



M E M S

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



MEMS NEWSLETTER

July 2010

GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR



Darryl Gless

Thanks to the exceptional support the Medieval and Early Modern Studies Program enjoys from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, 2009-10 has been productive and intellectually stimulating for UNC Chapel Hill faculty and graduate students. As the items below report, we have enjoyed and learned this year from two impressive Crossroads lecturers. Our faculty colleagues and graduate students have participated in, arranged, or are arranging significant conferences and workshops. Faculty and graduate students are undertaking a wide range of impressive research projects with the aid of MEMS fellowships and research awards. MEMS grants are supporting the development of innovative multidisciplinary courses. And teams of colleagues are developing exciting international collaborations with three distinguished European universities.

As new director, I have found that the Program generates a surprising volume of activity. That work is always fun, and even manageable—thanks to the extraordinarily organized and thoughtful leadership MEMS received from its first two directors, Professor Kathryn Starkey (German) and Professor Marsha Collins (English and Comparative Literature) as well as from the team I've come to call the MEMS Cabinet: Professor Jane Burns (Women's Studies), who manages the Crossroads lectures and lunchtime colloquia; Professor Marsha Collins, who oversees and works to develop two of our overseas collaborations (King's College London and Madrid's Complutense University), Professor Kathryn Starkey, who leads our rapidly developing collaboration with the Freie Universität Berlin, Professor Kathleen DuVal (History), who led our grant competitions, and Professor Brett Whalen (History), who has helped manage the website while also directing our new undergraduate minor degree program and initiating planning for a major.

The manifold contributions of the Cabinet and numerous others were all efficiently and cheerfully facilitated this year by our indispensable Program Coordinator, Frederique Beaufils, who managed to do it all while working only half-time. I am delighted to report that Frederique has accepted our offer of an upgraded position, and we can all look forward to working with her again this year.



Crossroads: A MEMS Lecture Series

On September 8, 2009, Professor **David Nirenberg**, University of Chicago, spoke on “Poetry, Art, and the Danger of Judaism: from Saint Paul to the Present.” In this lecture, the remarkable range of Nirenberg's toolkit as a scholar of medieval difference—which allows him to integrate analyses of the discourses of sexuality, class, religion, commerce and language itself—were fully on display. Nirenberg convinced a full hall that medieval discourses on the dangerous nature of “Jewish” reading both reflected tensions in Christian theology stemming from late antiquity and foreshadowed modern debate about the metaphoric and representational aspects of language. A lively exchange following the lecture further displayed the remarkable extent to which Jewishness (as figure and as lived experience) has become a rich topic of inquiry in interdisciplinary medieval studies.

John Sutton, Professor of Cognitive Science at the Macquarie Center for Cognitive Science at Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia, presented “Early Modern Memory Practices: Explorations in Cognitive History.” This engaging presentation drew on Professor Sutton’s ongoing studies of collaborative and embodied memory. Employing the theoretical concept of distributed cognition, his project explores relations between individual and group cognition, focusing on memory as a case study. For Sutton, memory is not re-collection. Rather it is a literal and always messy re-construction, culled together and torn apart by a distributive and embodied model first described by René Descartes. Inveighing against a static archival understanding of how memory and the mind operate, Sutton celebrates instead the fluidity and dynamism of human cognitive processes and explores key points of intersection between early modern and postmodern philosophies of the mind.

MEMS Seminars

In Spring 2010, the graduate seminar “Writing the Mediterranean: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on the Early Modern World,” developed with the aid of a MEMS grant by **Ellen Welch** (Assistant Professor, Romance Languages/French), brought together graduate students from French, Spanish, and History. The class discussed a variety of fictional and documentary texts depicting interactions between Europeans and North Africans from the sixteenth through eighteenth centuries. Professor Welch reports that

although we encountered a wide range of voices from different religious and cultural backgrounds, several common ideas resonated throughout the course. In particular, many of us were impressed by ubiquitous descriptions of the theatricality of identity in the early modern Mediterranean, with characters from Cervantes and Shakespeare and historical figures as diverse as Hazan al-Wazan (Leo Africanus) and Laurent d’Arvieux all frankly admitting to the strategic concerns that informed their performances of religious and cultural affiliation. Questions of genre also loomed large over our discussions as we charted, for example, how authors from Boccaccio to Lafayette to Mozart reworked the typical Mediterranean tale of shipwreck, loss and redemption for different ends.

