Medieval and Renaissance Studies Spring Celebration

April 17
The Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program is so grateful to Dr. Nate Probasco, who served as assistant to the Director this year, and who will be leaving UNL to become an Assistant Professor of History at Briarcliff College in Sioux City, Iowa. We wish him every success!

We are also deeply grateful to Kathleen Johnson, Professor, University Libraries, who will be Acting Director of the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program spring 2015 when Carole Levin is on leave as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of York in England.

And we are pleased to announce that Andrea Nichols will be the assistant to the Director of the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program for 2014-15.

**Presentation of Robert Knoll Graduate Award**
Recipient: Ben Oberholte

**Presentation of Undergraduate Awards**

Essay Contest
First place: Sarah Swortzel  
Second place: Brittny Ofstedal  
Third place: Macie McIntosh

Creative Projects Contest
First place: Adam Lambert  
Second place: Michael Hansen  
Third place: Michaela Montgomery

**Entertainment**
Robin Hood and the Royal Zoo

  Written by Dennis Henry

Guard, Priest, Servant and Stage Directions........Tony Thomas
Simon de Montfort........................................Shade Ingraham
King Henry III..............................................Ryan Rabstanjek
Robin Hood................................................Spenser Stokes
Menagerie Maid Marion................................Kayla Klammer

Commendation for Dennis Henry, graduating with his MFA in Directing and a graduate minor in Medieval and Renaissance Studies

Congratulations to our graduating seniors: Michael Hansen, Brittny Ofstedal, Haley Sadlo, Andrew Singleton, Sarah Swortzel
Achievements of Medieval and Renaissance Faculty and Students

Faculty:

IAN BORDEN has had quite a year. His article, “Stage Picture Versus Text: Translating and Adapting Ana Caro for a 21st Century Audience,” appeared in Comedia Performance 11.1 (2014). 112-53. He presented scholarly papers at the Association for Hispanic Classical Theatre Conference and the Blackfriars Conference. He directed The Tempest for Capitol Shakespeare, Bismarck, ND and was the fight director for The River and the Mountain at Artisphere, Arlington, VA and Spotlighter’s Theater, Baltimore, MD, The Three Musketeers at Iowa State University, and Candide at University of Nebraska-Lincoln Opera, which received First Prize – Division IV National Opera Association. And finally, he received a Hixson-Lied Faculty Research/Creative Activity Grant to pursue study at the British Library, the Georgain Theatre Royal, Richmond, the Bodlean Library and Trinity College Library for preparation on Theatres and Staging in the Restoration and Eighteenth Century.

STEVE BUHLER’S explorations of Shakespeare in popular and post-popular music went even further into questions of artistic authority and racial identity when he revisited Duke Ellington’s Such Sweet Thunder and other works in the larger context of American civil rights in an invited paper for the Shakespeare and American Integration symposium at the University of Alabama, part of the observance of the 50th anniversary of that university’s desegregation. He also joined PAMELA STARR in presenting a paper, “Music and Text in the English Renaissance: A Collaborative Enterprise,” at the South Central Renaissance Conference in March. The presentation centered on their past experiences in team-teaching a course on that topic. Serving as literary executor for our late friend and colleague Joy Currie, Steve was delighted to see Joy’s essay on Charlotte Smith’s appropriations from Shakespeare, “Mature Poets Steal,” in the 2013 collection, Shakespeare and the Culture of Romanticism, edited by Joseph M. Ortiz. The piece is drawn from Joy’s 2006 UNL dissertation. Steve continued as Education Director for the Flatwater Shakespeare Company, serving as dramaturg for two mainstage productions and as text adviser and humanist for a youth production. He also did a series of short broadcasts called “Shakespeariances” that aired during the Friday Live program.

JESSICA COOPE presented “An Etiquette for Women: Women’s experience of Islam in Muslim Spain,” at the Illinois Medieval Association, and the paper is forthcoming in their Proceedings. She will be presenting a paper at the 29th Annual Middle East History and Theory Conference in May.


NORA PETERSON claims as her greatest honor of 2013 the birth of her daughter Lorelei and we all congratulate her! She also published "The Impossible Strip Tease: Nudity in Michel de Montaigne and Jean Calvin." in *Renaissance and Reformation* and "Competing Codes and Involuntary Confessions of the Flesh in the *Princesse de Clèves*" in *Romantic Review*, and presented papers at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference and a national conference to celebrate 700 years of Boccaccio. She was awarded an interdisciplinary seed grant from the CAS to work to develop more collaborative courses in MLL.

NATE PROBASCO was awarded the Ph.D. in History in May 2013. His dissertation was “Researching North America: Sir Humphrey Gilbert’s 1583 Expedition and a Reexamination of English Colonization in the North Atlantic World.” His article, Cartography as a Tool of Colonization: Sir Humphrey Gilbert’s 1583 Voyage to North America,” will be published by *Renaissance Quarterly* this summer.

JULIA SCHLECK attended the NEH Summer Institute, “Empires and Interactions Across the Early Modern World, 1400-1800,” hosted by Saint Louis University, June 3-28, 2013. This month she led the seminar "Brothers and Others: New Directions" at this spring’s Shakespeare Association of America annual conference.

