Events

Anthony Grafton Visit

On November 3-4, 2010, historian Anthony Grafton visited Pitt as a short-term fellow in the Humanities Center. Two hundred people packed the Frick Fine Arts auditorium for his lecture on early modern perceptions of Jesus as part of the Jewish world, titled “How Jesus Celebrated Passover: Renaissance Scholarship and the Jewish Origins of Christianity.”
Professor Grafton also led a Humanities Center seminar on the topic of “Humanities and Inhumanities,” in which he rehearsed some of the common complaints made about the scholars working in the humanities, such as that they are out of touch or overly specialized.

He then noted that responses to these attacks usually rely on pragmatic arguments for the value of the humanities: they tie humanistic teaching and research to civic education or seek to show that analytical training in the humanities allows students to tackle difficult problems in a range of fields. Professor Grafton concluded by challenging his audience to go beyond pragmatic defenses of the humanities and attempt to convey to students and to the public some of the excitement of research for its own sake, or what he has called the “Faustian magic of high scholarship.”

**Upcoming Events**

*Sponsored and Co-sponsored by the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program*
For a full listing of events, please visit the webpage of the Medieval and Renaissance Studies program, [http://www.medren.pitt.edu/](http://www.medren.pitt.edu/).

Vagantes Conference

Pitt will host Vagantes, the annual, traveling Medieval Graduate Student Conference, March 3-5, 2011. See the website, [www.vagantesconference.org](http://www.vagantesconference.org), for details.

Within the Boundaries: Jews and Others in Medieval French Culture

On March 18, 2011, the Humanities Center, the Department of French and Italian, and the Program in Jewish Studies will co-sponsor a one-day mini-colloquium designed to bring to an audience of faculty and graduate students some of the cutting-edge research on the intersection of Jewish and medieval French studies. The speakers will be Kirsten Fudeman (University of Pittsburgh, Department of French and Italian), Sharon Kinoshita (UC Santa Cruz/University of Pittsburgh Humanities Center Fellow, Spring 2011), and Deanna Klepper (Department of Religion, Boston University). The mini-colloquium is being organized by Renate Blumenfeld-Kosinski (French and Italian) and Adam Shear (Religious Studies).

The American Association of Italian Studies (AAIS) Conference

From April 7-9, 2011, the University of Pittsburgh hosts the annual AAIS Conference. There will be several panels on topics pertaining to Italian Renaissance culture.


Please direct questions to Francesca Savoia (savoia@pitt.edu)

News

Ryan McDermott Joins the Department of English

Ryan McDermott joined the English Department as Assistant Professor of Medieval Literature and Culture in Fall 2010. Professor McDermott's book-in-progress, *The Invention of Goodness: Literary Ethics and Tropological Imagination in Late-Medieval England*, deals with William Langland, Geoffrey Chaucer, the Gawain-Poet, the York dramatists, and John Skelton. The project explores how they adapted methods of biblical interpretation to move their audience to action. *The Invention of Goodness* takes literary texts seriously as biblical exegesis and theological thought machines, while it draws out the literary uses to which readers and writers put religious writing. By blurring the line
between “literary” and “religious” texts, these writers allow us to track a shift in late-medieval theories of textuality, one in which the literal meaning expands to embrace moral meanings. This shift places ethics more firmly in the realm of history while it also raises the ethical status of literary composition. This year Professor McDermott’s courses include the Medieval Imagination, Chaucer, and Introduction to Critical Reading.

Welcome to our new Postdoctoral Fellows!

**Michael Gardiner** (Music) is a music theorist and a laptop composer/improviser. His research interests include aspects of musical space in 12th century chant (with an analytic dissertation on Hildegard von Bingen), Japanese *noh* theater, and computer generated images of musical sound.

**Mario Pereira** (History) is a cultural historian who focuses on issues of cross cultural interaction and exchange in the early modern Atlantic world. He is a specialist in the arts of Europe and Africa in the early modern period. His research explores the complex cultural and diplomatic dialogues fostered between Europeans and Africans and investigates the pivotal role of art in articulating and cultivating these cross-cultural relationships.