In February, we also had the pleasure of welcoming Professor **Nabil Matar** of the University of Minnesota, an eminent translator of early modern Arabic travel narratives and author, most recently, of *Europe through Arab Eyes, 1578-1727*. In addition to sharing material from a new research project on early modern Europeans who settled in North Africa, Professor Matar participated in an informal workshop with the seminar participants to discuss the challenges of interdisciplinary and archival research. One fascinating issue that arose in this conversation had to do with the question of periodization. Specifically, we wondered whether the term “early modern” – vexing enough in a strictly European context – could be relevant for cross-regional studies and considered alternative paradigms for slicing up history based on periods of intense exchange between areas of the world. Given the rich corpus we discussed this semester, there is certainly an argument for thinking about this period as the “Mediterranean century.”

The MEMS course-development awards, for which there will again be a competition in the fall semester 2010, are clearly bearing excellent results. This fall, **Glaire Anderson** (Assistant Professor, Art History), will offer her seminar “Exploring Outside the Walls: Medieval Societies and the Suburban Landscape.”

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.



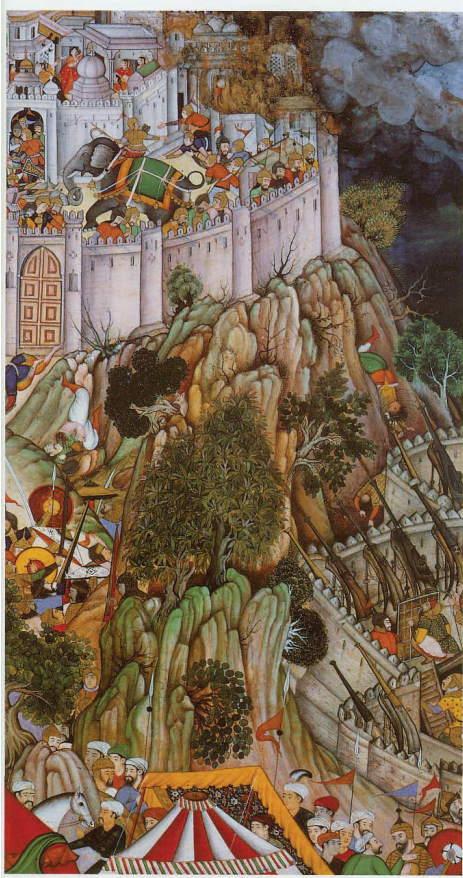
MEMS Undergraduate Minor

Masterfully and enthusiastically led by Professor **Brett Whalen**, the minor is off to a strong start. After just one academic year, thirteen students have signed up. This, according to the dean who oversees curriculum, is a very healthy number.

International Collaborations

King's/UNC Medieval Conference

The University's collaboration with King's College, University of London, this year resulted in a second engaging and productive research workshop ably arranged by Professor Marsha Collins (Department of English and Comparative Literature, UNC) and Professor Julian Weiss (Comparative Literature, King's College). Professor Collins is former director of MEMS; Professor Weiss directs the Center for Late Antique and Medieval Studies at King's. At the March 11th event, hosted by King's, MEMS and UNC were impressively represented by five colleagues who presented papers there: Jonathan Boyarin (Religious Studies: "Placing the Other Within: Kin and Kind as Categories for Thinking Christian/Jewish Difference"), Carmen Hsu (Romance Languages/Spanish: "Humanistic Depiction of Fair and Virtuous People in the 'History of China'"), Ruth von Bernuth (German: "Shared Worlds: The Status of Old Yiddish Literature in the Early Modern World"), Shayne Legassie (English and Comparative Literature: "Margery Kempe and the Discovery of the Americas: Gender, Genre, and the Periodization of European Travel Writing"), and Brett Whalen (History: "Corresponding with 'Infidels': Papal Diplomacy and the Islamic World [c. 1200-1300]").