KELLY STAGE presented “Social Violence, 2 Henry VI, and Lawyer Jokes” at the London Shakespeare Seminar, Kings College this past February. She also presented a paper for one of the seminars at Shakespeare Association of America annual conference. Her essay, "Networking with Jonson and Middleton: Theatre, Law, and Assembling the Social" was recently accepted for publication by the journal *English Literary Renaissance*.

PAMELA STARR (with STEPHEN BUHLER) presented a paper, “Music and Text in the English Renaissance: A Collaborative Enterprise,” at the South Central
Renaissance Conference in March. Last month she presented her latest work on Apollo 13 in a colloquium for Catholic University titled "Cold War/Cold Peace": Horner's and Howard's take in Apollo 13."

ALISON STEWART is currently at the University of Trier as a teaching-research Fulbright.

JOHN TURNER was honored by the Festschrift Gnosticism, Platonism and the Late Ancient World. Essays in Honour of John D. Turner (Edited by Kevin Corrigan and Tuomas Rasmus. Nag Hammadi and Manichaean Studies 82. Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2013), with 33 essays by scholars from 12 countries.

Graduate Students:

ALYSON ALVAREZ presented the paper, "The Widow of Scots: Examining Mary Stuart in her Widowhoods," at the Queen Elizabeth I Society, held in conjunction with the South Central Renaissance Conference. The Queen Elizabeth I Society awarded her the Francis Drake travel award.

DENNIS HENRY received the Certificate of Merit in Directing from Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival for Silence, which was a 2014 Festival invited production. He was the winner of "Best Direction of a Film" for the short film, Wingman at 2013 UNL Nebby Award Festival. His short film Berenice was the official selection of 2014 University Video and Film Association Conference. Dennis was awarded two Creative Activity Grants by Hixson-Lied College and a scholarly travel grant by the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film. He presented a paper on All's Well That Ends Well presented at 2013 British Graduate Shakespeare Conference at Shakespeare Institute in Stratford-upon-Avon. In 2013 he held the Sharpless Fellowship.

EDER JARAMILLO completed his M.A. with the thesis, "Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice & the 'Productions' of National Identity in the Face of the Other," and is continuing on in the Ph.D. program.

HOLLY KIZEWSKI has been accepted into the Ph.D. program in History at UNL.

CATHERINE MEDICI THIEMANN has had a great year. At the Sixteenth Century Society Conference she presented, "Overlooked: Katherine Hastings' Literary Patronage and her Power and Influence in Elizabethan and Early Jacobean England." She presented "More Than a Wife and Mother: Jane Dudley, the Woman Who Bequeathed a Parrot and Served Five Queens," at the Queen Elizabeth I Society meeting, held in conjunction with the South Central Renaissance Conference. SCRC presented her with one of three travel awards, granted for best graduate student papers. She also presented a paper on Mary Dudley Sidney and Katherine Dudley Hastings at the Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies. She is the recipient of the North American Conference on British Studies Huntington Library graduate
fellowship and was awarded a Mellon fellowship to participate in the Folger Shakespeare Library paleography seminar this summer. We are proud to announce that Catherine is the first recipient of the Medieval and Renaissance Studies dissertation travel award.

ALICIA MEYER received the North American Conference on British Studies undergraduate essay award this past fall for the essay, "The Misfortunes of Jane Danyell: A Tale of Devotion, Deceit, and Disaster in Early Modern England." In January she presented "Aemilia Lanyer and the Politics of Women's Self-Fashioning in Early Modern England" at the Newberry Graduate Student Conference. Her paper at South Central Renaissance Conference was "Spinning with the braine": Margaret Cavendish and the Rhetoric of Textiles." With CAROLE LEVIN she published "Women and political power in early modern Europe," in Ashgate Research Companion to Women and Gender in Early Modern Europe, edited by Allyson Poska, Katherine McIver, Jane Couchman (Ashgate, 2013), 341-57.

ANDREA NICHOLS was one of the conference organizers for the Graduate Student conference at the Newberry Library in January. She has been awarded the Albin T. and Pauline Anderson Award for excellence in research in European history. She will be presenting the paper, "None haue behynde theim, left so greate treasure": Tracing Intertextuality and Paratexts from Manuscript to Print in Late English Chronicles," at the Medieval Congress in May. This fall she will be teaching at Doane College and will be the assistant to the Director of the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program for 2014-15.

PAUL STRAUSS has won a multitude of awards to support his dissertation research: a three-month fellowship to the Herzog August Bibliothek, a Fulbright award, and a DAAD long-term research grant to Germany, and, from the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program, a Paul Olsen Travel award. He presented the paper, "Heathens Ravaging Christendom", at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference.

Undergraduates:

MICHAEL HANSEN will be attending the graduate program in Vikings and Medieval History at the University of Iceland.

BRITNYN OFSTEDAL will graduate with highest distinction and has been invited to join, Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest and most widely known academic honor society.

SARAH SWORTZEL will graduate with highest distinction and has been invited to join the honor society, Phi Beta Kappa, the nation’s oldest and most widely known academic honor society. Sarah will be attending the graduate program in museum studies at University College London.