

THE MEDIEVAL STUDIES NEWSLETTER

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Spring, 2015

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A SPRING SEMESTER TO REMEMBER FOR MEDIEVAL STUDIES AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY!

The first term of 2015 proved a busy spring semester for Medieval Studies!

Our lecture series resumed in January with a lecture by **Dana Marsh**, Visiting Associate Professor of Early Music, IU Jacobs School of Music, “Music as a Liturgical Sublimation of the Charismata: Augustine to the High Middle Ages.” Professor Marsh presented a case study focused upon the linguistic history of one word, *iubilare*, tracing its semantic development from Roman antiquity, through Augustine of Hippo, and later to Durand of Mende and beyond. (See also our interview with Professor March on page 6!)

In February, with the Lilly Library, MEST co-sponsored **Mediævalia at the Lilly 2015**. This year’s speaker was **Will Noel**, Director of the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, and Director of the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. On the first day of his visit, Dr. Noel presented a lecture on “The Archimedes Palimpsest and other Open Books,” reflecting upon the years he spent leading a team of experts who reconstructed the multiple texts present in some form in the Archimedes Palimpsest. This book is the unique

source for two of Archimedes’ treatises, *The Method* and *Stomachion*, and also the unique source for the Greek text of *On Floating Bodies*, all of which had been erased and written over in the thirteenth century, presenting numerous challenges for experts attempting to reconstruct those long-lost words. All the digital images and transcriptions from the project have been released as “free cultural works.” Dr. Noel concluded his lecture with a reflection on the presentation of and use of digital images of medieval manuscripts. The following morning, Dr. Noel led an intensive, hands-on workshop for

graduate students and faculty, “The Psalms, their Interpretation, and their Use.” Using manuscript examples from the Lilly Library’s extensive collections, participants in the workshop explored the different physical manifestations of the Psalms in the Middle Ages, reflecting upon the manifold contexts in which they were consumed and the many meanings with which they were freighted.

The final weekend of March saw the *twenty-seventh* annual **Medieval Studies Symposium**, this year examining the theme “Hearing and Speaking the Middle Ages: Orality and Aurality in Performance and Text.” **Samer Ali** (IU PhD, NELC, 2002; Associate Professor, Middle Eastern Studies, University of Texas at Austin) delivered the keynote address, “And Then is Heard (from) No More: Mortality, Stigma, and Sound in al-Mutanabbi.” A diverse mix of faculty and students from IU, Purdue, Drew, Yale, Columbus State, Davidson College, Georgetown, and Ralston College presented 25 papers upon a wide range of subjects. The annual **Readers Circle Banquet** hosted ten readings in eight different medieval languages, including Old Slavonic, Greek, West Tokharian, and Middle English poetry and song. On the last Saturday of March, an ensemble of singers and instrumentalists from the **Historical Performance Institute** at the IU Jacobs School of Music closed the symposium with a selection of pieces from *Ordo Virtutum*, the earliest surviving liturgical Drama, written around 1151 by Hildegard von Bingen.

In early April, **Jay Diehl** (Assistant Professor of History, Long Island University) spoke on “Monastic Reform in Liège and the New(er) Learning of the Twelfth Century.” Professor Diehl examined the surviving manuscripts from the monastery of St.–Laurent in

Liège, which hint at unexplored connections between the corporate needs of monastic communities and the early scholastic movement. After this examination, Prof. Diehl offered insights into medieval intellectual culture at the turn of the twelfth century.

At the close of April, **Aaron W. Hughes** (IU PhD, Religious Studies, 2000; Philip S. Bernstein Chair of Jewish Studies, Department of Religious Studies and Classics, Univ. of Rochester) closed our 2014–2015 lecture series with the **Medieval Studies Institute Annual Alumni Lecture**. Through the course of “Medieval Convivencia? A Jewish Philosophical Perspective,” Professor Hughes examined the scholarly focus upon medieval al-Andalus as “some sort of interfaith utopia.” After discussing the reasons behind that long-standing view, he critically examined, as test cases, several medieval Jewish philosophers who have traditionally been held up as supposed exemplars of Jewish “universalism.” Several hours earlier, Professor Hughes had also led “Muslim and Jew: Rethinking the Paradigm,” a workshop for faculty and graduate students.