UNC/FU Sovereignty Conference

The international collaboration between MEMS and the Interdisziplinäres Zentrum Mittelalter-Renaissance-Frühe Neuzeit of the Freie Universität Berlin, initiated last June, will hold a workshop on October 1-2, 2010, titled "War, Expansion, and the Problem of Sovereignty: The European, Islamic, and New Worlds, 1000-1765." Professor Wayne Lee (History, Chair of the Curriculum of Peace, War, and Defense) originated and organized this event. Participants from both universities will explore a central problem in the medieval and early modern world: The violent interaction of peoples and polities as some expanded their power, territorial and otherwise, at the expense of others. Expansion, however, was contested not only by those in its path, it was also shaped by internal visions and negotiated definitions of sovereignty. Questions to be examined include: Who could rule? To what extent, and on what basis? How was sovereignty enforced? How did sovereignty come to be assumed, or did it? What role did belief in sovereignty play in shaping violence?

The workshop is open to the public. Graduate students from the Freie Universität will also attend the conference, two sessions of which will be devoted to discussion of primary sources for scholarship in the field. Although registration will be required, there will be no registration fee. The full program is available on the MEMS website, <http://mems.unc.edu/>

FU/UNC Grant Proposal

In February 2010, MEMS welcomed to Chapel Hill a team of six faculty members from the Interdisziplinäres Zentrum Mittelalter-Renaissance-Frühe Neuzeit. We spent two full days together, imagining an Internationale Graduiertenkolleg. These “Graduate Colleges” provide a multi-disciplinary context for professors and graduate students to meet and discuss their work. Concretely, they provide graduate fellowships for the completion of dissertations, and create a coherent inter- and multi-disciplinary context for mentorship. They may run for up to nine years, and funding may include conferences, speaker series, workshops, colloquia, and other forms of academic exchange. They are funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, but matching funds from the partner institution are required. Professors Kathryn Starkey, Shayne Legassie, and Ruth von Bernuth worked especially hard to co-author a preliminary grant proposal for the project, whose topic will be “The Cultural Dynamics of Translation.” We will know in the autumn whether our proposal has qualified to compete in a final round for one of these extremely competitive grants.

Complutense University

Professor Marsha Collins and Dr. Robert Miles, Associate Dean for Study Abroad, are working to formalize an agreement with Complutense University of Madrid with the goal of developing a variety of exchanges and collaborative programs.

Conference on Erasmus and More

Under the leadership of Professor Jessica Wolfe (English and Comparative Literature), planning for MEM’s major conference on Erasmus and More has begun to take shape. This event will occur in March 2012. Updates on the planning will appear on the MEMS website, <http://mems.unc.edu/>

MEMS Welcomes New Faculty

The medieval and early modern community in Chapel Hill is pleased to welcome three new colleagues this fall.

Christoph Brachmann joins the faculty as Cain Distinguished Professor of Art. Professor Brachmann specializes in medieval and early-modern European art and architecture. His most recent books are *Um 1300. Vorparlerische Architektur im Elsass, in Lothringen und Südwestdeutschland* [Around 1300. Pre-Parlerian Architecture in Alsace, in Lorraine and Southwest-Germany] (Didymos), and *Memoria - Fama - Historia: Schlachtengedenken und Identitätsstiftung am lothringischen Hof (1477-1525) nach dem Sieg über Karl den Kühnen* [Memoria - Fama - Historia: Battle-Memory and the Creation of a National Identity at the Lorraine Court (1477-1525) after the Victory over Charles the Bold] (Gebr. Mann). Forthcoming articles focus on artistic expressions of 15th Century Burgundian sculpture and on female spirituality in the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries.



Marcus Bull, who joins the History Department as the first Mellon Distinguished Professor of Medieval and Early Modern Studies, specializes in medieval historiography, with particular reference to narratology and to the narrative accounts of the First Crusade. He is preparing critical editions of two First Crusade texts, the *Gesta Francorum* and, with Damien Kempf of the University of Liverpool, Robert the Monk's *Historia Iherosolimitana*. He is also writing a monograph study of the narratology of the eyewitness accounts of the First Crusade, *Eyewitness and Narration*.

