The annual newsletter, edited by Michael Cornett, is designed to inform the Medieval & Renaissance Studies faculty, students, and other affiliates about the activities of the Center and our colleagues. Any comments or suggestions about the newsletter are welcome.

Executive committee

Laurie Shannon continues as director of CMRS, doing much for the program even while away from Durham on leave this fall. She will also continue to serve as our liaison to the Folger Institute. Marc Schachter continues as our DGS. Following an interim year in which Laurie Shannon and Michael Cornett covered the DUS front, we welcome Clare Woods this year as she begins a term serving as DUS. Thanks go to Kristen Neuschel and Valeria Finucci for completing their three-year term on the committee, and also for agreeing to a reappointment to another term. Other members of the committee include David Aers, Sarah Beckwith, Kalman Bland, Michael Cornett, Michèle Longino, Walter Mignolo, Ann Marie Rasmussen, Tom Robisheaux, Fiona Sомерсет, David Steinmetz, Hans Van Miegroet, and Annabel Wharton.

Website redesign

Last year saw the completion of Michael Cornett’s redesign of the CMRS website begun a few years back. The perfect web manager was found in Anthony Cross, a senior philosophy major and Chronicle photographer, whose technical expertise put a professional imprint on the site, which now is one of the sharpest at Duke. In addition to the interactive events calendar, there is much that is new, such as an FAQ section for prospective students, a listing of all our graduate and undergraduate students, a tour of study abroad options, and an archive of the annual newsletters. If you have not seen it recently, check out the new website, and bookmark it, at http://medren.
In addition, the website for JMEMS was also redesigned with some new features: see http://medren.aas.duke.edu/jmems.

**FOCUS 2006**

Carrying over a great deal of enthusiasm and success from the 2004 Focus Program, the same instructors added a new colleague and are offering an equally exciting program for 2006: “Memory and Invention: Medieval and Renaissance Worlds.” Clare Woods, the program director, is teaching “Images of Saints and Sinners: Medieval Role Models.” Mary Jane Morrow’s course is “Work and Worship in Europe, 800-1500.” Caroline Bruzelius is teaching “Town and Country in the Middle Ages: The Architecture of Monasteries, Cathedrals, and Friaries from the Eleventh to Fourteenth Centuries,” and Valeria Finucci is teaching “The Myth of Venice.” Jules Odendahl-James, Mellon Lecturing Fellow in the University Writing Program, is offering her Writing 20 course as “Anatomical Performances: Dissection as Critical Practice.” The coordinator of the weekly large-group interdisciplinary discussion meetings is Matt Woodworth, a graduate student working in medieval art history, and Snapper Underwood, one of our undergraduate majors, is a program assistant.

The program’s theme centers on the notion of competing social worlds, as the program overview describes:

“We all inhabit one world, one planet. But any sense of unity this might convey is swiftly fractured as we negotiate our way in, around, and through a multiplicity of worlds on a daily basis—and, in the process, invariably work to further shape these worlds. On a more mundane level, each of us is confronted daily by physical and physiological ideals. All facets of our modern world have parallels in Medieval and Renaissance cultures. This cluster will explore the negotiations and clashes that took place between the Arab and Christian worlds, and the worlds of church and state. Ranging across the formative periods of Western culture from late ancient to early modern eras, and examining historical, religious, literary, and art historical materials, the courses examine women’s and men’s lived experience, focusing on beliefs about how people should live and behave. This cluster will explore two concepts vital for the understanding of Medieval and Renaissance cultures: memory and invention. The men and women of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance shaped their present—whether real or ideal—by endlessly reinterpreting, revising, recombining, and innovating upon the traditions, ideologies, values, and social structures that they had inherited from their forebears, or that they acquired through contact with other cultures.”

Twenty-three students are registered for the 2006 Medieval & Renaissance Studies Focus program. Our pro-
gram will be offered again in fall 2008, alternating, in odd-numbered years, with Classical Studies.

Before the Disciplines
Series continues

by Laurie Shannon

The Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies series, “Before the Disciplines: Formations of Knowledge before Modernity,” now running through a second year, is designed to contribute to current thinking about the future of the disciplines and interdisciplinarity in university contexts. Our focus is on the history of knowledge as a practice and on the changing forms of the institutions that harbor and define it. What can the historical framing of objects of knowledge teach us about emerging objects of study and concern? What do the histories of disciplinary evolution tell us that a snapshot of the present cannot? “Before the Disciplines” spotlights studies of premodern, medieval, and early modern knowledge practices—and so contributes a historical perspective to discussions of knowledge and its future forms in the university.

