



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◇ CROSSROADS LECTURE SERIES:
Professor David Abulafia and "The First Atlantic Slaves"
- ◇ GLOBAL ENCOUNTERS: Legacies of Exchange and Conflict 1000–1700
- ◇ MEMS Seminars Spotlight the History of the Book
- ◇ MEMS recognizes outstanding faculty and students

MEMS NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2008

GREETINGS FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Kathryn Starkey

It is an honor and a pleasure to be the first director of the Program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies at Carolina. Although this program is new, Medieval and Early Modern studies have been a mainstay of UNC-Chapel Hill for over a century. Currently more than sixty faculty members in twelve departments in the humanities and fine arts are doing work in the pre-modern, and next year we will welcome several new colleagues to MEMS. The College of Arts and Science in conjunction with the Andrew W. Mellon foundation has created three new MEMS positions in art history, comparative literature, and the history of science. In addition, new hires in Early Modern German Studies (German) and Medieval Latin (Classics) will expand our program starting in fall 2008.

The Program in MEMS was created by engaged faculty concerned with creating a vibrant community that represents the intellectual strengths in Medieval and Early Modern Studies at Carolina. MEMS is distinguished by its global outlook and its broad timeframe. The grant by the Mellon Foundation specifically recognizes Carolina's unique strength in pre-modern intellectual inquiry that goes beyond the traditional borders of the Medieval and Early Modern world: from Byzantine and Islamic lands to China, Southeast Asia, and Japan, Europe and the New World. The timeframe that falls under the MEMS rubric stretches from 500 to 1800, a much broader historical period than similar programs at our peer institutions. (Continued on page 2)

CROSSROADS LECTURE SERIES: Professor David Abulafia

The inaugural lecture of the Crossroads Lecture Series was delivered on March 18, 2008, by **Prof. David Abulafia** (Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge University). Professor Abulafia, who has done extensive scholarly work on the economic, social, and political history of the Mediterranean lands in the Middle Ages and Renaissance, spoke on "The First Atlantic Slaves, 1350-1520: Conquest, Slavery, and the Opening of the Atlantic."

This fascinating lecture was the first in a series of talks, free and open to the public, designed to address issues of cultural exchange in the medieval and early modern periods. The purpose of the MEMS Crossroads Lecture Series is to foster new and innovative perspectives on medieval and early modern studies within a broad geographic and cultural scope, focusing in particular on relations between Byzantium, the Muslim world and the Christian west.

Professor Abulafia's extensive research into the interaction of the three religions in medieval Spain and Sicily, including the problem of Jewish (and Muslim) 'servitude,' made him a particularly apt speaker to launch the series. One of his major interests is the opening of the eastern and western Atlantic in the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries, with particular emphasis on the encounter of Europeans with native peoples. (Continued on page 2)



GREETINGS FROM OUR DIRECTOR CONTINUED...

Many colleagues were involved in working on the proposal for the Program, and I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who helped out and who supported the initiative. I cannot name each individual here, but **Melissa Bullard** (History) and **Jane Burns** (Women's Studies) were particularly instrumental in the process, and **Jessica Wolfe** (English) and **Brett Whalen** (History) were also heavily involved in the final reworkings of the Program proposal. Senior Associate Dean for Fine Arts and Humanities, **William Andrews**, was very supportive of the Program and was instrumental in communicating its importance to the Mellon Foundation. MEMS would not exist without the generous support of the Andrew T. Mellon Foundation and the College of Arts and Science which is committed to sustaining the Program into the future.

I would also like to thank **Marsha Collins** (English and Comparative Literature) for agreeing to take over as interim director of MEMS for the academic year 2008-2009 while I will be on a research leave. I have no doubt that the program will continue to flourish in her capable hands.

In this issue of our newsletter we highlight our achievements over the past year, and look forward to events planned in the future. If you have any questions about MEMS, please do not hesitate to contact me (kstarkey@unc.edu) or Marsha Collins (marcol@email.unc.edu).

Kathryn Starkey (Germanic Languages and Literatures)



CROSSROADS LECTURE SERIES CONTINUED...



