Spanish, early modern) plans to use her leave to write three chapters of her third monograph, *Kingdoms, Peoples, and Manners in Distant Lands: Chronicles of East Asia in Early Modern Spain*. The project has two major objectives, to redefine the corpus of “chronicles of the Indies” and to change and deepen our understanding of the early modern Spanish worldview. While the influence of Asia on the early modern Spanish psyche was profound, it has been largely overlooked by scholars. Hsu is examining the origins, events, contexts, and consequences of important sixteenth- and seventeenth-century

Spanish texts about Asia while being attentive to the medieval background of contemporary Spain, the aftermath of discoveries by Spanish navigators, and Spanish spiritual concerns. She studies the representations of China, Japan, the Philippines, and the Moluccas in five of the most relevant Spanish chronicles. Written between 1577 and 1619, they were produced by authors from dissimilar backgrounds: a soldier, an Augustinian missionary who never set foot in Asia, a senior judge in the high court of Manila, a noted poet and historian, and a Spanish merchant who resided in Japan. Thus the texts embody different aspects and concerns of Spanish historiography on recent geographical discoveries. Her monograph will be the first major work of its kind to be published in Spanish or English; no scholar before Hsu has made a sustained effort to study Spanish chronicles of the East together, comparatively, and thus to assess their significance for early modern Iberian historiography and literature.

THE DONALD GILMAN RESEARCH SUPPORT FUND



Wei-Cheng Lin (Assistant Professor of Art History, medieval), recipient of the 2012 Donald Gilman Research Support Fund, will be doing research into three kinds of “burials” in medieval China, those of relics, of corpses, and of images. His contention—that the more than 400 statues found in an underground crypt at Longxing Monastery in 1996, described with similar finds as “image hordes” by other scholars, were actually “burials,” in which the statues were buried as dead bodies—is based foremost on the fact that most of the statues were interred carefully, as in a ritual burial for the religious. Seeing an icon as a corporeal entity that could be enlivened and also die entails a reconceptualization of the divine in material terms, and this project will investigate the history and context of such a reconceptualization. His

preliminary research shows that medieval China was characterized more than one might expect by a “corporeal imagination” that helped the Chinese comprehend the unseen world and concurrently shaped the ways in which they understood the material world, and he posits a much greater fluidity between what was real and imagined, visceral and spiritual, as well as life and death. Lin will travel to monasteries and tombs to study burial sites, and to museums to document and photograph the artifacts, objects, and images they once contained. His ultimate goal is to reconstruct the burials that have previously been divided among different fields of study, and provide a more organic and coherent understanding of those burials in their historical and geographical context.

MEMS FACULTY RESEARCH SUPPORT AWARD



Jay Smith (Professor of History, early modern) is working on a four-chapter book on the genesis of the modern French scandal in the pivotal decade of the 1780s, *Scandalous Modernity: Politics and the Publicity Revolution of Eighteenth-Century France*, for which he will examine records of Gévaudan in Montpellier, and the archives of the finance ministry in Paris. The phenomenon of “scandal”—particularly the political scandal experienced as a media event—has not always been with us. Smith’s project will show how the modern scandal evolved, complete with the existence of a set of interrelated variables: an attentive audience, a sense of the distinction between private and public, suspicions about certain institutions or social types, and a media apparatus ready to direct sustained attention toward some notable event and eager to deliver sensationalist reports of alleged bad behavior. The emergence of a self-aware public, the growing appetite for political change, and a surging critique of both “despotism” and “aristocracy” made conditions ripe for new forms of political outrage. Then, in 1778, came the first French daily newspaper, the *Journal de Paris*. The heart of the book will be devoted to two episodes of the 1780s—the “Gévaudan Affair” of 1780 and the “Diamond Necklace Affair” of 1785–1786. In both instances, a public stood ready to watch and a tinderbox of tensions lay ready to ignite, but only in the later episode were the villains (courtiers and women in power) conveniently pre-identified and the press fully activated. In 1780 neither press nor public were quite sure how to respond when confronted with evidence of corruption, malfeasance, and abuse of power. By 1786, on the eve of Revolution, they were.