Tatiana C. String joins the faculty with a joint appointment in the Department of History and the Department of Art. She specializes in Tudor art and political ideology and has recently published *Art and Communication in the Reign of Henry VIII* (Ashgate) and “Projecting Masculinity: Henry VIII's Codpiece,” in *Henry VIII in History* (Cambridge). Her current research includes a book on *Masculinity and the Male Body in Renaissance Art*, and a collaborative project with Dr. Geraldine Johnson of Oxford University entitled *De-Facing the Portrait: The Early Modern Body in Parts*.



FACULTY AND GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS

Faculty Leaves



Bob Babcock (Professor of Classics) will be working with manuscripts from the Liège schoolrooms of the tenth and eleventh centuries, some of them illustrated, as well as with catalogues of the local libraries. Professor Babcock is seeking to recover a fascinating but, until now, lost chapter in the transmission and reception of ancient literature. Liège was then called “The Second Athens,” and scores of important writers, churchmen, and political leaders graduated from its schools. In this period, Liège was the training ground for functionaries in the courts of the Holy Roman Empire. Liège graduates were trained in secular and theological studies, wrote a distinctive local style of Latin, and were reliable supporters of the Emperors in their conflicts with the papacy. Professor Babcock contends that their training in ancient history, politics, and philosophy was central to the formation of their imperial sympathies. In spite of the frequent eulogies of the Liège schools by medieval observers, no contemporary

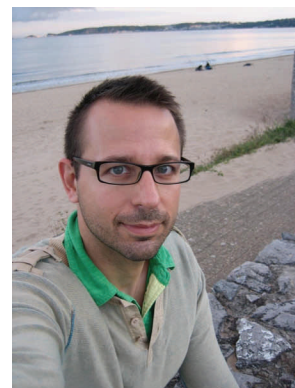
describes the curriculum, none of the school buildings survive, and, most significantly, the libraries of the Liège schools were almost entirely destroyed before the modern era. The loss of this physical evidence is largely responsible for the stark contrast between the medieval fame of the Liège schools and their near total absence from modern scholarly accounts. Professor Babcock’s study addresses this incongruity as he pieces together the experiences of the Liège teachers and, especially, of the children they taught.

During his semester leave, **Wei-Cheng Lin** (Assistant Professor, Art History) will be completing a study titled “Building a Buddhist Sacred Mountain in China: Monastic Architecture at Mt. Wutai during the Tang Dynasty.” This project explores the critical role of monastic architecture in the formation of China’s first Buddhist sacred mountain, Mt. Wutai, when the mountain cult climaxed during the Tang dynasty, 618-907 CE. As the sacrality of a natural site is never static or intrinsic, this project argues that, more than rituals, pilgrimage, or icons, it was the monastery, in its capacity as both an institution and a physical structure, that served as a materialized locus where the discourse regarding sacrality of the site was constructed and construed. The project thus aims to investigate the different ways in which the monastic building and layout, their relations with the natural terrain, its ritual space and image program, and its architectural iconographies were conceived and created as an expressive means in shaping and intervening in the configuration of the sacred realm, as well as its ideals and political ideology, during the Tang period. Buddhist monastic architecture at Mt. Wutai was not only a physical embodiment of a new religious belief and practice, but an important cultural apparatus that internalized the foreign religion, physically reconfigured the natural mountain, and expressed Buddhist beliefs through domestic architectural interpretation.



Faculty Research Support Awards

Shayne Legassie will use his Research support award to complete a book manuscript, “Differently Centered Worlds: The Rise of European Travel Writing (1300-1500).” This book’s argument unfolds along two principal lines: It argues that (1) modern travel writing as we know it arose in the late Middle Ages, for reasons that have not yet been adequately explained, and that (2) any understanding of the invention of travel writing is incomplete without considering the travel experiences of the vast majority of medieval travelers—including women, slaves, and servants—most of whom were illiterate. Last summer, Professor Legassie did research on this project in the London, Oxford, and Cambridge. This year he will be working in archives and libraries in Paris, Barcelona, Madrid, and Girona.