In the 2005-6 academic year, we featured Deborah Harkness (USC, History), who works on international/immigrant scientific communities formed in London in the 16th century as an alternative to the print-culture-based version of the history of science. Her talk was titled, “Undisciplined Science? Foreign Bodies, Vernacular Practices, and Natural Knowledge in Elizabethan London.” We also featured our own Andrew Janiak (Duke, Philosophy), who spoke to a large audience on “Isaac Newton and the Scientific Invention of Modern Philosophy,” discussing the continental philosophical reception of Isaac Newton’s work and claiming that Newton belongs to the history of philosophy every bit as much as he does to the history of science. We were also delighted to co-sponsor a talk by the Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jared Diamond (UCLA, Medicine), “What Is Science? Is History a Science?” which was organized by our sister organization, the Program in the History and Philosophy of Science, Technology, and Medicine.

The 2006-7 slate promises the same excitement. All talks will be held in Westbrook 0012 in the Divinity School on West Campus, and will begin at 4:00 pm. Speakers scheduled include:

KATHARINE PARK
History of Science and Women’s Studies, Harvard University
“Itineraries of the ‘One-Sex Body’: A History of an Idea”
Friday, October 27, 2006

GEORGE SALIBA
Middle East and Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University
“The European Renaissance and the World of Islam”
Thursday, December 7, 2006
We are very grateful for the generous support of the Vice Provost for Interdisciplinary Studies, the Dean of Arts and Sciences, and the Women’s Studies Program, and for support for individual talks this year (so far) from the Dept. of Asian and African Languages and Literature, the Duke Islamic Studies Center, the Dept. of English, and the Program in the History & Philosophy of Science, Technology, and Medicine.

**RSA sessions in Miami**

At the 53rd annual meeting of the Renaissance Society of America in Miami, March 22-24, 2007, the Duke Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies is sponsoring four panels: Comparative Anatomies (Thrs. 8:45 am); Performing Women (Thrs. 3:45 pm); Children and Performance in Early Modern Contexts (Fri. 10:30 am); and Rethinking Domesticity (Sat. 10:30 am).

**NC Colloquium at UNC**

The seventh annual North Carolina Colloquium in Medieval & Renaissance Studies, a collaborative Duke/UNC graduate student conference, was held at UNC last spring, with the theme “True or False?”

- **David Liu** (Religion), **Heather Mitchell** (English), and **Jen Welsh** (History) assisted the UNC students in organizing last year’s conference, at which several Duke students presented papers: David Liu, “Paradox in Ockham’s Two Intentions?”; Heather Mitchell, “The Censures of the Carping World: The Politics of Gossip in Two Tudor Histories of Richard III”; **John Tangney** (English), “Scepticism and Forgiveness in The Winter’s Tale”; Jennifer Welsh, “Fictions and Family: St. Anne and the Holy Kinship in Medieval and Early Modern Europe”; and **Ioanna Zlateva** (English), “Fallen Worlds and the Cunning of History in Richard II.” **Ruth Nisse** (Univ. of Nebraska at Lincoln) gave the plenary address, “False Texts or True Prophecies? The Twelve Tribes of Jews in Late Medieval England.” In addition to Duke and UNC-Chapel Hill students, participants came from near and far, including Fordham Univ., Loyola Univ. of Chicago, North Carolina State Univ., Oklahoma State Univ., Univ. of California at Berkeley, Univ. of California at Long Beach, Univ. of Cambridge, Univ. of Edinburgh, UNC-Greensboro, Univ. of Kentucky, Univ. of Southern California, UNC-Wilmington, Univ. of...
Duke grad colloquium