MEMS GRADUATE SEMINAR DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

Ellen Welch (Romance Languages, early modern), taught one of the first seminars created with funding from the Program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies. “Writing the Mediterranean: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on the Early Modern World,” first offered in Spring 2010, brought together graduate students from French, Spanish, and History. In Fall 2011, Welch taught the course again, in French, as “Ecrire la Méditerranée : Perspectives transculturelles (XVIe-XVIIIe siècles).”

The Program selected four proposals in Fall 2011 to receive funding to develop new graduate seminars in medieval and early modern studies. **Kathryn Starkey** (German, medieval) taught the first this spring (see story on page ten).

Tania String (Art History, early modern) will offer “The Tudor and Jacobean Portrait: A Theoretical and Practical Investigation” in Fall 2012. This course is made possible by an exciting academic collaboration with the North Carolina Museum of Art, which houses a select body of relatively unstudied portraits from the Tudor and Jacobean periods in English history (1485–1625). Students in Professor String’s seminar will learn about display and conservation of works of art in a museum setting and will conduct independent academic research into the portraits, gaining valuable art historical and museological skills.

The Tudor
and Jacobean
Portrait:
A Theoretical
and Practical
Investigation

Professor
Tania String

ART 768
Fall 2012
Tuesdays, 2-5

Students will research a group of relatively unstudied sixteenth and seventeenth century portraits, and gain valuable art historical and museological skills. A MEMS Seminar in conjunction with the North Carolina Museum of Art.



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MEMS GRADUATE SEMINAR DEVELOPMENT AWARDS (CONTINUED)

Sahar Amer (Asian Studies/Romance Languages, medieval) and **Jessica Boon** (Religious Studies, medieval and early modern) will offer the two remaining MEMS seminars under development in Fall 2013. Professor Amer's course, "Cultural Diversity in the French Middle Ages," will offer an introduction to medieval French literature with a thematic focus on French interactions with the Arab Islamic world from the eleventh to the thirteenth centuries. Professor Boon's "Spanish Religions: Peninsular and Colonial Encounters" will explore the medieval Spanish heritage of inter-religious conflict and cooperation among Christians, Muslims, and Jews that provided the framework for the encounter of *conquistadores* with indigenous peoples in Mexico, Peru, and the Philippines during the age of empire.

KATHRYN STARKEY: "ADAPTING ARTHUR: GERMAN MEDIEVAL ROMANCE IN ITS EUROPEAN CONTEXT"

Professor Kathryn Starkey's seminar, taught in Spring 2012, introduced graduate students to the German adaptations of familiar medieval Arthurian romances. Graduate students and advanced undergraduates specializing in German, English, Comparative Literature, and Duke Medieval Studies, plus two senior undergraduates (in Folklore and English, doing a focus in Medieval Studies), examined the romances comparatively, exploring the literary and cultural significance of the different adaptations of familiar material. As a MEMS seminar this course was deliberately interdisciplinary. Students from different disciplinary backgrounds were encouraged to bring with them their knowledge of other versions of these texts, including but not limited to visual adaptations and/or the British or Scandinavian traditions of Arthurian romance.

The goals for this seminar were to explore the idea of storytelling as a social and cultural practice in the Middle Ages by examining variation in the stories as they were transferred across languages and cultures; to investigate literature as one of several media in which aristocratic identity was fashioned and affirmed; to consider literature as part of a cross-cultural notion of courtliness that manifested itself in the literature but also the material culture of the Middle Ages; and to develop an understanding of a coherent corpus of medieval literary texts in their broader European context.

The seminar incorporated sessions at UNC's Wilson Library and a visit to the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore. These sessions focused on the material aspect of courtly culture, the visual representation of medieval romances, text and image, variation in the transmission of the romances, and the European context of the romance material. At Wilson, the students learned how to work with early manuscripts. At the Walters Museum's extraordinary medieval collections, **Christoph Brachmann** (UNC-Chapel Hill, Art History) provided a guided tour of the artifacts depicting scenes from the romance materials that were discussed in class. Visits by **Professors James Schultz** (UCLA, German medieval) and **Jane Burns** (UNC-Chapel Hill, French medieval) provided the class with current scholarly perspectives on one of the overarching themes of this semester: the intersection of gender and courtly culture.