The Medieval Studies Institute also hosted a pair of professionalization workshops for graduate students, organized by the Medieval Studies Graduate Student Advisory Committee. **Victor Rodríguez Pereira** (Spanish & Portuguese; outgoing President, MEST GSAC) assembled a panel titled “Navigating the Job Market,” which focused upon the job application process, both inside and outside the classroom, where students received advice about navigating the process, learned what employers are looking for in candidates, and gained insights on how to transition into other areas of academic life. **Heidi Støa** (English; Vice President, MEST GSAC) assembled a panel

titled “Getting Your Article Published,” where **Patricia Ingham**, editor of *Exemplaria* (and Prof. of English, IU), **Carol Symes** (Prof. of History, Univ. of Illinois), editor of *The Medieval Globe*, and **Sonia Velázquez**, recent winner of the R. Allen and Judy Shoaf prize for best essay in *Exemplaria* (and newly arrived Assistant Prof. in the departments of Religious Studies & Theatre, Performance and Modern Dance; see feature on p. 4!) discussed the scholarly publication process, from pitching an article to final publication.

Late in April, we gathered to honor ten students who had completed the requirements for a Minor or Certificate in Medieval Studies. **Stephanie Enyeart** (English & Psychology), **Nicholas Hartman** (Philosophy), **Jacob Kipfer** (History), and **Elizabeth Smith** (Anthropology) each received an Undergraduate Minor. **Jesse Schlie** (History) received an Undergraduate Area Certificate. **Kyle Grothoff** (Classical Studies), **Joseph Morgan** (English), and **Miriam Poole** (Theatre, Drama and Contemporary Dance) each received a Graduate Minor. And **Lindsey Hansen** (History of Art; 2014 recipient of the Andrea S. McRobbie Fellowship in Medieval Studies) and **Heidi Støa** (English) each received a Graduate Area Certificate.

And finally, throughout the first semester of 2015, our spring movie series, “Seeing and Believing,” examined how understanding and believing can often be two very different things! First, in late January, we viewed one of the openly acknowledged classics of cinema, Ingmar Bergman’s “The Seventh Seal” (1957), about a varied group of medieval people from all across the social strata who fear the plague and encounter the angel of death. **Ann Carmichael** (Associate Prof. Emerita, History) briefly contextualized the

film. Then, in mid-March, we showed an oft-overlooked critical darling, Richard Attenborough's "Shadowlands" (1994), about the medievalist C. S. Lewis, briefly introduced by graduate student **Maksymilian Szostalo** (History). Finally, in early April,

we gathered to view Margarethe von Trotta's "Vision" (2009), about the life of Hildegard von Bingen, introduced by Prof. **Hildegard Keller** (Germanic Studies). Faculty interested in showing in class these movies and those from series past are welcome to arrange to

borrow the Institute's copies.

Keep an eye on your inboxes and social media for news about our 2015–2016 slate of guest lecturers, the upcoming fall movie series, new professionalization workshops, next year's symposium, and more! ¶

FLANIGAN FUND SUPPORTS GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL TO CONFERENCES

The C. Clifford Flanigan Fund was established in honor of Clifford Flanigan (1941–1993), Professor of Comparative Literature and a founding member of the Medieval Studies Institute. In memory of his commitment to facilitating opportunities for graduate students, the fund provides travel assistance for graduate students studying the Middle Ages to attend conferences. This year, fifteen graduate medievalists have received support from the Fund.

Richard Barrett (History) for panels titled "Byzantium and the Middle Ages: Bosom Buddies or Uneasy Allies?" and "The Public Medievalist" at the International Congress on Medieval Studies (2015).

Giulia Benghi (French and Italian) for her paper "A late 14th Italian collection of love songs: the reception—and revision—of the *Rerum Vulgarium Fragmenta* a few decades after Petrarch's death" at "Authority and Materiality in the Italian Songbook: From the Medieval Lyric to the Early Modern Madrigal," a conference of the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at SUNY Binghamton, NY.