**Emma Annette Wilson** (English Literature) completed her Ph.D. on “John Milton’s use of logic in Paradise Lost” in 2009 at the University of St Andrews, during which time she honed her method of applying early modern discursive techniques pragmatically as a means of analyzing literature of that period. She is currently working on two monographs, one on John Milton, and the other entitled “In Defence of Logic: A History of Early Modern Logic 1543-1724.”

For more information, please see the Arts and Sciences Website: [http://www.as.pitt.edu/postdoc/people/](http://www.as.pitt.edu/postdoc/people/)

**Undergraduate Essay Prize**

Congratulations to the co-winners of the 2010 MRST undergraduate essay contest:

Lauren MacLaughlin
“Wandering Gazes and Courtly Portraits: Bronzino and l'occhio strabico,” written for HAA 1901, Independent Study (Spring 2010), taught by Professor Kathleen Christian

Jennifer McGuire
“Jealousy During the Renaissance: False Women and the Need to Control Them,” written for ENGLIT 1910, English Literature Senior Seminar (Spring
List of Doctoral Dissertations in European Civilization

On a bimonthly basis Jonathon Erlen of History of Medicine in the School of Medicine prepares and annotates a list of recent doctoral dissertations worldwide that cover all aspects of European civilization from the time period 400-1700 CE. He would be pleased to share these lists with any interested scholars. Simply send him an email (erlen@pitt.edu) requesting to be added to my already existing list serve for these dissertation lists.

News from the Departments

English

Hannah Johnson has recently been awarded a research award for a collaborative project entitled, “Rethinking Ritual Murder.” Scholars Kathy Lavezzo (University of Iowa), Heather Blurton (University of California Santa Barbara), and Professor Johnson will be in residency for four weeks at the Obermann Center for Advanced Studies at the University of Iowa to work on the project together. Additionally, Hannah Johnson is co-editing a special issue of the journal *postmedieval* with Nina Caputo (University of Florida), scheduled for publication in 2014. The theme of the issue is “The Holocaust and the Middle Ages.”

Marianne Novy gave a paper called “Breeding From Foreign Seeds: Adoption in The Winter’s Tale, Shakespeare’s Time, and Ours,” at the interdisciplinary Summit Conference on Intercountry Adoption at the new Stratford campus of the University of Waterloo in September. That evening was the last performance of The Winter's Tale of the Stratford season. Professor Novy also gave a paper on “Race and Othello's Role as an Outsider” in the seminar on Shakespeare and Race at the conference of the Shakespeare Association of America in Chicago in April.


Jen Waldron, Director of the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program, published an article called “Reading the Body,” for Blackwell’s *New Companion to English Renaissance Literature and Culture*, edited by Michael Hattaway (2010). Waldron was awarded a Humanities Center Collaborative Research...
Grant to hold a set of seminars on “Early Modern Historicities.” The research group included discussion leaders Adam Shear, Dennis Looney, Drew Armstrong, and Allyson Creasman of CMU, among many others. They met three times during September and October to discuss the work of Anthony Grafton, who visited Pitt this November as a short-term fellow at the Humanities Center. Some of the topics discussed were early modern conceptions of space and time, humanism and the “republic of letters,” and Reformation historiography. Waldron also presented two papers over the last year. For a seminar on “Shakespeare and Scripture” at the Shakespeare Association’s meeting in Chicago last spring, she presented “Loving by the Book in Love’s Labor’s Lost: Theater, Typology, Secularization.” For the Literature Program’s Works-In-Progress Colloquium last November, her talk was entitled “Animal, Human & Mechanical: Sensation in A Midsummer Night’s Dream.”