Last year’s slate of six colloquium meetings were stimulating and varied. Irene Silverblatt of Duke’s Dept. of Cultural Anthropology discussed her new book, *Modern Inquisitions: Peru and the Colonial Origins of the Civilized World;* Michael Cornett, *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies,* presented in fall and spring his two-part discussion on how to turn graduate papers and dissertation chapters into journal articles and on managing the journal submission process. One meeting was a lunchtime conversation with Mary Beth Rose, a former Duke Ph.D. student, now director of the Institute for the Humanities at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Rose’s presentation, “Making It Happen in Academia: Careers in Academic Program Administration,” was cosponsored by the Duke Career Center Alumni-in-Residence Program and the Mellon program “Making the Humanities Central.” One colloquium meeting gave students the option of attending one of the specifically cross-disciplinary talks presented at the International William Byrd Conference held at Duke. A couple meetings were held in tandem with presentations given by visiting scholars, one with Robert Swanson, University of Birmingham, National Humanities Center Seminar in Medieval & Renaissance Studies, “Praying for Pardon: Devotional Indulgences in Late Medieval England,” and one with Andrew Janiak, Duke Univ., who spoke for the “Before the Disciplines” lecture series, “Isaac Newton and the Scientific Invention of Modern Philosophy.”

This year’s slate of meetings, as in recent years, features Duke presenters and visiting scholars. This fall, Michael Cornett will present part one of his talk on journal publishing in tandem with the English Dept. “Pedagogy and Professionalization” series. Roberta Gilchrist, University of Reading, will lead a lunchtime discussion as part of the Religion Dept. Catholic Studies Seminar, “Norwich Cathedral Close: Reading Sacred and Social Space in the Medieval Cathedral.” George Saliba, Columbia University, one of the guest speakers in the CMRS “Before the Disciplines” lecture series, will host a meeting on researching Islamic civilization across the disciplines. The spring meetings are still being planned.

Sponsored events and activities

In addition to the activities already noted, the Center also directly sponsored or cosponsored the following in the 2005-6 year:

Duke Performances Singular Sensations Series, The King’s Singers and Sarband Ensemble, “Sacred Bridges:
The Psalms of David in the Orient and Occident” (Oct.).

Duke Performances Singular Sensations Series, Hopkinson Smith, one of the world’s foremost lutenists, “The Winds of Change: Seventeenth-Century Music from England, France, and Italy” (Nov.).

International William Byrd Conference held by the Duke Music Dept. and cosponsored by Medieval & Renaissance Studies; organized by Kerry McCarthy (Nov.).

Annual Fall Reception for faculty and students at Duke, UNC, and NCSU, along with other colleagues and friends in the area; organized by Michael Cornett (Nov.).

Duke Romance Studies lecture, Michel Jeanneret, Université de Genève, “Rêver l’auteur: Pourquoi les biographies d’écrivain?”; organized by Philip Stewart (Jan.).

Public reading of Chaucer’s Parliament of Fowls to celebrate Valentine’s Day, performed by Fiona Somerset, Sarah Beckwith, Ruth Nisse, and the graduate students in “Chaucer and His Contexts”; organized by Fiona Somerset (Feb.).

Duke Performances, Aquila Theater performance of Shakespeare’s Hamlet (Feb.).

Duke English Dept. and Medieval & Renaissance Studies seminar with Alastair Minnis, Ohio State Univ., “Chaucer and the Relics of Vernacular Religion”; organized by Fiona Somerset (Feb.).

Art History lecture, Michael Ann Holly, Williams College, “The Melancholy Art”; organized by Sarah Caylor (Mar.).

Romance Studies lecture, Albert Ascoli, UC Berkeley, “What’s in a Word? Faith and Its Doubles between Machiavelli and Luther”; organized by Marc Schachter (Mar.).

Undergraduate luncheon for Medieval & Renaissance majors and minors; organized by Michael Cornett (Apr.).


Graduation luncheon at Parizade for undergraduate majors and minors; organized by Michael Cornett (Apr.).

Undergraduate program news

After the 2004-5 year in which the number of students taking Medieval & Renaissance Studies courses cooled off to 1,000 students who took
56 classes (397 in the fall and 603 in the spring), last year saw the figure soar up to 1,320 taking 60 classes (689 in the fall and 631 in the spring)! This figure is up near the highs of the 2002-3 and 2003-4 years, when 1,364 and 1,393 students took 65 classes respectively. (These figures do not include 300-level graduate seminars but do include some graduate students who took 200-level courses.) This level of class registration represents about 24 percent of Trinity College along with some graduate students, showing that the student body at large continues to value what our program offers in undergraduate education.

We began the year with 9 returning majors and minors and ended the year with 20, of whom 4 graduated in May, 1 major and 3 minors.