Miles Blizard (History) for his paper "'Dissonantia historiarum': Telling the Story of the Diocletianic Persecution and its Aftermath in the *Speculum Historiale*" at the IMA (Illinois Medie-

val Association) conference "Medieval Narratives."

Samantha Demmerle (English) for her paper "The Maternal Anxiety of Chaucer's Prioress" at the International Congress on Medieval Studies (2015).

Kenny Draper (Classical Studies) for his paper "Stoic Paradox and Metapoetics in Horace *Odes* 2.2 and 3.3" at CAMWS (Classical Association of the Middle West and South) 2015.

Kyle Grothoff (Classical Studies) for his paper "Manilian Poetics and the Rhetoric of the Astrological Treatise" at CAMWS (Classical Association of the Middle West and South) 2015.

Lindsey Hansen (History of Art) for her paper "*Ad imitationem episcopi*: Saint Honoré as a Model of Episcopal Action in the 13th-Century Sculpture of Amiens Cathedral" at the twenty-second Annual Leeds International Medieval Congress (2015).

Stephen Hopkins (English) for his paper "'Woven of Snake Spines': Hell as a Figure in the Old Norse *Voluspá*" at the International Congress on Medieval Studies (2015).

Natalie Levin (History) for her papers "Subliminal Peacock Imagery in Mozarabic Sources" and "The Geographical and Conceptual Expansion of the Medieval World" at the International Congress on Medieval Studies (2015).

Heidi Støa (English) for her pa-

per "The Ghost and the Otherworld in the Awntyrs off Arthure at the Terne-Wathelyne" at the Congress of the International Arthurian Society (2015).

Erin Sweany (English) for her paper "Our Bodies, Our Elves: Exploring Shifting Medical Realities with the Anglo-Saxons" at the International Congress on Medieval Studies (2015).

Maksymilian Szostalo (History) for his team-written paper "Teaching with Primary Sources: University Students' Perspectives on their High School Experience" at the conference "Teaching History: Fostering Historical Thinking across the K-16 Continuum" at the University of California at Berkeley (2015).

Usha Vishnuvajjala (English) for her paper "'History as a Burden': The Promise and Dangers of Medievalist Heroes in Dr. Who's 'Robot of Sherwood'" at the Annual Meeting of the Pop Culture Association (2015).

Sean Tandy (Classical Studies) for his paper "The 'Ode to Mentula' and the Interpretation of Maximianus' Opus" at CAMWS (Classical Association of the Middle West and South) 2015.

Andrea Whitacre (English) for her paper "Skin and Flesh as Mediators of Identity in Old Norse Shape-Shifter Narratives" at the Sixteenth International Saga Conference at the Universities of Zurich and Basel (2015). ¶

INTRODUCING PROFESSOR SONIA VELÁZQUEZ

DEPTS. OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND THEATRE, PERFORMANCE & MODERN DANCE

Sonia Velázquez, who last fall assumed the position of Assistant Professor in the Department of Religious Studies as well as in the Department of Theatre, Performance and Modern Dance, completed her PhD at Princeton University. Velázquez, who majored in comparative literature as an undergraduate, first became interested in the pre-modern era as an MA student while taking her first class in medieval literature. Although she had earlier been fascinated by the experimental French and Latin-American literature of the second half of the twentieth century, when in the fourteenth-century *Libro de Buen Amor* she first encountered the lines “I, Book, am a relative of all those musical instruments which depending on how well or poorly you strum will sing to you accordingly,” she felt that “all of a sudden, all the avant-garde modern literature I had read seemed timid by comparison.” But Velázquez hastens to add that she has not lost interest in the modern. “In fact, what drives my research and teaching is precisely the examination of ways in

which the newness of the past surprises us at the same time as it undergirds the very notions of modernity.”



When researching, Velázquez delights in browsing manuscripts and early modern books “for signs of life, for testimonies that these objects are not museum pieces but were useful parts of a living person’s daily life one way or another, from devotional, learned marginalia to irreverent squiggles.”