Omid Safi, Professor of Religious Studies, has undertaken investigations which reveal that during the medieval and early modern times Muslims, contrary to currently wide-spread stereotypes about Islam, did in fact depict the human form in their art. Even more startling is that Muslims have had a rich artistic tradition of depicting all the various prophets, including Muhammad himself. These images were not marginal, and were patronized by the leading Muslim courts in India, Persia, and Turkey. Most often, the images have appeared as illuminated manuscripts that combine beautiful depictions of the prophets with short poetic passages. Professor Safi’s project aims to document these illuminated miniatures and manuscripts and explain their religious significance. He will conduct the current phase of his research in Turkey, at the Topkapi and Sabanci Museums and the Konya Mevlana Museum as well as the British Library in London and the Bibliothèque nationale in Paris.

Kathryn Starkey, Associate Professor of German, will spend part of the summer in Berlin, working with her German collaborator on a translation of and commentary on a large selection of works of Neidhart (ca. 1210-1240), one of the most important, prolific, and influential poets of the Middle Ages. An extensive manuscript transmission of Neidhart's songs, a large number of poets who mimicked his style, and the variety and extent of his reception all bear testimony to his tremendous popularity in the Middle Ages and throughout the early modern period. The proposed project will publish a cross section of this important poet's work from its oldest manuscript redaction, the Riedegger manuscript (manuscript R). This will be the first English translation devoted to Neidhart’s work.

John Sweet, Associate Professor of History, will spend the summer building upon his earlier work on colonialism in early New England, focusing his project on the *Narrative* (1798) of Venture Smith, who survived the middle passage, worked on farms on Long Island, eventually won his freedom, and late in life offered a sweeping view of a series of social worlds brought together and transformed by the dynamics of eighteenth-century trade, migration, and colonialism. Professor Sweet will use Venture Smith’s story to anchor an analysis of everyday life and cultural politics: the negotiation of personal relationships, family life, and entrepreneurialism under slavery; the processes by which enslaved people in the North became free; and the ongoing struggles of post-Revolutionary Americans, both black and white, to define the meanings of citizenship. Professor Sweet’s work this summer relates to the West African dynamics of the Atlantic slave trade specifically in and around Anomabu (in modern Ghana), where Smith was held, then sold to a Rhode Island slaver. The records for this study are preserved at Archives de la France d’Outre-Mer in Aix-en-Provence, and at the National Archives at Kew, London.



Ellen Welch (Assistant Professor, Romance Languages) will be seeking this summer to shed new light on the intersections of “representational” political culture and the emergence of a public sphere in the long eighteenth century. Her project, “Intermediaries and the Media: Ambassadors and Emissaries in the French Periodical Press, 1672-1763,” will explore the representation of diplomatic missions, particularly in the *Mercure Galant* and *Journal des Sçavans*, from the start of the Franco-Dutch War until the end of the Seven Years War. Throughout this period (delimited by one of Louis XIV’s major European triumphs on one side and Louis XV’s most embarrassing international defeat on the other), the gazettes’ accounts of state visits, treaty negotiations, the selection of new ambassadors, and other events and personalities in international politics offered French readers a window onto statecraft at the most elite levels. By disseminating and publicizing the otherwise obscure machinations of international politics, these accounts participated in the formation of a national public, mediating the elite French reader’s identification with structures of state and the international state system. Professor Welch will pursue her project this summer at the Bibliothèque nationale de France in Paris.

Donald Gilman Research Support Award

Brett Whalen (Assistant Professor, History) has won this year's grant from the Donald Gilman Research Support Fund for the Program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies. Professor Whalen will use his grant to examine the local discourses, practical strategies, and material conditions that characterized Western Christian engagement with the Islamic world, from the papacy of Innocent III (1198-1216), arguably the most significant of medieval popes, to Nicholas IV (1288-1292). This period witnessed the emergence of the first sustained European missionary efforts in the Islamic world, overseen primarily by the Franciscans and Dominicans; an expansion of Europe’s horizons due to the rise of the Mongol Empire, another target for Christian missionary work; and, in addition to ongoing crusading activities, an unprecedented papal outreach to Muslim rulers in the Middle East and northern Africa through letters and legates. Professor Whalen’s research should take us well beyond the common assumption that Christian-Muslim “international” relations in the Central Middle Ages were always and absolutely violent. To pursue this project, Professor Whalen will be working, first, in Saint Louis, MO, where the Knights of Columbus Vatican Film Library possesses a substantial collection of Latin manuscripts from the Vatican on microfilm. When the Vatican Library in Rome re-opens after renovation, he will pursue his project there.