Allison Clarke graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa; her majors were in Art History and Spanish and her minor was in Medieval & Renaissance Studies. She is currently teaching English and Social Studies to grades 5-7 at a bilingual school in the Dominican Republic. Teaching young children has served to remind her, she says, how badly she needs a doctorate degree, which she plans to pursue in the future.

Emily Holmquist graduated with majors in Environmental Science and Medieval & Renaissance Studies.

James Keister graduated with an English major, with minors in Medieval & Renaissance Studies and Philosophy.

Heather Murray graduated with majors in English and Germanic Languages and Literature, and with a Medieval & Renaissance Studies minor. In honor of Heather’s work in the advertising office of The Chronicle, a new award has been established called the “Bright Idea” award, given yearly to a student who demonstrates innovation on the job. Heather is now working as an intern with United Press International at their bureau at the United Nations in New York. She is also freelancing with local papers, editing web content for an international harp foundation, and writing the monthly Short Digest section for QSR Magazine, a restaurant trade publication. Heather has joined the New York Runners Club with the goal of competing in the New York Marathon within the next three years.

David Evans (2002 minor), graduated from Duke Medical School and will be moving to Columbus, Ohio to start a surgical residency at Ohio State University. He announces quite possibly the first Med/Ren nuptial: David is marrying Allison Bienkowski, a Med/Ren art history graduate student, in November.

After an influx of several new students last spring, we begin the 2006-7 year with 20 majors and minors: Thomas Barrows, Jared Baumgart, Meg Bourdillon, Sofija Degesys,
Marguerite Elmore, Melissa Fernley, Sarah Howell, Matt Lamb, Shanley Lestini, Mike Martoccio, Ryan McCartney, Peter McCary, Eric Moore, Christina Patsiokas, Gaston Rauch, Brian Rosenberg, Preeyankah Shah, Seth Sheldon, Snapper Underwood, and Alex Zorub. We may well see this number grow as our 23 Focus program students this fall start to decide on their majors and minors.

Meg Bourdillon and Heather Murray gave superb help as assistants at the Center last year; this year Sarah Howell and Snapper Underwood are working at the Center. Anthony Cross, a senior Philosophy and Computer Science major, did a marvelous job as manager of websites for the Center and JMEMS; Oindri Mitra, an Economics and Computer Science major, will be the website manager this year.

**Graduate program news**

Last year 60 graduate students in 10 departments and programs were affiliated with the Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies; 54 begin this year. Jim Knowles (English) continued as graduate assistant proofreader for the Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies. George Vahamikos (English) served as summer intern for the journal and CMRS. With her graduation, Olga Trokhimenko (German) finished five years as the Center’s graduate assistant in charge of course scheduling, deftly negotiating the complexities of this job. Gabi Wurmitzer (German) takes over as course scheduler.

The following six students completed their Ph.D. in 2005-6 and have begun new academic positions or other projects:

**Garry Crites (Religion)** graduated in August 2005 and obtained the Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Medieval & Renaissance Studies. His dissertation, “Power Shifts: Christian Fasting and the Restructuring of Community,” was directed by Liz Clark. He is currently a senior data technician in Duke’s Center for Human Genetics, working on an autism study.

**Cara Hersh (English)** graduated in the spring and obtained the Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Medieval & Renaissance Studies. Her dissertation, “Ambiguities and Administration: Reactions to Bureaucracy in Late Medieval Literature,” was directed by David Aers and Sarah Beckwith. She is now an assistant professor at the University of Portland.

**Vin Nardizzi (English)** graduated in August 2006. His dissertation, advised by Laurie Shannon, is titled “The Elizabethan Lumber Room: Networks of Timber, Constructs of Knowledge.” This fall he takes up a position as assistant professor at the University of British Columbia, teaching Shakespeare, ecology, and sexuality studies.

Olga Trokhimenko (German Studies) graduated in the spring and obtained the Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Medieval & Renaissance Studies. Her dissertation, “Keeping up Appearances: Women’s Laughter and the Performance of Virtue in Medieval German Discourse,” was directed by Ann Marie Rasmussen. She is now an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

Kristi Upson-Saia (Religion) graduated in August 2006 and is now an assistant professor at Occidental College in Los Angeles. Her dissertation, “Making an Appearance: Sexual Renunciation and Gender Revision in the Attire of Early Christian Female Ascetics,” was directed by Liz Clark. Incoming or recently matriculated graduate students who are planning to work in Medieval & Renaissance Studies include the following: Karen Cook (Music) Nichole Gleisner (Romance Studies), and Pete Glick enhaus (Religion).