Velázquez’s research interests include the relationship of beauty and holiness; religion, secularization, and modernity; theoretical approaches to religion and the arts, especially inter-media relations, practices of adaptation and translation, the history

and theory of iconoclasm and iconophilia; and also conversion narratives. At present, she is working on a book manuscript, *Promiscuous Grace: Re-thinking Religion and Beauty with St. Mary of Egypt*, examining the story of Mary’s conversion from a promiscuous twelve-year old to a venerated anchorite, mediated by her interactions with an image of the Virgin Mary.

Students interested in working with Professor Velázquez will have two opportunities to study with her in the upcoming fall semester. Religious Studies R-300, “Nuns with Guns,” will examine the American sense of fascinated unease regarding celibate women who proclaim a right to resist under the guise of obedience, including nuns who break into highly-secure nuclear arms facilities and those who hold rifles in their hands. Religious Studies A-351, “The Curse of Mankind? Labor, Leisure, and Religion” will examine, in artistic, religious, political, and philosophical texts, the Western world’s conflicting, dual legacy of seeing labor as both punishment and salvation. ¶

FACULTY AND STUDENT NEWS

Marco Aresu, (IU MA Italian, 2009; PhD Harvard 2015) presented his study “Visual Argumentation in Petrarch’s Sestinas” at “Authority and Materiality in the Italian Songbook,” the interdisciplinary conference of the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at SUNY Binghamton, 2 May. In the Fall, Marco will be taking a position as assistant professor of Italian at Wesleyan University.

A Korean translation of **Christopher I. Beckwith’s** (Professor, Cen-

tral Eurasian Studies) book, *Empires of the Silk Road: A History of Central Eurasia from the Bronze Age to the Present* (Princeton, 2009), has been published as *Chungangyurasia segyesa—P’ürangsüesö Koguryökkaji* (Seoul, 2014).

Giulia Benghi (PhD candidate, French and Italian) presented a paper entitled “A late 14th-century Italian collection of love songs: The Reception—and Revision—of the *Rerum Vulgarium Fragmenta* a few decades

after Petrarch’s death,” at the conference “Authority and Materiality in the Italian Songbook: from the Medieval Lyric to the Early-Modern Madrigal,” in Binghamton, NY.

Valerio Cappozzo, (IU PhD, Italian, Medieval Studies Area Certificate, 2012, Asst. Prof. of Italian and Director of the Italian Program, University of Mississippi), recently published “Il Decameron e il Libro dei sogni di Daniele nel cod. Vaticano Rossiano 947” in *Studi sul Boccaccio* 42 (2014), 163–178;

and “Un volgarizzamento trecentesco del Somniale Danielis nel cod. Laurenziano Martelli 12” in *Medioevo letterario d'Italia* 11 (2014), 79–90.

Emilie Cox (PhD candidate, English) was selected as an NEH Fellow for “The Irish Sea Cultural Province: Crossroads of Medieval Literature and Languages,” a Summer Seminar in the UK for College and University Teachers, spread out over Belfast, the Isle of Man, and Glasgow.

Deborah Deliyannis (Professor, History) recently joined the editorial board of the journal *Early Medieval Europe*. She published “The Roman *Liber pontificalis*, Papal Primacy, and the Acacian Schism” in *Viator* 45.3 (2014), 1–16. She presented “Churches vs. Charity in Late Antiquity” at the conference *Shifting Frontiers XI: The Transformation of Poverty, Philanthropy, and Healthcare in Late Antiquity* (Iowa City, March 2015), and will present “Exarchs and Others: Secular Patrons of Churches in the 6th–8th Centuries” at the International Medieval Congress in Leeds this summer. She also participated in a roundtable discussion on “Byzantium and the Middle Ages: Bosom Buddies or Uneasy Allies?” at Kalamazoo this May, organized by History Ph.D. student Richard Barrett. Prof. Deliyannis has been serving as the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the History Department since 2013. She is also a co-organizer, with Jeremy Schott, of “Vandalia: a symposium about Late Antiquity,” that involves Indiana University, the Ohio State University, and the University of Michigan, which will take place at IU Bloomington in Oct. 2015—all are invited to attend and participate!