David Abulafia

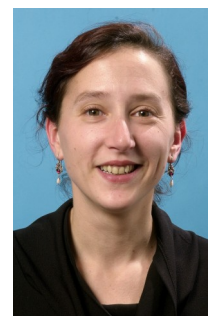
In his lecture on March 18, Professor Abulafia demonstrated how an Atlantic slave trade developed out of the much older Mediterranean slave trade; how it came to encompass first the Canary Islands and then West Africa; how it then became extended to the first areas of the New World to be visited by Europeans; and finally how a slave trade came to link Africa to the New World, as labor shortages in the first Spanish colonies created demand for the slaves sold by the Portuguese.

The Crossroads Lecture Committee looks forward to hosting one or two lectures annually. For information about upcoming lectures in the Crossroads Lecture Series please visit our website (<http://mems.unc.edu>) or contact the director.

MEMS SEMINARS SPOTLIGHT THE HISTORY OF THE BOOK:

In Spring 2009 **Jessica Wolfe** (English) and **Dorothy Verkerk** (Art) will offer our first MEMS Seminars, newly designed interdisciplinary seminars intended to expand the curriculum and draw graduate students from across the disciplines. For more information about these courses, please contact the professors directly.

Jessica Wolfe's seminar on "The History of the Book" traces the multi-faceted impact of print culture across various disciplines and European countries between around 1500 and 1750. She asks the questions: How did the rise of print culture shape political, religious, artistic and scientific revolutions of the period? How did the practices of reading and writing change in accordance with the material, intellectual, and economic demands of print? The printing revolution of early modern Europe was a truly interdisciplinary phenomenon, and so too is this course. Students working across the humanities will have an opportunity to study the wide-ranging effects of print culture on artistic and cultural institutions and practices ranging from scientific illustration and religious polemic to the establishment of libraries and the rise of the newspaper. Most weekly meetings will include hands-on work in UNC's Rare Book Library; in addition, the seminar will feature several invited scholars from other universities and a field trip to the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington D.C.



Jessica Wolfe

MEMS SEMINARS SPOTLIGHT THE HISTORY OF THE BOOK CONTINUED...

Dorothy Verkerk's seminar, "The History of the Illuminated Book" will be designed with a historical and thematic progression, since each western European culture that created illuminated books provokes new and varied methodological issues. The university has an impressive manuscript facsimile collection that will be the cornerstone of teaching and presentations. The seminar is designed for all graduate students who would like to develop their visual and textual analysis skills in an interdisciplinary setting.



Lindisfarne Gospel,
St. Matthew

GLOBAL ENCOUNTERS: LEGACIES OF EXCHANGE 1000-1700



The inaugural conference organized by MEMS reflects its broad interdisciplinary scope. "Global Encounters: Legacies of Exchange and Conflict (1000-1700)" will take place at the Friday Center on November 14-15, 2008 and, judging by the overwhelming response to the call for papers, promises to be a very lively and exciting event. The conference focuses on cultural mediation, interchange, and conflict in the pre-modern world. The geographical scope is broad, including Europe, the Atlantic world, the Mediterranean, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. Key-note addresses will be offered by Professor Karen Ordahl Kupperman (Silver Professor of History at New York University), and by Professor Alfred J. Andrea (Professor Emeritus of History, University of Vermont). For more information, please contact the MEMS Organizing Committee, c/o Professor Brett Whalen, chair (bwhalen@email.unc.edu).

MEMS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please check our website for more details and more events (<http://mems.unc.edu>):

August 2008:

- ◇ Fall Reception: Wednesday, August 27 4-6pm, Campus Y, Faculty Room UNC Chapel Hill

September 2008:

- ◇ Lunchtime Colloquium on Wednesday, September 24 from 12:00-1:00pm. Jonathan Boyarin (Religious Studies) will speak on the topic of: "The Unconverted Self: Jews, Indians, and the Identity of Christian Europe."

October 2008:

- ◇ Deadline for proposals for: Faculty Research Leave Award, Research Awards, Conference Travel Grants, and Dissertation Grants.
- ◇ Deadline for proposals for: Ryan-Headley Dissertation Fellowship
- ◇ Deadline for proposals to teach MEMS interdisciplinary graduate seminars for the academic year 2009/2010.

November 2008:

- ◇ Conference on "Global Encounters: Legacies of Exchange and Conflict (1000- 1700)" on November 14-15 at the William and Ida Friday Center at UNC-Chapel Hill.