Charles Del Dotto (English) has presented papers on the attitudes, conceptualizations, and ideologies of Shakespeare, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance in the works of T. S. Eliot and George Bernard Shaw at the American Comparative Literature Association, College English Association, and the International Shaw Society’s Sesquicentennial Conference, for which he was awarded a Hampton-Hussey Travel Grant.

Andrew Lang (Religion) was awarded a Medieval & Renaissance Studies summer research grant.

David Liu (Religion) was awarded a Medieval & Renaissance Studies summer research grant.

Anu Koshal (Literature) was awarded a Medieval & Renaissance Studies dissertation semester fellowship for fall 2006.

Jim Knowles (English) passed his Ph.D. prelim exams, and was awarded a Medieval & Renaissance Studies summer research grant. The working title of his dissertation, advised by Fiona Somerset, is “Serve Somebody: The Language of Service in Late Medieval England.” In the spring, he will be teaching a new undergraduate course entitled “The
Language of Love,” surveying the love lyric from Sappho to the present.

George Vahamikos (English) gave a lecture entitled “Epitaph on a Tyrant: Geoffrey Chaucer and the ‘Pitiful Deeth’ of Pedro the Cruel” at Davidson College, discussing the poet’s relation to English military action in the Iberian Peninsula at the time of the Hundred Years War.

Jennifer Welsh (History) was awarded a Medieval & Renaissance Studies dissertation fellowship for the 2006-7 year.

Faculty and staff news

David Aers’s (English) recent publications include “The Testimony of William Thorpe: Reflections of Self, Sin, and Salvation,” in Studies in Late Medieval and Early Renaissance Texts, ed. A. M. D’Arcy and A. J. Fletcher (Four Courts, 2005); and an entry on William Langland in the Oxford Encyclopedia of British Literature (Oxford, 2006). He also delivered the plenary lecture at the Harvard conference on “Conversion,” with Augustine: Theology and the Politics of Conversion.” This fall he is teaching a new graduate seminar entitled “City of God/Earthly City: Augustine, Langland, and Others.”


Caroline Bruzelius (Art History) was elected to the Board of the Directors of the Society of Architectural Historians. The Italian edition of her book on Naples was published, Le pietre di Napoli: l’architettura religiosa nell’Italia angioina, 1266-1343 (Viella, 2005), which was presented at the Archivio di Stato in Naples. Her recent publications include “San Sebastiano in Alatri in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries: The Benedictine and Clarissan Communities,” coauthored with Caroline Goodson, in The Monastery of San Sebastiano at Alatri (Brill, 2005); “S. Lorenzo Maggiore e lo studio francescano di Napoli: qualche osservazione sul carattere e la cronologia della chiesa medievale,” in Le chiese di San Lorenzo e San Domenico: gli ordini mendicanti a Napoli, ed. S. Romano and N. Bock (Napoli, 2005); “A Note on the 1233 Tower of Archbishop Peter of Sorrento and the Topography of Naples,” Architektur und Monumentalkultur des 12.-14. Jahrhunderts (Bern, 2006). In June Caroline received funds from the Vertical Integration Program at Duke to take 3 graduate and 5 undergraduate students to do a hands-on training session on architectural analysis: how to study a building, which involved work at Treviso, Vicenza, Verona, and Venice. This fall she is teaching a new undergraduate Focus course entitled “Town and Country: Monastery and Cathedral in the Middle Ages.” In the spring she will be teaching a new graduate seminar called “The Dead Come to Town: Death and Burial in the Middle Ages.”
Michael Cornett (CMRS, JMEMS) served the second of a two-year term as chair of the mediation committee of the Council of Editors of Learned Journals, which advises authors and editors on settling disputes. In the fall and spring, he made a two-part presentation at the Medieval & Renaissance Studies Graduate Colloquium on turning graduate papers and dissertation chapters into journal articles, and on the nuts and bolts of the journal submission process.

Martin Eisner (Romance Studies) is on leave for 2006-7 with a Fulbright researching his book on Dante’s Vita nuova. In the spring he will be co-teaching with Marc Schachter a new graduate seminar entitled “Sex, Death, and Some Love: Reframing the Romance Novella Tradition.”