Kerilyn Harkaway-Kreiger (PhD, English and Religious Studies, 2014) is taking up a TT job this fall as Assistant Professor of English at Gordon Col-

lege in Wenham, Massachusetts.

Emily Houlik-Ritchey (PhD, English, 2013; Andrea S. McRobbie Fellowship Recipient, 2012) is taking up a TT job this fall as Assistant Professor of English at Rice University in Texas.

Patricia Ingham (Professor, English) writes, “I’ve been promoted to full professor, gave the Rossell Hope Robbins Lecture to the NYC Medieval Club in late March, and most important of all, my book, *The Medieval New: Ambivalence in an Age of Innovation* (U. Penn, 2015), is out.”

Anna Elizabeth Love (PhD, Italian, 2015) published “Sermons and ‘*maniculae*’ for Nuns: The Editorial Culture of MS Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana, Ashburnham 533” in *Medioevo letterario d'Italia* 11 (2014), 63–75. On May 4, Anna defended her dissertation, “From Silence to Advocacy: Identity and the Written Word in Medieval and Early Modern Italian Convents.”

Isabella Magni, (PhD candidate, Italian; member, Petrarch.org team), on 2 May presented “The *Fragmenta*’s Timeline: Models for Reconstructing and Interpreting the Text” at “Authority and Materiality in the Italian Songbook,” the interdisciplinary conference of the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at SUNY Binghamton.

Brent Moberly (PhD, English, 2007) writes, “My brother (Kevin Moberly, Associate Professor, Old Dominion University) and I have had two more things published: 1, “There is No Word For Work in the Dragon Tongue,” in *The Year’s Work in Medievalism: Medievalism Now*, ed. K. Fugelso, E.L. Ridsen, & R. Utz, vol. 28 (2013); 2, “Swords, Sorcery, and Steam: The Industrial Dark Ages in Contemporary Medievalism,” *Studies in Medievalism* XXIV: Medievalism on the Margins, ed. K. Fugelso with V. Ferré and A.C. Montoya (Boydell & Brewer, 2015).”

Cynthia Rogers (PhD candidate, English) writes that her article, “Buried in an Hert: French Poetics and the Ends of Genre in Chaucer’s ‘The Complaint Unto Pity’” was accepted by *The Chaucer Review*.

William E. Smith III (PhD, Religious Studies, 2010) writes, “Last November, my book chapter, ‘Two Medieval Brides of Christ,’ on Christina of Markyate & Abelard/Heloise, came out in *Queer Christianities* (NYU, 2014).

Ariann Stern-Gottschalk (Lecturer, Slavic Languages and Literatures) writes, “This academic year, I’ve received two information literacy course development grants from the IU Libraries, including a grant for an undergraduate course, “Medieval Kievan and Muscovite Culture” that I will be teaching in the fall 2015 semester. This grant will help us best deliver instruction dedicated to guiding undergraduate students in working with medieval Slavic primary sources in the Lilly and at the Hilandar Research Library at Ohio State. Also, a panel I have organized on Slavic Information Literacy with librarians from IU, Harvard, the University of Illinois and the Hilandar was accepted for the fall conference of the Association of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies in Philadelphia. Finally, I also recently received a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Grant from the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education.

Wayne Storey (Professor, French and Italian) presented “Digitally Born Petrarch: the Making of the *Fragmenta*” in Toronto on 1 May (NeMLA), and “The Evolving *Fragmenta*: Editing an Imperfect Holograph” in Binghamton, NY, 2 May at the conference “Authority and Materiality in the Italian Songbook.” Also on 1 May, with **John Walsh** he released the third fascicle (cc. 17–24) of the “rich-text” edition

of Petrarch's *Fragmenta*. Both the diplomatic edition of MS Vatican Latino 3195 and Wayne's edited version of 91 poems along with indices are now available at <http://Petrarch.org>. Wayne's essay on the relationship between narrative and the genre of the 'vita', "Boccaccio narra la vita di Dante dagli Zibaldoni alle Esposizioni", just appeared in a volume published in Warsaw, *Boccaccio e la nuova ars narrandi*, edited by Piotr Salwa (Institute of Classical Philology, University of Warsaw, 2015). In March Wayne joined the advisory board of the new journal *Archivio Novellistico Italiano*, edited by Renzo Bragantini, at the University of Rome 1, "La Sapienza".