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**French and Italian**


**Kirsten Fudeman** recently published two books: *Vernacular Voices: Language and Identity in Medieval French Jewish Communities* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2010), and the second revised and augmented edition of the popular linguistics textbook, *What is Morphology?* (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010), co-authored with Mark Aronoff of Stony Brook University. She published two articles, the first dealing with medieval Jewish scholarship, and the second with medieval Christian perceptions of Jewish scholars (“Etymology, gloss, and pešat, with special reference to Cod. Parm. 2342,” in *Materia Giudaica: Rivista dell’Associazione Italiana per lo Studio del Giudaismo* [2009], and “Gautier de
Dennis Looney's translation of the letters and satirical prose of the Renaissance poet Ludovico Ariosto, 'My Muse will have a story to paint': Selected Prose of Ludovico Ariosto, was published with the University of Toronto Press in fall 2010. He also had several essays come out: “Literary Heresy: The Dantesque Metamorphosis of LeRoi Jones into Amiri Baraka,” in Metamorphosing Dante: Appropriations, Manipulations and Rewritings in the Twentieth and Twenty-first Centuries (Turia und Kant); and “Marvelous Vergil in the Ferrarese Renaissance,” in A Companion to Vergil’s Aeneid and Its Tradition (Blackwell). For the Oxford Bibliographies Online he completed the entries on Ariosto and Romance/Epic; and for the Virgil Encyclopedia he completed the entry on Ferrara. In 2010 he lectured on Ariosto’s satirical prose at Brown University, Dante and the divine at Dickinson College, and Herodotus in the Renaissance at the annual meeting of the Renaissance Society of America, held in Venice. With funding from several internal grants (Bowman, EUCE, Hewlett), in the summer of 2010 he was able to begin a new project in earnest on the reception of the Greek historian Herodotus in Renaissance Europe, conducting research in libraries in Italy and England.

Todd Reeser published Masculinities in Theory, an interdisciplinary book on masculinity and literary/cultural theory. He also published a piece "Theorizing Sex and Gender in Montaigne," in Montaigne After Theory / Theory After Montaigne edited by Zahi Zalloua. He gave several papers, including one on Marsilio Ficino's textual-sexual hermeneutics at the New College Medieval and Renaissance Studies Conference. He received several grants, and this coming summer will be a Senior Scholar at the Vittore Branca International Center for the Study of Italian Culture in Venice. In fall 2010, he taught a graduate seminar "Gender and Sexuality in Early Modern France."


Francesca Savoia received a Hewlett International Small Grant, thanks to which

Over the past year, **Susan Dudash** (Ph.D., 2003), an assistant professor at Fordham University, gave plenary presentations on her book on the emerging role of the *poète engagé* in late-medieval France at the University Seminar on Medieval Studies at Oxford University, the Mellon Seminar at the University of Notre Dame, the Center for Medieval Studies at Fordham, and the Université d’Orléans, where she was a *professeur invité* in 2009. Other invited presentations include a lecture at the international symposium on Philippe de Mézières held in Nicosia, Cyprus, a presentation on her next book project on the art and politics of warfare in late-medieval France at the International Colloquium on Christine de Pizan in Bologna, and a talk on the princely sin of sloth at the triennial colloquium of the ICLS in Montréal. In addition to her book on the emerging role of the *poète engagé* in late-medieval France, she is completing a number of works on the vices and social class, personification allegory, and the intersection of literature and politics. Her other current projects include work on *Jeanne d’Arc* for the *Female Biography Project* (Chawton House Library) and a co-edited volume, *A Companion to Christine de Pizan*. A member of the Board of Councillors of the Medieval Association of the Pacific and Editorial Board of *Cahiers de Recherches Médiévales*, as well as its North American Book Review Editor (terms ending 2010), she continues to serve on the Standing Committee of the International Christine de Pizan Society and Executive Committee of the International Alain Chartier Society/Société internationale Alain Chartier. Most recently, she was nominated to the MLA Delegate Assembly.

**Gabriella Baika** (Ph.D. 2007), currently an assistant professor at the Florida Institute of Technology published “Double-Talk (‘Bilinguium’) in Faus Semblant’s Discourse in the Roman de la Rose,” *Medievalia et Humanistica*: 35 (2009): 15-32 and presented three papers: “Forbidden Speech: The Problem of Blasphemy in Dante’s Inferno,” at the SAML Convention, Atlanta, “Was Jean de Meun a ‘Teacher of Vices’?” at the 45th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, and “Welches Monster ist das? Student Imagination at Work in the Foreign Language Class (French, Italian, and German),” at the SAML Convention, Atlanta. She is currently working on a book-length manuscript on the ethics of speech in Jean de Meun and Dante.