Valeria Finucci (Romance Studies) is returning from a year’s leave as a Mellon Foundation Fellow at the John Carter Brown Library, Brown University, where she researched drugs imported from the New World into Europe to cure an array of medical problems. She spent another summer in Venetian and Paduan archives with a Delmas Foundation grant to research Renaissance tragedy written by women, and gave invited talks at the University of Pennsylvania, Bryn Mawr, Brown, and Koper (Slovenia). Most recently she published essays on Galileo in Contro il portar la toga, ed. L. Ton-giorgio Tomasi (E.T.S., 2005); and on Moderata Fonte in Sibling Relations, ed. N. Miller (Ashgate, 2006); as well as a review of J. A. Cavallo’s new book, in Renaissance and Reformtion (2005). Early this fall a collection she edited, titled Petrarcha: canoni, esemplita, will appear (Bulzoni, 2006); as well as her edition in English of Moderata Fonte’s Floridoro: A Chivalric Romance (Univ. of Chicago Press, 2006). She also edited a project very dear to her heart, a special issue of JMEMS, “Mapping the Mediterranean,” which is appearing this fall. She is teaching a new undergraduate Focus course this fall entitled “The Myth of Venice.”

Meg Greer (Romance Studies) co-edited a volume with Laura Bass, Approaches to Teaching Early Modern Spanish Drama (MLA, 2006). Recent articles include “The Politics of Memory in Calderón’s El Tuzani de la Alpujarra,” in Rhetoric and Reality in Early Modern Spain, ed. Richard Pym (Tamesis, 2006); “Diana, Cupid, and Borrowed Dogs: On Hunting in Don Quixote,” in Cervantes y su mundo, ed. A. Robert Lauer and Kurt Reichenberger (Editions Reichenberger, 2006); and “Imperialism and Anthropophagy in Early Modern Spanish Tragedy: The Unthought Known,” in Reason and Its Others in Early Modern Spain and Italy (Univ. of Minn. Press, 2005). She presented the keynote address at the 16th Annual Symposium on Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literature, Language, and Culture at the University of Arizona, “Las fronteras del honor: teoría e historia”; and gave a lecture entitled “La caza sacro-política: de González de Eslava a Calderón” at the Pontificia Universi-
dad Católica del Peru. This fall she is teaching a new undergraduate course entitled “The Spanish Comedia: Translating Sex, Comedy, and Intrigue.” In the spring, she will offer a new graduate seminar, “The Tragedy of Early Modern Spain.”

Andrew Janiak (Philosophy) participated in a roundtable discussion, “Situating Newton in Philosophical Context,” at the Sixth International Congress of the Society for the History of Philosophy of Science, Ecole normale superieure, Paris. He also gave the following lectures: “Isaac Newton and the Scientific Invention of Modern Philosophy” for the CMRS “Before the Disciplines” series; “What Newton Should Have Told Leibniz” at the University of California at Irvine; and “Isaac Newton and the Boundaries of Science” at the John Hope Franklin Institute. In 2006-7, he will be on leave as a faculty fellow at Duke’s Franklin Humanities Institute.

Michèle Longino (Romance Studies) was in Paris last year directing the Educo (Emory/Duke/Cornell) Program. Recent publications include “Jean Chardin, Traveler: Freedom in the Margins,” Marginalités classiques: Mêlange en l’honneur de Madeleine Alcover, ed. Alain Motheu (Champion, 2006); and entries on “Racine,” “Molière,” “Corneille,” and “La Fontaine” in the forthcoming Le Dictionnaire biographique de l’orientalisme français, ed. Lucette Valensi and François Pouillon (Editions Karthala, 2006). She participated in a seminar on travel literature in the Department of Comparative Literature at the Sorbonne-Paris IV and presented her current work on Antoine Galland’s travel journal at the “Récits d’orient en occident” conference. Michèle is on leave this year working on a new book project called “Travel, or the Benefits of Discontent: Marseilles to Constantinople, 1650-1700.”


Joseph Porter (English) presented “Ocular Proof” for the seminar “Shakespeare and the Visual Sense” at the annual meeting of the Shakespeare Association of America. He also discussed the play-within-the-play in Hamlet on the “Stories within Stories” episode of What’s the Word?, an MLA radio series aired on public radio.