MEMS FACULTY CONFERENCE TRAVEL AWARDS

The Program in MEMS provided funding for eleven colleagues to travel, many of them to international locations, to present papers this year. The recipients of Conference Travel Awards were **Glaire Anderson** (Art History, medieval), **Hassan Melehy** (Romance Languages/French, early modern), **Ellen Welch** (Romance Languages/French, early modern), **Jonathan Boyarin** (Religious Studies, medieval and early modern), **Carmen Hsu** (Art History, early modern), **Jessica Boon** (Religious Studies, medieval and early modern), **Anne MacNeil** (Music, early modern), **Megan Matchinske** (English and Comparative Literature, early modern), **Jessica Wolfe** (English and Comparative Literature, early modern), **Brett Whalen** (History, medieval), and **Tania String** (Art History, early modern).

MEMS GRADUATE STUDENT DISSERTATION AWARDS



Jennifer Kosmin (History, early modern) will use her award to sustain focused and full-time dissertation writing in Fall 2012. Kosmin is exploring the knowledge and practice of midwifery in northern Italy from roughly 1600 to 1800 to better understand shifts in the management of sexuality and reproduction. Over the course of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the professionalization of medical practice and the extension of that practice into traditional spaces profoundly altered the ways in which childbirth was understood and embodied. In Italy, rather than maneuvering to usurp women's place in the birthing room, male authorities aimed their efforts at professionalizing female midwives through new courses of instruction and clinical training. By the mid-

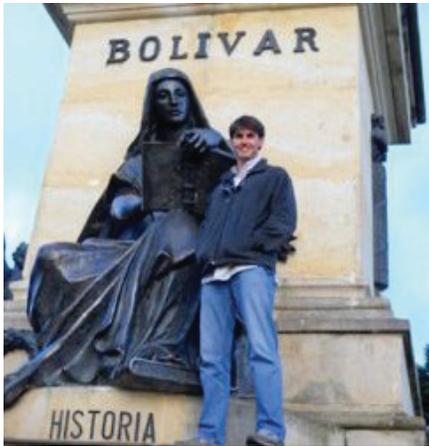
eighteenth century, a handful of Italian hospitals incorporated small maternity wards staffed by midwives, thereby merging Enlightenment-era reform efforts with a new scientific emphasis on clinical education. While some officials saw the management of reproduction and female honor as something that fell increasingly within the State's purview, many remained ambivalent about loosening the traditional religious and community bonds that had long regulated these relationships.



Tehseen Thaver (Religious Studies, medieval) is studying what the Qur'an has been interpreted to mean by Muslims over the span of its fourteen-hundred-year history, a topic that has received surprisingly little attention in Euro-American scholarship. Her dissertation examines what is arguably the earliest Arabic treatise on the literary function of metaphor in Qur'an interpretation, *Haqa'iq al-Ta'wil fi Mutashabihat al-Tanzil*, (literally, *Discovered Truths in Revealed Ambiguities*). Author Sharif al-Radi (d. 1015 C.E.), a prominent Shi'i theologian, poet, and historian of Baghdad, employed the literary device of "metaphor" as the primary tool for determining the meaning of ambiguous verses of the Qur'an. The author justifies his definition of "metaphor" on the basis of its

evidence and use in oral Arabic poetry at the time. Composed in Baghdad, this text belongs to a rich tradition of intellectual debate in a flourishing climate of rationalist discourse patronized by the ruling Shi'i Buyid dynasty (945 C.E.–1055 C.E.). Radi's interpretive scheme of explaining fundamental theological teachings of the Qur'an through metaphor departed from previously dominant trends of interpretation that focused on the authoritative sayings of past teachers. Thaver plans visits to libraries in Toronto and Princeton this summer to consult important manuscripts in both Arabic and Persian on Qur'anic interpretation and Shi'ism, and this award will allow her to spend the fall semester drafting two major chapters of her dissertation.