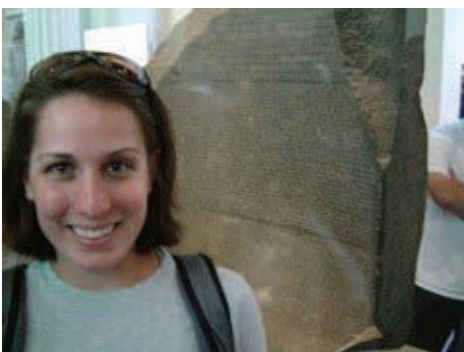
Faculty Conference Travel

MEMS funding provided the means for ten colleagues to travel, most of them to international locations, to present papers this year. The recipients of Conference Travel Awards were: Pika Ghosh, Wei-Cheng Lin, Dorothy Verkerk (Art), Reid Barbour, Shayne Legassie, Megan Matchinske, Jessica Wolfe (English and Comparative Literature), Kathryn Starkey (German), Brett Whalen (History), and Rosa Perelmuter (Romance Languages/Spanish).



Graduate Student Research Leaves

Kate Arpen (Art History, early modern) will use her dissertation fellowship to study 18th Century French representations of contemporary female bathers, a subject whose emergence coincided with a revived conviction among French physicians that bathing offered both pleasurable and healthful potential. Ms. Arpen will seek to explain how representations of contemporary bathers, like the bath itself, simultaneously please and improve, satisfying libertine aspects of visual culture while also promoting emerging ideas about the body and sensation. With the aid also of a MEMS research award, Ms. Arpen will undertake this study at the Dallas Museum of Art, the Detroit Institute of Arts, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, as well as the Bibliothèque nationale de France, the Wallace Collection in London, the Louvre in Paris, and the Hermitage in St. Petersburg.



Sarah Bond (History, medieval) will investigate the social identity of persons marginalized by the state in the transition from late antiquity to Byzantine and early medieval society (c. 200 CE – 565 CE). She will explore in particular the construction, implementation, and evolution of the legal stigma of *infamia*, a broad status that comprised the professions of town crier, arena performer, prostitute, actor, mime, pimp, undertaker, and executioner in Roman society. The category also included people engaged in services to the dying and the dead. Ms. Bond's work will examine the transition that enabled people who performed services to the poor and sick to be elevated from *infames* to the new economy of charity that developed

with the spread of Christianity. Her semester's work will focus especially on catacomb workers at Rome and at Antioch, prison workers and executioners in Rome and Constantinople, and the nascence of associations of hospital workers in Alexandria.

Lauren Garrett (English, early modern) will be examining paradoxes concerning indebtedness in English literature of the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. Ms. Garrett seeks to establish debt as an important discursive focus for early modern considerations of social morality in response to the cultural changes attending the emergence of a market economy. By examining dramatic, rhetorical and polemical texts written during the height of debt litigation in England, 1580-1650, she expects to trace the emergence of a tradition of redemptive treatments of debt that reflects orthodox associations with vice and yet also at times produces sympathetic debtors. Examples of these debtors include the *Tiers Livre's* Panurge and the *Henriad's* Falstaff, both of whom bear all the trappings of their vice figure forefathers, but are most essentially constituted by the paradox of the Christian humanist wise-fool.



Sarah Parker (Comparative Literature, early modern) will explore how five widely different Renaissance authors—François Rabelais, Girolamo Cardano, Michel de Montaigne, John Donne, and Robert Burton—manifest a tension between the drive to attain knowledge through classification and the fascination held by phenomena and human behavior that resist categories of knowledge. In particular, Ms. Parker examines how each author deals with ideas drawn from medical writings and medical knowledge in order to show that theoretical medicine and its relationship to medical practice held a key position in Renaissance culture, not as an esoteric body of knowledge, but rather as a field of study integral to the conceptual and metaphorical structures that many writers employed in order to understand the world around them. During her MEMS Fellowship semester, Ms. Parker’s research will take her to Montpellier’s Bibliothèque de la Faculté de Médecine in pursuit of lecture notes, papers, correspondence, and other documents that would paint a detailed picture of how his medical education might have influenced Rabelais’ presentation of medicine in his works.