February 2009:

- ◇ Public Lecture and Graduate Student workshop by Professor Roger Chartier to be held in conjunction with the MEMS Seminars: "History of the Illuminated Book" and "History of the Book (1500-1750)"
- ◇ Lunchtime Colloquium on Wednesday, February 4 from 12:00-1:00pm. E. Donald Kennedy (English and Comparative Lit.) will speak on the topic of: "Mordred's Sons."
- ◇ Deadline for proposals for: spring Conference Travel Grants for faculty and graduate students.
- ◇ Deadline for nominations for MEMS recruitment grants

MEMS SPONSORS FACULTY AND GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH

This year the Program in MEMS recognized the outstanding work of twenty faculty and graduate students!



The prestigious and highly competitive **MEMS Faculty Research Leave Award** was bestowed upon **Kathleen DuVal** (History). Her book, entitled *Revolution Without Rebels: The Battle of Pensacola and the War for America*, is a study of the Gulf South in the American Revolution. During the war, Spain won several battles against Britain, and local Indians, Europeans, and Africans fought on both sides. Although Spain and its allies defeated Britain, all parties in the region soon had to defend their claims to the Gulf South against the war's other victor, the new United States. My research shows how early modern Spanish, black, and Indian men and women planned their own futures for the modern era. Although the futures that they imagined did not come to pass, including them in the narrative of the founding of the United States illuminates the contestations of the revolutionary period and alternatives to the republic of speculators, settlers, and slaveholders.

Four faculty recipients of **MEMS Research and Travel Awards** look forward to working on exciting projects:

Glaire Andersen
(Art History)



I will be examining a group of early Islamic aristocratic villas in Syria and Jordan, and the associated material evidence housed in collections in Damascus, Amman and Berlin. The sites are among the best-preserved works of early Islamic architecture, and are unusual as major secular monuments in the art historical canon of Islamic architecture.

Melissa Miriam Bullard
(History)



I am researching the North Atlantic Renaissance by studying William Roscoe's reinterpretations of Medici patronage elaborated in his native Liverpool and subsequently spread across the Atlantic to America. I will be using archives in London, Liverpool, and NY/Brooklyn.

Wayne Lee
(History)



My MEMS research award is funding time in London and Dublin looking at documents in the British Library, the Lambeth Palace Library, the National Library of Ireland, and Trinity College Dublin. I am researching the practices and policies of English military officials in sixteenth-century Ireland, focusing especially on the writings of the "captains." In the end I hope to understand the nature of wartime violence in Ireland and the process of escalation. I particularly want to get past the recommendations of more famous figures like Edmund Spenser, or the Lords Deputies, and instead explore how lower ranking English officials imagined the "reform"

Brett Whalen
(History)



I received a MEMS research-travel grant for my new project, "Soldiers of Christ: Memory, Redemption and Holy War in the Wake of the First Crusade." This book will explore Christian theories and practices of "sanctified" violence during the often overlooked period between the First and Second Crusades. I plan to carry out research for this project at archives in Madrid and Genoa.

**Calls for proposals
for all grants and
awards will go out in
October 2008.
Please check the
website for updates
and forms: [http://
mems.unc.edu](http://mems.unc.edu)**

MEMS SPONSORS FACULTY AND GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH

Three graduate students received **MEMS Dissertation Awards** that will enable them to devote one semester to working solely on their dissertations.



Elizabeth Harper

Elizabeth Harper's (English and Comparative Literature) dissertation, "'Bought by Blood': Economy and Exchange in Middle English Religious Texts," is an examination of the complex interplay between religious and economic thinking in the 14th and 15th centuries as depicted in representative poetic and popular texts including *Pearl* and *The Book of Margery Kempe*.

In "Rewriting *Italia* in the Renaissance: Sixteenth-Century Historians and the Idea of Italy", **Robert Policelli** (History) examines how some Italian Renaissance historians, during a period of protracted foreign invasions, began to think and write about a common Italian past in intellectually diverse and contentious ways. Although Renaissance Italy was largely defined by its intense regionalism, it also contributed a crucial, if forgotten, chapter in the writing of an Italian historical narrative.