MEMS GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS



Justin Blanton (English, early modern) will conduct much of the research funded by this award at the Archivo y Biblioteca Nacional de Bolivia in Sucre, which holds colonial-era sources related to the region's Jesuit missions that are unavailable outside Bolivia. Throughout the colonial period in Spanish America, Europeans reduced diverse indigenous populations under the juridical designation 'indio', which eventually became an overarching ethnic category. During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, Spanish colonists used the term 'Chiquitos' to consolidate a number of distinct ethnic and linguistic groups living in the subtropical lowlands region of Chiquitanía in what is modern-day southeastern Bolivia. In the early years of Jesuit evangelization in Chiquitanía, missionaries sought new converts through multiple forays into native territories that gathered different groups speaking distinct languages into mission communities. Through this process, the Chiquitos became an ethnic group that persists today. Blanton hopes to discover how the region's indigenous peoples constructed their own ethnic identities as they adapted to colonial transformations of the local landscape, mission culture, and the experience of Spanish colonialism that restructured the cultures of these native peoples.

Allison Fox (Art History, medieval) is working on a dissertation entitled "Burial and Resurrection: The Sculpted Sarcophagi of Ravenna and Visions of Perpetuity in an Age of Flux." Ravenna in the fifth through the eighth centuries was a cosmopolitan hub where western/Latin and eastern/Byzantine cultures converged. It served as a political capital, first for the last Roman emperors, then for the Ostrogothic rulers, and finally for the Byzantine exarchs. Yet as the centralized authority of the imperial state progressively disintegrated, Ravenna's local celebrities, especially its formidable bishops, assumed ever greater social and political responsibilities. By the eighth century, Ravenna and its surrounding territories had developed a cohesive regional identity. It was in this evolving urban center, during this period of flux, that the sarcophagi were employed as lasting memorials for perpetuity. Fox's dissertation will fill gaps in existing scholarship by demonstrating that the tombs represent a regional aesthetic tradition rather than merely a



transplanted Byzantine or Roman heritage, and will explore how the influences of the social, political, and spiritual climate of medieval Ravenna may have been visually manifested in tomb imagery.

Pablo Maurette (Comparative Literature, early modern) is writing a dissertation, "Tactility in Early Modern Europe: Touch, Hands, Kiss, Skin," that examines the epistemological and aesthetic relevance that the sense of touch acquired in sixteenth-century Europe. Traditionally relegated to the last place among the senses, touch found in many early modern authors strong advocates—advocates who positioned it alongside and above the other senses as the foundation of a new cultural paradigm. While the history of the "lower sensorium" has been the object of unprecedented attention lately, what have not yet received close scrutiny are the complex negotiations between early modern authors and their classical sources that provoked paradigm shifts, especially in

relation to touch. Classical theorists, Maurette posits, are at root instigators in this new enterprise once they have been revived and repurposed by their inheritors. Two libraries in Paris, the Bibliothèque Nationale and the Bibliothèque Sainte Geneviève, house collections that include editions of important works on medicine and physiognomy, as well as manuscripts of the sermons of Bernard de Clairvaux, one of the most important medieval mystics, who described the union with God in tactile terms, and whose ideas will inform the introductory chapter of the dissertation. Maurette also plans to visit archives in Montpellier, Nice, and Toulouse.

Jennifer Mi-Young Park (English, early modern) will use this award to pursue archival research in Scotland, reconstructing Scottish dietary identity in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries through the lens of the contentious history of milk in early modern England and Scotland. Milk was a highly controversial substance in all of its forms, from human breast milk to animal dairy products. Park will set her study within an early modern understanding of the physiology of (in)digestion. Park’s dissertation traces the ways in which manipulation of domestic and foreign foodstuffs and ingredients figured into early modern English ideas about the changeable nature of human bodies. Her aim is to locate the material threat of change in culinary and gastronomic processes manifested both literally and figuratively in early modern drama. The fascination with foodstuffs, ingredients, and their role in culinary processes and products speaks to two competing concerns about the instability of the early modern English nationality or race: the threat of inner, constitutional change from ingestion of foreign ingredients, and the controlled manipulation of external change or preservation through the topical application of foreign ingredients. The culinary and gastronomic are experimented with, constructed, and understood by early modern English dramatists as a means of exploring larger concerns about change in the early modern English physical, intellectual, and emotional constitution.