Maureen Quilligan (English) had a residency in the spring at the Centro Studi Ligure in Bogliasco, Italy. Re-reading the Black Legend: Discourses of Renaissance Empires, a volume co-edited with Meg Greer and Walter Mignolo, was accepted for publication at the University of Chicago Press. She also participated in the plenary panel “Reperiodizing the
Renaissance” at the annual meeting of the Renaissance Society of America, and gave “Mary Wroth’s Frontispiece” at NYU. This fall she is teaching a new undergraduate course entitled “When Women Ruled the World: The Glorious Sixteenth Century.” Having stepped down as chair of the English Department, Maureen will be happily teaching Renaissance literature full-time again.

Ann Marie Rasmussen (German) was appointed chair of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literature. Recent publications include “Subjektivität und Gender in der Märe Die zwei beichten (A und B),” in Inszenierung von Subjektivität in der Literatur des Mittelalters, ed. Martin Baisch et al. (Ulrike Helmer Verlag, 2005); and “Visible and Invisible Landscapes: Medieval Monasticism as a Cultural Resource in the Pacific Northwest,” in A Place to Believe In: Locating Medieval Landscapes, ed. Clare Lees and Gillian Overing (Penn State Press, 2006). She gave a lecture, “Wandering Genitalia in Late Medieval German Literature and Culture,” at the UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke University German Departments Work in Progress Series, and presented “Were the Damsels in Distress and Why Does It Matter?” at the University of Bamberg.

Tom Robisheaux (History) was named the Howard D. Johnson Distinguished Teacher for 2005-6. He is currently finishing a book on witchcraft. In December he gave a series of lectures on “Penance, Confession, and the Self in Early Modern Lutheranism” in Frankfurt, Stuttgart, and Munich, sponsored by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. In the summer, Tom was appointed Director of Undergraduate Studies in the History Department.

Marc Schachter (Romance Studies) recently published “Louis le Roy’s Sympose de Platon and Three Other Renaissance Adaptations of Platonic Eros” in Renaissance Quarterly (Summer 2006). He also gave a talk entitled “On Some Perversions of Montaigne: Friendship and Desire” at the Modern Language Association convention, and presented “‘Heairistrai’ and the Time of the Androgyne” at the annual meeting of the Renaissance Society of America. This fall he is teaching an undergraduate course entitled “The Wars of Religion in France.”

Laurie Shannon (English) delivered the plenary address at the 2005 Ohio Shakespeare Conference, “Hang Dog Looks: Animal Trials and Early Modern Ecopoliy.” She also presented “What’s ‘Kynde-ness’ Got To Do With It? Classificatory Practice in the Renaissance” at the annual meeting of the Renaissance Society of America and was an invited presenter at the “Identity Politics” roundtable, and she gave a lecture entitled “Comparative Anatomies: Galen’s Monkeys, Vesalian Man, and Harvey’s Heart” at the 4th Biannual European Conference for the Society of Literature, Science, and the Arts in
Amsterdam. In the spring she will be teaching a new graduate seminar entitled “William Shakespeare, Political Theorist.”


Helen Solterer (Romance Studies) delivered several talks based on a new book manuscript, Playing for Life: Medieval Roles for Modern Times: “Medieval Roles for Modern Times” at the Free University of Berlin; and “Gustave Cohen and the French Passion Play of World War I,” “Medieval Theatrical Revival and the Youth in 1930s Paris,” and “Playing for Life: Moussa Abadi and Rescuing Jewish Children in 1940s Nice, France” at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales.


David Steinmetz (Divinity School) was elected last spring as a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences.

Annabel Wharton (Art History) published a new book called Selling Jerusalem: Relics, Replicas, and Theme-parks (Univ. of Chicago Press, 2006). She was invited to lecture at the University of Colorado, the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and the Albright Institute of Archaeology. At Duke, she has established the Art History Department’s new concentration in Architecture and, as Director of Graduate Studies, introduced a new MA/JD degree in Art History.

Ron Witt (History) was honored by the publication of a special issue of JMEMS dedicated to him called “In the Footsteps of Petrarch: Poetry, Music, Art, Culture,” edited by Valeria Finucci. He received a Mellon Research Fellowship for 2005-6, and


**Faculty on leave**