**Charles-Louis Morand Métivier** presented a paper entitled “Agrippa d’Aubigné’s *Les Tragiques*: Guide for a new France” at the Newberry Library Graduate Conference (Chicago) in January 2010. He also presented a paper entitled “Les Goliards: Poésie, Vulgarité, Didactique” in April 2010 at the North East Modern Languages Association Conference in Montréal, Quebec. He
received an Arts and Sciences Summer Research Fellowship to conduct research in France on the manuscript of Agrippa d’Aubigné’s *Les Tragiques* in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. Karen Adams presented a paper called “Savage rites: Old and New World cannibalism in the works of Jean de Léry” at the Medieval and Early Modern Institute’s Graduate Student Colloquium (University of Alberta, February 2010). Karen Adams also attended the Mellon Summer Institute in French Paleography at the Newberry Library Center for Renaissance Studies, where she studied handwriting in French manuscripts from the thirteenth through eighteenth centuries.

**Hispanic Languages & Literatures**


**History**


**History of Art and Architecture**


Alison Stones gave a lecture in the *Légende du roi Arthur* series at the Bibliothèque nationale de France in December 2009, and delivered papers at the Medieval Music conference at UCLA in November 2009, at the Building Blocks of France conference in Knoxville, Tennessee, at the Medieval Academy of America at Yale in March 2010, at the International Medieval Conference in
Leeds in July 2010, and at the Medieval Song Network conference in London. She also chaired a session at the International Palaeography conference in Ljubljana in September 2010 and gave a lecture in October 2010 at the Metropolitan Museum in New York as part of the celebrations of the Santiago Jubilee year. She published seven articles, three book reviews and essays and catalogue entries for exhibitions in Paris, Lille, and Santiago de Compostela.

Franklin Toker’s volume, *On Holy Ground: Liturgy, Architecture, and Urbanism in the Cathedral and the Streets of Medieval Florence*, was published late in 2009 by Brepols/Harvey Miller in Belgium. It contains the first-ever published transcription of a key liturgical manuscript from around 1190, and the first modern transcription of an auxiliary text from around 1230. The five interpretive chapters discuss historiography, liturgy and architecture, the cathedral square, religious processions and medieval urbanism, and food. *On Holy Ground* is the first of four volumes in Toker’s series entitled “The Florence Duomo Project.” The next three volumes are slated for publication in each of the next three years.


Graduate student Karen Webb successfully defended her dissertation on “Medieval Manuscript Diagrams, Architectural Structures, and their Relationships: The Case of Chartres Cathedral” and is now teaching at West Liberty College. Sarah Bromberg received an Étienne Gilson travel grant from the Medieval Academy of America for summer research in France on the diagrams in manuscripts of Nicolas of Lyra’s Postilla. She also gave a paper, “King Manuel I of Portugal’s Postilla: A Case Study in Luxury Manuscripts” at the Patronage and the Sacred Text in the Medieval Mediterranean Conference at Brandeis University in October 2010. Rebekah Perry is in Rome on a Mellon Fellowship working on her dissertation, “Public Spectacle, Sacred Image, and Ritual Space: The ‘Inchinata’ Procession in Tivoli and the Visual Experience of Urban Religious Ceremonial in Late Medieval Italy,” and Julia Finch has
received an Arts and Sciences Fellowship to complete her dissertation on “Bibles en images and the Implications of Narrative and Literacy for Late Medieval Visual Culture: NYPL Spencer 22.”

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**History and Philosophy of Science**

Peter Machamer presented “Reception and Influence of Galileo’s Sidereus Nuncius (and the fate of Galileo)”, at the program *Galileo’s Moons: A Celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the Publication of Sidereus Nuncius (Starry Messenger)*, at The Library of Congress, November 5, 2010.

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**Religious Studies**