Ted Scheinman (English, early modern) spent three weeks visiting the British Library in London and the Bodleian Library at Oxford. Specifically, he examined certain conventions of clandestine circulation among a small coterie of Freethinkers, hoping to find evidence to identify the authorship of an anonymous, uncatalogued ballad in thirty quatrains called “Blind Zeal or Party Enthusiasm” that he and **Claudia Funke**, curator of rare books, found in the Wilson Collection. Comparing its watermark to others, he has dated the first page to 1711. Calling on his training in paleography (the study of old handwriting), Scheinman made a promising match—using photographic samples from the British Museum—suggesting John Toland as the author. The British Library houses the largest Toland archive, followed by that of the Bodleian, so he had the opportunity to study the appearance and content of Freethinker manuscripts as well as to make handwriting comparisons between the manuscript in Wilson Library and those known to have been produced by Toland.



Whitney Winters (Romance Languages/Spanish, early modern) will travel to Spain to conduct research at the National Library on a work of Tirso de Molina (1571–1638), a celebrated Spanish playwright of the seventeenth century. She will obtain a copy of the earliest edition of Tirso’s *Lo que son mugeres* (*What Women Are*), and plans to write an article about this under-studied play. She intends to find out if Tirso fully addressed what his title promised, with close attention to evidence of the playwright’s

MEMS GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS (CONTINUED)

own personal and religious views. Authors such as Tirso usually included commentary on how men should live their lives in order to obtain salvation, ultimately revealing their own belief in man's *libre albedrío* (free will), which could help to reveal a link between Tirso's views on salvation and his treatment of women. Winters will also investigate the manuscript of a text by Francisco de Rojas Zorrilla, which has the same title, in order to see if the text written by Zorrilla is in fact the same as Molina's work. This work will inform her dissertation, a continuation of her Master's thesis on Tirso de Molina's theological representations of men's free will.



Diane Woodin (Art and Art History, early modern) will visit the Museum at Sceaux, the Musée de Louvre, Château du Versailles, Chenonceau, the Bibliothèque Nationale and Château du Cirey in France to study paintings and objects related to her analysis of the ways in which the visual culture of astronomy—costly and elaborately decorated telescopes and attendant paraphernalia of spheres, mirrors, instruments, and instruction manuals—brought together discourses of self, gender, and social place within the intellectual circles of Europe from 1675 to 1750. She will also travel to the Museo Galileo in Florence, which holds one of the largest collections of scientific instruments, and the archives at Bologna University to read through the papers of several eminent early modern astronomers. Woodin's dissertation will address the prevalence of astronomic references within the visual culture of the early modern period, arguing that women took advantage of the formative period in Enlightenment science to claim a place within communities of knowledge via performance, scientific collections, material gifts, and portraiture. The number of astronomic decorative motifs within the residences and collections of leisured ladies underscores women's integral role in fostering a cultural fascination with the study of the physical universe.

MEMS GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE TRAVEL GRANTS

The Program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies awarded these grants to twelve graduate students, enabling them to present their work at national and international scholarly conferences this year: **Sarah Apffel** (Romance Languages/French), **Rose Aslan** (Religious Studies), **Robert Erle Barham** (English), **Patrick Connolly** (Philosophy), **Kathleen Curtin** (English), **Lauren Garrett** (English), **Pablo Maurette** (Comparative Literature), **Luke Mills** (English), **Sarah Parker** (Comparative Literature), **Katie Shrieves** (English), **Paul Stapleton** (Comparative Literature), and **Joseph Wallace** (English). Smaller awards allowed nine students of **Professor Dino Cervigni** (Romance Languages) to give papers on the ballads in Boccaccio's *Decameron*. These students—**Katie-Nicole Bagarella**, **Daria Bozzato**, **Danilla Cannamela**, **Brandon Essary**, **Kate Greenburg**, **Kaitlin Johnson**, **Anna Melillo**, **Michael Sguerri**, and **April Weintritt**—presented as a team at the US's largest conference for Italianists (the American Association of Italian Studies), held at the College of Charleston in May 2012. Their essays will appear in a special issue of *Annali* in 2012, Boccaccio's 700th centenary.

MEMS AWARD COMPETITIONS FOR 2012–2013

In order to accommodate departmental planning, MEMS award competitions this year will occur, as they did in 2011, in October. The submission deadline for all categories of grants will be Monday, October 1, 2012.

Announcements will appear on the web site and on the MEMS listservs.