Usha Vishnuvajjala (PhD can-

didate, English) will present a paper titled "'When We Were Savages': History, Medievalism, and Nation in Woolf's *Between the Acts*," and also organized a panel on Medievalism in Britain during World War II at the Second Biennial Middle Ages in the Modern World conference in Lincoln, UK, June 29–July 2.

Sharon Wailes (Germanic Studies PhD, 2013; IUPUI Department of World Languages and Cultures) presented a paper at the NeMLA Convention with two colleagues, Lindsey Rucker (PhD candidate, Germanic Studies), and Swantje Vanessa Domizlaff (Bloomington HS North, World Language Dept.), "Teaching the Middle Ages With the Manesse Manuscript," in the

"Teaching Medieval Literature" session.

John Walbridge (Professor, NELC) writes, "During the spring semester I am the Ken'an Rifa'i Visiting Distinguished Professor of Islamic Studies at the Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies at Peking University, where I am giving a series of lectures on reason in Islamic civilization. I am also a visiting professor at Minzu University in Peking, which is the national university for ethnic and religious minority groups in the People's Republic of China. My most recent book, *The Alexandrian Epitomes of Galen*, vol. 1, appeared in March. This is an edition and translation of three late antique commentaries on medical works of Galen that survive only in Arabic. ¶

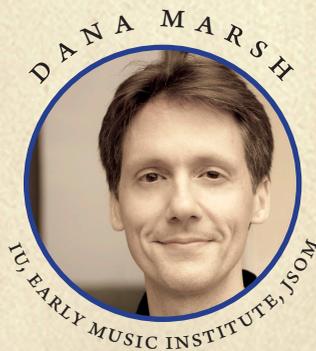
INTRODUCING PROFESSOR DANA MARSH

VISITING ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF EARLY MUSIC, IU JACOBS SCHOOL OF MUSIC

This past fall, Dana Marsh joined the Historical Performance Institute at the IU Jacobs School of Music as Visiting Associate Professor, the latest step in a broad-ranging career that has included serving as an ensemble director, counter-tenor, organist, and academic, all in the field of Historical Performance. His earliest training was as a boy chorister at St. Thomas Choir School in New York and at Salisbury Cathedral in England. Marsh received his doctoral degree in Historical Musicology from Oxford University. His doctoral thesis, "Music, Church, and Henry VIII's Reformation," took an interdisciplinary look at musical culture in the church during a period of convulsive religious change. He has taught the early history of music at both Oxford and Cambridge and has had articles published by the scholarly presses of both institutions.

Professor Marsh's research interests

include liturgical exegesis from the ninth to the thirteenth centuries, medieval and Renaissance music, Renaissance humanism, and the history of the Reformation. His primary interest, however, is ecclesiastical history.



Marsh is particularly interested in the church's influences on developing music genres and styles, both inside and outside of the liturgy. He's currently writing a book that will serve as "a compendium of musical references from the exegetical literature of the ninth through thirteenth centuries,

marking especially the influences of key literary topoi on the development of musical repertoires." His source materials go far beyond purely musical evidence, including ordinals, consuetudinaries, customaries, diocesan uses, episcopal, cathedral, and parish registers and related archival records, including dean and chapter minutes.

In his faculty role at IU as Coordinator of the Historical Performance Institute, Marsh's central concern is "how the theoretical evidence gleaned from musical research can reveal insights about performance practice and the actual sound of the music in ways that historical data cannot." He adds, "It's the field's chief means of closing the gaps between 'theory and practice.'"

