

Newsletter of the Medieval & Renaissance Studies Center



Greetings to All,

Welcome to Vol. 1, Issue #2, 2021-2022, of the TTU Medieval & Renaissance Studies Center Newsletter!

In this second issue of the MRSC newsletter, we will update you on recent and upcoming events, and on the accomplishments of MRSC students and faculty. We have the Fall 2022 course listings for the MRSC Graduate Certificate students and we have a list of all sessions and papers presented by MRSC faculty (and some former students) at the International Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo (May 9-14). The conference was virtual this year so we hope you attended sessions from the comfort of your home.

We will report on the invigorating MRSC Program Development Day that we shared with guests on April 8, 2022. Professor Olivia Holmes, Director of the Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies at Binghamton University, SUNY, and Professor Marjorie Rubright, Director of the Arthur F. Kinney Center for Interdisciplinary Renaissance Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, both inspired us with their insight and marvelous ideas on how to grow creatively and sustainably over the next few years.

We will also share our plans, still in progress, for the MRSC International Conference that will take place next Spring as part of TTU's Centennial celebrations.

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**Editor and Layout:
Mary Mailler**



Before all that, I would like to announce that I, Janis, will be retiring in August, and Angela has decided to step down as well from the directorship. Angie and I have served with pleasure as co-directors since 2018 and have worked hard to raise both the budget and the profile of the MRSC, to improve the MRSC website, and to connect with you via social media in order to encourage exchanges of scholarship among MRSC members. We will remain on the MRSC Board and on the Working Group that is organizing next Spring's conference. We will soon deliver news about our successor(s), so stay tuned! We are grateful to the entire MRSC community and to all the administrators who have supported us in these initiatives.

Thank you all! And many thanks to Mary Mailler, our webmaster and newsletter editor. Now please read on!



Recent Student Accomplishments:

Congratulations to Jennifer K. Robertson, PhD student in English, who has received a Fulbright Scholarship for her project entitled, "Medieval North Sea Medicinal Trade". Her research involves mining historical documents (manuscripts) for data on the economic relationships in the North Sea as they pertain to trade in medicines and medicinal ingredients to extrapolate evidence of trends in medical practice and intellectual or technological trade outside of Latin-speaking religious communities. Blending historiographical, paleographical, and literary study, she hopes this work will illuminate the relationship between medical Arabism (medicine influenced by Islamic scientific communities) and the North Sea world (including coastal Northern Europe, Scandinavia, and Britain) with the ultimate intention to explain the eruptions of medical Arabism in English literature that grew from occasional to commonplace through the Middle Ages. Jenny will spend the 2022-23 academic year at the University of Bergen, in Bergen, Norway.

Congratulations as well to Emily Jay, PhD student in the CVPA's Fine Arts Doctoral program, Art major, who has accepted the position of Assistant Professor of Art at Ohio Northern University in Ada OH, starting in the fall of 2022, where she will be teaching Art History and Visual Literacy classes. She will also be completing her dissertation, currently entitled: "*How to become a mountain: the entangled relationship of Santa Rosalia and the city of Palermo.*" **Cont'd. to Last Page**

Front: Liber ethicorum des Henricus de Alemannia, single sheet. Scena: Henricus de Alemannia con i suoi studenti. Laurentius de Voltolina. Second half of the 14th century.

Left: Cours de philosophie a Paris Grandes chroniques de France, fin XVe siecle, Sources: Castres, bibliotheque, ms. 3 f. 277r, Unknown author.

Spring 2022 Conference Events:

**International Congress on
Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo
(VIRTUAL)**

May 9th - 14th, 2022

Tuesday, May 10, 2022,

11:00 a.m. EDT

Session #90

Biblical Exegesis and Preaching I

Sponsor: Society for the Study of
the Bible in the Middle Ages
(SSBMA)

Org.: Frans van Liere, Calvin Univ.

Presider: Franklin T. Harkins,
Boston College

“The Practice of Ruminating in
Bede’s Easter Vigil Homily”
Aaron Scott Taylor, Univ. of Central
Oklahoma

“The Use of Scripture in Innocent
III’s Easter Sermons” Aaron Canty,
St. Xavier Univ.

“Academic Rhetoric and Peter
Damian’s Biblical Exegesis”
John M. Howe, Texas Tech Univ.

Tuesday, May 10, 2022,

7:00 p.m. EDT

Session #143

*Playing with Game Theory: Playful
Genres*

Sponsor: Game Cultures Society

Organizer: Sarah J. Sprouse,
Univ. of Alabama

Presider: Daniel Elias Kephart, Univ.
of Rochester

“Performing Sir Thopas: Incipits and
Explicits”
Kimberly K. Bell, Sam Houston State
Univ.; Julie Nelson Couch, Texas
Tech Univ.

Til on a day’: Brackets in Chaucer’s
Tale of Sir Thopas and the Middle
English Sir Perceval of Galles” McKenzie
Peck, Univ. of Missouri–Columbia”

“Viewing Pearl through Game Theory: An
Exposition of the Poet’s Remedy for Grief”
Kristen D. York, Texas A&M Univ.

Thursday, May 12, 2022,

9:00 a.m. - EDT

**Naples and Beyond: World-Wide Cultural
Networks (I-III)**

Session #219

Within Naples

Organizer: Janis Elliott, Texas Tech Univ.
Denva Gallant, Univ. of Delaware

“Confraternal Art and Architecture in
Angevin Naples: The Hospital of S. Eligio
and the Compagnia della Croce at S.
Agostino” Stefano D’Ovidio, Univ. di Napoli
Federico II

“Ribbed Domes in Naples and South Italy”
Caroline A. Bruzelius, Duke Univ.