Joseph Wallace (English, early modern) will seek to explain the fragile process by which representations of pagan religion changed due to the mingling of allegorical and antiquarian modes of thought and came to represent a potentially unifying and corrective force, either for the individual or for society at large. But he will also suggest the ways in which that kind of tolerant narrative was altered, though not destroyed, by forces on both sides of the various intellectual conflicts in the mid-seventeenth century. Part of this study will focus on Milton, who provides a sweeping synthesis of classical and English models of poetry and culture. He is aware, as is Vergil in his poems, of a community of poets and friends for whom the classical gods represent a language that both sets them apart from the wider world and allows them to create art that can potentially contribute to that wider world. Milton’s stance finds its scholarly double in the work on comparative religions by scholars such as G. J. Vossius (1577–1649) and Edward Herbert (1582/3–1648), for whom pagan myth represented a fully formed body of ideas that could reflect certain eternal truths.

Graduate Student Research Support

Randy Browne (History, early modern) will use his research support to develop a dissertation that connects the early modern cultural and imperial history of Britain to the history of colonialism in the Americas and the history of African diaspora. He will travel to London to consult several bodies of records that concern obeah, which, like vodou (voodoo) is a poorly understood cultural and spiritual system of healing, divination, and harming that was widely practiced throughout the Afro-Atlantic world. This project will trace the British colonialist responses to this system and will place obeah within a broader Atlantic framework in order to explore the cultural politics of colonialism in the early modern Atlantic world. Mr. Browne be working at the National Archives of the United Kingdom and at the School of Oriental and African Studies.

Evan Gurney (English, early modern) will use his research support to deepen his study of the remarkably varied understandings of the theological idea of charity as represented especially in the writings of Ben Jonson. Mr. Gurney will work this summer on a range of archival material at the British Library, which houses several manuscripts that contain valuable examples of occasional verse from the Stuart period as well as several fine printed editions of Jonson’s poetry, masques, and drama. This project will also entail study of the British Library’s repository of archival material related to England’s Poor Law and of important manuscripts housed at the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

Jennifer Orr (German, medieval) will use her research support to study the widespread medieval fascination with chess, and particularly the birth of the chess queen, the piece that in European culture replaced the original Arab vizier, the counselor of the king for whom there was no European equivalent. Ms. Orr's dissertation will investigate the implications of the various representations of chess queens, and draw connections between the material culture of the chess pieces and the literary representation of queens. Her research award, together with a travel grant, will enable Ms. Watson to examine chess queens in Reykjavik, Copenhagen, Nuremberg, Berlin, Paris, and Rotterdam.

Gráinne Watson (German, medieval) will use her research support to take advantage of libraries in Tübingen, which offer a host of primary sources bearing on her study of conceptions of time in medieval Germany. Her dissertation will focus in part on influential women writers, Hildegard von Bingen and Mechthild von Magdeburg, their religious and literary contexts, and especially their contribution to the on-going contemporary discourse on time. In a period that seemed to promise stability and prosperity, religious writing coming from the German Lands appears eschatological. The key surviving writings are female-authored, a fact that raises questions regarding gender and experiences of time. Ms. Watson's study will also explore early vernacular accounts of the history of the German lands, works such as the *Annolied*, *Rolandslied*, and the *Weltchronik*.

Graduate Student Conference Travel

Conference travel grants were awarded this year to Lauren Garrett (English), Jennifer Orr (German), Sarah Parker (Comparative Literature), Rob Policelli (History), Nathaniel Stogdill, (English), and Gráinne Watson (German).

Award Competitions for 2011-12

In order to make departmental planning a bit easier, MEMS award competitions this year will occur one month earlier than they have in the past. The submission deadline for all grants will be September 30. An announcement will appear on the web and on the listservs.

Support MEMS!

We are deeply indebted to the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the College of Arts and Sciences for providing generous funding 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, contact Margaret Costly 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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