Marsh also has extensive experience as a professional singer in both the UK and the US. He has recorded for Decca, Avie, Sony, Universal, Koch International Classics, Erato, and Signum. ¶



The English Department Song School (left to right, Julie Chamberlin, Jennifer Lopatin, Andrea Whitacre, Elizabeth Maffetone, Arwen Taylor, Brent Moberly, Joseph Morgan, David Cook, Cynthia Rogers, and Erin Sweany) performs “Sumer is icumen in” during the Readers Circle Banquet. (See p. 2)



Aaron Hughes (PhD, Religious Studies, 2000) answering questions from the audience after MEST's annual Alumni Lecture in April. (See p. 2)

PHOTO GALLERY



Graduate Student Heidi Stoa (English; Vice President, MEST GSAC) receiving her Graduate Area Certificate from MEST Associate Director Bridget Balint at the Minors & Certificate Reception at the Lilly Library. (See p. 2)



Photo Credit: Cynthia Rogers

Kathryn Summersett directing an ensemble performance of Hildegard von Bingen's Ordo Virtutum (written c. 1151) by singers and instrumentalists from the Historical Performance Institute at the IU Jacobs School of Music. (See p. 2)

MEDIEVAL STUDIES CONTACT INFORMATION

The members of the administrative staff of MEST are: **Rosemarie McGerr**, *Director*, **Bridget Balint**, *Associate Director*, **Usha Vishnuvajjala**, *Assistant to the Director*, and **Maksymilian Szostalo**, *Special Projects Assistant*. If you have communications you would like to have distributed as a general announcement in Medieval Studies, please contact Maks at mest@indiana.edu.

mest@indiana.edu: for general correspondence with the Institute, or for administrative matters with Usha, or newsletter and publicity issues with Maks.

mestdir@indiana.edu: for direct and confidential communications with the Director; this is an administrative account we have established that will transfer from director to director. *Please note that dirmest@indiana.edu is the personal account of another faculty member.*

In addition to these two e-mail accounts, we also maintain six distribution lists: one for undergraduate students, one for graduate students, one for alumni, one for faculty, one for core faculty, and one for community members. If you would like to be added to any of those lists, please contact Maks at mest@indiana.edu.

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The DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear fellow medievalists,

Our spring semester this year offered even more events than usual: lectures, workshops, films, and a symposium expanded to include papers from the Indiana Medieval Graduate Consortium. As it turned out, two of our speakers, **Samer Ali** and **Aaron Hughes**, were IU alumni, whose achievements we were very happy to celebrate. In their reflections on their time as students here, they emphasized the contribution of the Medieval Studies Institute in nurturing interdisciplinary dialogue, as well enhancing professional development for students. Other guests often mention the extraordinary breadth and inclusive environment of Medieval Studies at IU, in terms of the disciplinary and geographical range of departments that participate in MEST, the many medieval languages we offer in our program of study, the different forms of analysis we employ, and the lively discussions that become possible at our lectures and conferences. Whether we are interested in performance or performance theory, history of science or history of art, manuscripts or mysticism, just to name a few, MEST offers opportunities rarely brought together single university.

This spring brings the retirement of two long-time members of the MEST core faculty: **Emanuel Mickel** and **Jacques Merceron**, both Professors of French. We greatly appreciate the many ways in which they contributed to MEST over the years, Prof. Merceron as teacher and Executive Committee member and Prof. Mickel as teacher and Director. We congratulate them,



but also hope we will continue to see them at MEST events.

Though I was very sorry to have missed events at the end of spring semester because of my accident, the fact that everything continued so smoothly was testimony to the wonderful faculty and graduate students who assist in the Institute's programming. I want to extend my sincere thanks to Associate Director **Bridget Balint** and Executive Committee members **Ryan Giles**, **Patty Ingham**, **John Walbridge**, and **Cherry Williams**, as well as to Assistant to the Director **Usha Vishnuvajjala** and Special Projects Assistant **Maksymilian Szostalo**. I also want to send very best wishes to Usha and to **Kenny Draper**, Assistant for the MEST Journals Initiative, as they complete their appointments with MEST. It has been a great pleasure to work with them during their time with MEST.

News about fall events will come soon!

Have a wonderful summer,
Rosemarie McGerr