Robert Policelli



William Russell

William Russell's (English and Comparative Literature) dissertation, *The Birth of the Critic in England, 1570-1640*, takes as its starting point a shift at the end of the sixteenth century in the *Oxford English Dictionary's* definition of the word "critic" from mere armchair "caviller" to professional judge of literary and artistic works. From there the dissertation investigates how a host of widely divergent ideas about the obligations, entitlements, methods, and identity of the critic were gradually incorporated into an increasingly stable understanding of this new professional figure.

Four graduate students from the Department of English and Comparative Literature report on their upcoming research trips that will be funded by **MEMS Research Awards**:

Daniel Lupton:

This spring I will be at the British Library researching my doctoral dissertation, which explores the connections between literary genres and the constitutions of private social clubs in mid-18th-century Britain and America. In addition to utilizing the British Library's collection of manuscripts and periodicals, I also will be examining buildings and rooms where these groups met and monuments they erected to commemorate their activities. I am grateful to MEMS for providing me with the opportunity to examine these invaluable primary sources.



Daniel Lupton



Dustin Mengelkoch

Dustin Mengelkoch:

With the MEMS Research Travel Grant I'll be able to visit libraries in the UK and continental Europe this spring, examining manuscripts, incunabula, marginalia and correspondences pertaining to the Renaissance reception of the Roman author Statius. I am particularly excited to see what George Buchanan, Ben Jonson, John Dryden, Hugo Grotius, Joseph Scaliger and Justus Lipsius have to say about him. Access to these authors, as well as others, will help me refine Statius's role vis-à-vis his works, the *Thebaid*, *Achilleid*, and *Silvae*, in shaping ideas of both poetic genre and form in the Renaissance in addition to the period's understanding of the nexus between poetry and historical context.

MEMS SPONSORS FACULTY AND GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH

Mary Raschko:

My dissertation examines Middle English translations of and commentaries on Jesus' parables in a variety of contexts, from large-scale biblical translation to lives of Christ, homilies, and poetic literary works, inquiring how the interpretation of these complex narratives changed at a time when many clerics feared the spread of the Wycliffite heresy and the growing literacy of the laity could threaten right belief. With the MEMS research grant, I will spend eight weeks in Oxford and London examining manuscripts of relevant texts that remain unedited. Specifically, I will work with copies of the Wycliffite *Glossed Gospels*, a vernacular catalogue of traditional Latin interpretations, which are housed in the Bodleian Library at Oxford and in the British Library. Additionally, I will collate relevant text from nine of the fifteen extant copies of the gospel harmony *Oon of Foure*, which are housed in libraries at Oxford and the British Library, and study the manuscript contexts in which a harmonized version of the gospel appears.



Mary Raschko



Nathan Stogdill

Nathan Stogdill:

This grant will fund archival work at the British Library, the Bodleian collection at Oxford, and the Cambridge University Library, where I will be examining seventeenth-century editions of Pindar, Abraham Cowley's Pindarique Odes, and commonplace books in order to reconstruct a more accurate picture of seventeenth-century attitudes towards Pindar's poetics and Cowley's adaptations. Cowley's popular Pindaric imitations marked a shift in royalist strategies of poetic resistance during the Interregnum, and this project hopes to better identify those aspects of Pindar that were attractive to Cowley and his fellow royalists during the uncertainty of Cromwellian rule. This research is part of a larger dissertation project in which I consider how politically disenfranchised groups in the seventeenth century utilize poetic space as an arena to reinvent political identity and mobility in their attempts to construct a viable form of resistance.

Faculty Conference Travel Grants were awarded to **E. Donald Kennedy** (English and Comparative Literature), **Anne MacNeil** (Music), and **Jessica Wolfe** (English and Comparative Literature).

Graduate Conference Travel Grants were awarded to **Dustin Mengelkoch** (English and Comparative Literature), **Nicolay Ostrau** (Germanic Languages and Literatures), **William Russell** (English and Comparative Literature), Nathan Stogdill (English and Comparative Literature), and **Joseph Wallace** (English and Comparative Literature).



The program in MEMS at UNC 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.

MEMS WELCOMES NEW FACULTY

Department of Art:

Paroma Chatterjee (PhD, University of Chicago):

My interest in medieval representation in the forms of speech, text, and image has triggered more (and more eclectic) horizons of interest over time. Theories of mimesis, metaphors of mirrors and echoes, iconoclasm, animation and stillness, and practices of concealment and revelation are some of the areas that intrigue me.