MEMS GRADUATE RECRUITMENT AWARDS

These annual awards help MEMS departments to recruit some of the most promising graduate students who apply to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In August 2012, we will welcome four students.

Kirsten Cooper (History, early modern) is a graduate of Emory University, where she majored in History and Dance. Emory's "Scholarly Inquiry and Research Program" funded three separate trips to conduct research in Viennese archives and collaborate on an article on comparative military history. After writing an honors thesis on the military/diplomatic/cultural relations between France and Austria just before and during the Seven Years' War (1756–1763), Kirsten plans to turn her focus to the hardening of "national" identities in France and Austria during this pivotal moment in European history when the needs of diplomacy put the two traditional rivals in close and tense proximity for the first time in generations. Her exciting transnational topic places her on the cutting edge of work on the eighteenth century. She will work with **Jay Smith**, who has written extensively on patriotism, nationalism, and cultural identities in this period, and with **Lloyd Kramer** and **Chad Bryant**.

Ani Govjian (English, early modern) earned her M.A. in the University of California at Irvine's Summer Program for Teachers while teaching English literature at a Los Angeles inner-city charter school. Her capacity to communicate her love of literature to underprivileged and undereducated high school students not only makes her an excellent teacher but it also supports her belief that literary interpretation can help readers understand other perspectives as well as their own experiences with greater sensitivity and insight. Her thesis on *A Midsummer Night's Dream* argues that the play critiques the use of humiliation as a means to maintain social order. That she grounds her discussion in very close, subtle readings of the text is all the more impressive given that English is her third language (after Armenian and Turkish). At UNC, she will continue her analysis of medieval and early modern texts, situating them in their social and political contexts.

Elizabeth Hasseler (History, medieval) studied at the University of York, one of the foremost centers of medieval studies in the UK, during her junior year and graduated from the University of Washington. Her training also includes paleography and translation of Old English. Her interest in central medieval miracle collections resonates very closely with the research interests of the two professors who will supervise her graduate work, **Marcus Bull** and **Brett Whalen**. Her previous work focused on Reginald of Durham's twelfth-century compilation of miracle-stories, the *Libellus de admirandis beati Cuthberti virtutibus*, exploring how notions of saintly justice, mercy, and vengeance structured the relationship between Durham's monastic community, the laity, and wider institutions of justice and religion in the period after the Norman conquest of England.

Sylvia Koceida (Philosophy, early modern) received a B.A. from Temple University. Her M.A. thesis, completed at San Francisco State University, argues for an original interpretation of Locke's account of moral motivation. One SFSU faculty member remarked that "Her research opens several new avenues of inquiry, both in Locke scholarship and in a little-noticed intersection between virtue ethics and liberalism." At UNC, she plans to focus eventually on the philosophy of Descartes and Locke. Her first-year adviser will be **Alan Nelson**, who specializes on early modern philosophy and has directed numerous dissertations on Descartes and on Locke. She will also work with **Robert M. Adams**, the eminent Leibniz scholar.

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Or contact Professor Brett Whalen at: bwhalen@email.unc.edu

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MEMS UNDERGRADUATE MINOR

The Program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies hosted a pizza reception on Monday, April 30 to celebrate its most recent round of graduating seniors who completed the MEMS minor. Congratulations to **Ryan Arnold, Gwen Bellinger, Rachel Davis, Jessica Hiltabidle, Jessica Kiernan, Hannah McGee, Stephen Wiley, and Bennett Williams.**

The MEMS minor is going strong after its first three years under the direction of **Brett Whalen** (History, medieval). **Evyatar Marienberg** (Religious Studies, medieval and early modern) will take over as the new director of the minor in Spring 2013.



SUPPORT MEMS!

We are deeply indebted to the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the College of Arts and Sciences for providing a very generous grant to establish the Program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies. The continued success of the program, however, will depend on the support of the University's alumni and friends.

We and our successors in medieval and early modern studies at Carolina will be grateful for gifts of any amount. Please consider supporting the Program's continued successes. For information on ways to do that, please contact **Margaret Costley** at the UNC Arts and Sciences Foundation. Margaret will be happy to talk with you about the many opportunities to share in the success of this program.

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This newsletter is a collaborative effort of MEMS faculty, graduate students, and staff. Thank you to all who contributed.