“Naples outside Naples. Medieval funerary
sculpture at the abbey of Montevergine”
Paola Vitolo, Univ. di Napoli Federico II

“De statua. Visualizing Fame in Early
Renaissance Naples” Nicolas Bock,
Lausanne Univ.

Thursday, May 12, 2022,

3:00 p.m. - EDT

Session #242

Beyond Naples I:

Org.: Janis Elliott, Texas Tech Univ.
Denva Gallant, Univ. of Delaware

“Xmaltatis per totum: The “Church
Reliquary” at San Nicola, Bari, in Context
Jill Caskey, Univ. of Toronto

“Kings in Heaven and Workers in Hell: A
Civic Last Judgment Fresco in Sant’Agata

de' Goti" Claire Jensen, Univ. of Toronto "Court art beyond Naples: the frescoes of Santa Caterina, Galatina" Maria Harvey, James Madison Univ.

Thursday, May 12, 2022

5:00 p.m. - EDT

Session #262

Beyond Naples II:

Org.: Janis Elliott, Texas Tech Univ.

Denva Gallant, Univ. of Delaware

"A Manuscript on the Move: The Kitāb al-Hāwī between Tunisia and Naples" Nora S. Lambert,

"The Dynastic in the Monastic: Considering the Image of Robert of Anjou in Morgan MS. M.626" Denva Gallant, Univ. of Delaware

"The Hungarian Angevin Legendary: A Picture-Book of Saints Lives and its connection to Angevin Naples" Janis Elliott, Texas Tech Univ.

Spring 2023 MRSC Conference April 20 - 22, 2023

With the generous assistance of a TTU Humanities Center Working Group Grant and additional funding from the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation, the MRSC will host an international conference on 20-22 April 2023, to coincide with the Texas Tech Centenary (1923-2023). The conference theme is Centers & Peripheries: The Global Premodern, and is the culmination of our 3-year Working Group project entitled: "Arts, Histories, Literatures of the World, 500-1500 CE."

The conference will start off in the afternoon of April 20 with a grand opening session on "The Medieval Roots of the University" with special guest speakers, John Van Engen, Andrew V. Tackes Professor Emeritus of Medieval History at the Medieval Institute of the University of Notre Dame, and James Turner, Cavanaugh Professor of Humanities and Professor of History Emeritus at the University of Notre Dame. A reception will follow in the Sculpture Court of the TTU Museum.

Our two keynote speakers have been confirmed. Ulinka Rublack is Professor of Early Modern European History at the University of Cambridge and author of The Astronomer and the Witch and Dürer in the Age of Wonder. She will speak on April 21st to our audience on the topic of her new book, The Triumph of Fashion. Jonathan Hsy is Associate Professor of English at George Washington University, author of Antiracist Medievalisms: From "Yellow Peril" to Black Lives Matter, founding co-director of Global Chaucers, and founding member of Medievalists of Color. He will speak on April 22nd about his interests in the cultural history of disability in the middle ages.



Miniature of the book's author, Vincent of Beauvais, within a border containing the arms of Edward IV, to whom this manuscript belonged. Miroir historial, vol. 1 (Vincent of Beauvais, Speculum historiale, trans. into French by Jean de Vignay), Bruges, c. 1478-1480, Royal 14 E. i, vol. 1, f. 3r. Late Fifteenth Century.. Author: Medieval scribe and illuminator.



Certificate Course Offerings
Fall Semester Courses 2022

ENGL 5301 Old English Language
Dr. Brian McFadden
Tuesdays 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
(CRN: 33019)
Hybrid
Survey of the Grammar and vocabulary of Old English together with readings.

ENGL 5306 Milton, Utopia, and Dystopia
Dr. Ryan Hackenbracht
Wednesdays 6:00 pm - 8:50 pm.
(CRN: 35489)
Hybrid
How does utopic fiction try to make “a heaven of hell, [or] a hell of heaven?” Is that endeavor inherently diabolical—or, at least, tainted in some way—as it was for Milton's Satan? [Read More.](#)

HIST 5342 Studies in Renaissance and Reformation History
Dr. Jacob Baum
Tuesdays 3:00 pm - 5:50 pm.
(CRN: 22891)
Hybrid

MUTH 5321 History of Music Theory 1 (Antiquity - 1600)
Dr. Peter Martens
Tuesdays and Thursdays
2:00 pm to 3:20 pm
(CRN: 44293)
Face to Face
Students in this reading-intensive seminar will delve into the rich world of writings on the theory and practice of ancient, Medieval, and Renaissance music. [Read More.](#)

SPAN 5362 Golden Age Literature: Animal Lives
Dr. John Beusterien
Thursdays 3:00 pm to 5:50 pm
(CRN: 36181)
Face to Face
Scholars have increasingly recognized the importance of the humanities, particularly literary studies, in addressing the environmental crisis. [Read More.](#)



Recent Student Accomplishments Cont.'d:

Courtney Gragson, an MA student in History, will receive MRSC funding to attend the German Script paleography course offered by the Moravian College Archives in Bethlehem, PA, from July 18-29, 2022. The course is vital to her current thesis research, which requires her to read archival documents written in forms of Old German script.

Summing up..

We invite your assistance in keeping us up to date with the abundance of news and productive output represented by TTU's MRSC students and faculty. We urge you to send us any news relevant to the MRSC community (mrsc@ttu.edu). Please reach out to friends, colleagues, and students who would like to be on the MRSC mailing list—just go to the website home page (<https://www.depts.ttu.edu/history/medieval/>), scroll to the bottom of the right-hand column, and add your name. There is also a [donation button](#) there. All are invited to donate to MRSC -- every contribution helps, no matter what amount.

Happy summer break to all!
Angela Mariani & Janis Elliott