My research concerns a novel visual idiom for representing saints that emerged both in Byzantium and Italy in the twelfth century. Combining – and emphasizing – the distinct visual categories of ‘portrait’ and ‘narrative’, this idiom served in its initial years as a measure of the difficulty of representing sanctity. It was, however, soon naturalized as a normative medium for depicting not just saints, but also Christ and the Virgin. The movement from novelty to “normality” and the consequences for representation and reception that it entailed in a cross-cultural context, informs my study. The working title of my book manuscript is "Narrating Sanctity: the Narrative Icon in Byzantium and Italy".



Paroma Chatterjee

Paroma Chatterjee will be a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania next year and will join our faculty in fall 2009.

Department of English and Comparative Literature:

Shayne Legassie (PhD, Columbia University)

My research interests include: continental European literature of the late Middle Ages; travel narrative; romance; the frame tale; and literary theory. Currently, I am at work on my first book, based on my dissertation. It is called "Differently Centered Worlds: The Traveler's Body in Late Medieval European Narrative," and in it I argue that the figure of the traveler's body provides an especially strategic place to reassess our assumptions about medieval cosmopolitanisms. This summer I'm presenting new research at the New Chaucer Society conference in Wales; this paper is about the development of forensic procedure in medieval murder investigations in 14th-century London and Florence, and is the first work I've done on my second book project, which will be a study of the literary, political, and social uses of corpses in late medieval Iberia, Italy, and Britain.



Shayne Legassie

Shayne Legassie is currently a postdoctoral fellow at Columbia University and will join our faculty in fall 2009.

Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures:

Ruth von Bernuth (PhD, Humboldt University, Berlin)

My dissertation focused on ideas of natural folly in medieval and early modern German literature and will soon be published under the title "Wunder, Spott und Prophetie. Natürliche Narrheit in den *Historien von Claus Narren*." The term "natural fool" derives from a distinction within the medieval and Renaissance European court practice of keeping fools, who were regarded as belonging to one or other of two categories: artificial fools (or jesters) and natural fools. Natural folly is the precursor of the 19th-century constructs of mental illness and mental disability. Drawing on references in the religious, scientific, and, especially, literary writings of 16th-century Germany, however, I argue that natural fools were not yet a source of worry but of wonder. In addition to my interest in fools I am currently working on a project that focuses on the relationship between texts in Old Yiddish and the German literature of the early modern period. My research objective is to uncover something of the dynamic cultural process that forms Old Yiddish literature and its German parallels.



Ruth von Bernuth

Department of Classics:

Robert Babcock received his PhD in Classics from Duke in 1983, with a dissertation supervised by Francis Newton. He served as Assistant Professor of Classics at Mississippi State (1984-86) and Bucknell (1987) before taking up his current position as Curator of Early Books and manuscripts at the Beinecke Library at Yale (August 1987). At Yale he has also had various appointments in the Department of Classics, ranging from Lecturer to Adjunct Professor.

Babcock's main area of expertise is palaeography and codicology. He has authored, co-authored, and edited nine books and thirty-six articles. The most recent is *A Book of Her Own* (2005). A project underway is *The Schools of Liege in the Tenth and Eleventh Centuries: the Evidence of the Brussels Psychomachia*. His research interests include the transmission and reception of Tibullus in medieval Latin comedy, and classical influences on the American poet, H.D., among others.

RYAN-HEADLEY FUND ESTABLISHED

Eminent History Professor emeritus John Headley recently presented MEMS with a generous gift to establish the Frank Ryan and John Headley Dissertation Fellowship for outstanding graduate students working in the area of the Renaissance (1350-1700). The Fellowship competition will invite applications from graduate students in all disciplines working on dissertations that are based in intellectual history or that have obvious implications for intellectual history.

Currently the fellowship will provide support for a fellowship every two years. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please contact Margaret Costley at the UNC Arts and Sciences Foundation (see contact information below).

We are very grateful to Professor Headley for supporting MEMS, and for helping us to continue to support our graduate students.

SUPPORT MEMS!

We are deeply indebted to the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the College of Arts and Sciences for providing the seed money to establish the Program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies. The continued success of the program, however, depends on the continued support of the University's alumni and friends, and we are grateful for all gifts. If you are interested in learning about ways that you can give to MEMS, 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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MEMS is on the Web!
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