

The Performance of a Crusade Play at King Charles V’s Feast (c.1375-80). From *Grandes chroniques de France* (fol. 473v). Bibliotheque nationale de France.


2015

UNL Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program End of Year Celebration

Snacks and drinks for everyone to enjoy!
Undergraduate Creative Project Contest

**First Place:** Adam Lambert  
**Project Title:** “The Three Henrys of Lincoln”  
**Abstract:** This short play examines what would possibly happen if there were three schizophrenics that held the delusion that they were King Henry V of England. With an overzealous, yet underprepared researcher and three unruly patients, a mental hospital in Lincoln, Nebraska becomes the setting for a week of “cutting edge psychological research.” Will these three regal basket cases become the next step into the human mind, or will the hospital all fall into shambles?

---

Undergraduate Essay Contest

**First Place:** Adam Lambert  
**Paper Title:** “Boys Will Be Boys, Men Will Be Men: Masculine Representations in Thomas of Walsingham’s Chronicles and Shakespeare’s *Henriad*”  
**Abstract:** Richard II, Henry IV, and Henry V today each hold far different legacies built upon by the historical and literary record. Masculinity is a definite part of these legacies, and each king fits this role separately. Thomas Walsingham, a famous chronicler of these kings, wrote about these men and described the differing masculinities of these kings. William Shakespeare, working off of Raphael Holinshed's *Chronicle*, also added another piece to the kings’ legacies, writing the *Henriad*. These plays described the kings in masculine roles, creating a vast literary reputation. Both Walsingham and Shakespeare contributed to these kings’ masculinity, describing Richard II as mostly juvenile, Henry IV with a strong masculinity, and Henry V with an even stronger masculinity.

**Second Place:** Ben Novotny  
**Paper Title:** “Erasmus: Enemy of Wisdom?”  
**Abstract:** This paper is an in-depth look at the purpose behind what is perhaps the biggest legacy of early-modern scholar Desiderius Erasmus, his satirical 1511 short, *Praise of Folly*. In *Folly*, Erasmus cleverly uses the titular, comical character to hide a scathing critique of many aspects of life in the 15th and early 16th centuries. In particular, Erasmus charges that the leading intellectual field of the preceding centuries, Scholasticism, is, in truth, a wasteful pursuit designed to pursue useless tidbits of “wisdom” concerning inconsequential fragments of often silly facets of Church dogma, and is, therefore, entirely worthless.
**Third Place:** Danielle Pringle  
**Paper Title:** “Not Quite Dead Yet: Thomas More and His Afterlives in Film, Drama, and Television”  
**Abstract:** The paper explores how Thomas More’s character is portrayed in *Sir Thomas More* by Anthony Munday, Robert Bolt’s *A Man for All Seasons*, Anne Paolucci’s *Minions of the Race*, Paula Vogel’s *Meg*, and the Showtime television show, *The Tudors*. The reason for a particular interpretation of More within these works is analyzed by looking at the time periods’ values and culture in which they were produced. This intermingling study of social, literary, and historical aspects of the works aim to reveal the multiple facets of Thomas More as a character and a man.

**Honorable Mention:** Elizabeth Askren  
**Paper Title:** “Masculinity, Femininity, and Irene of Athens”  
**Abstract:** Irene of Athens was the only woman to rule the Byzantine Empire in its thousand-year span. She is remembered for her support of iconodulism and for blinding her son, Constantine VI. History has portrayed her as unquestionably zealous, and used her supposed piety to justify her actions. But the sources surrounding Irene are highly artificial as well as misogynistic, and her life needs to be re-examined.

---

**Graduate Essay Contest**

**Robert Knoll Award winner:** Catherine Medici-Thiemann  
**Paper Title:** “‘So Noble a Friend’: Lady Mary Sidney’s Favor and Patronage at Elizabeth’s Court”  
**Abstract:** This paper examines a recently discovered draft of a letter to Lady Mary Sidney from the Cavendish-Talbot Papers at the Folger Shakespeare Library and finds evidence of Mary’s important role as a patron at Queen Elizabeth I’s court. Medici-Thiemann also fully transcribes the document and uses a number of techniques to identify a likely author and date of the anonymous and undated letter.

**Honorable Mention:** Alicia Meyer  
**Paper Title:** “From England’s Bridewell to America’s Brides: Imprisoned Women, Shakespeare’s *Measure for Measure*, and Empire”  
**Abstract:** This master’s thesis examines the experience of largely single women in London’s house of correction, Bridewell Prison, and argues that the prisoners, and the nature of their crimes, reveal the state’s desire for dependent, sexually controlled, yet ultimately productive women. By examining the historical and cultural implications of early modern women and prison, this thesis contends that women’s prisons were more than simply establishments of punishment and reform. A closer examination of Bridewell’s philosophy and practices shows how it became a model for the use of women’s labor in the nation at large, and how women became major actors in the development of the British Empire, which simultaneously devalued and yet relied upon their labors.
A hearty cheer for our graduating students!

Adam Lambert and Danielle Pringle are both graduating with high distinction. Adam’s honors thesis was “Boys Will Be Boys, Men Will Be Men: Masculine Representations in Thomas of Walsingham’s Chronicles and Shakespeare’s Henriad” and Danielle’s was “Not Quite Dead Yet: Thomas More and His Afterlives in Film, Drama, and Television,” both under the supervision of Dr. Carole Levin.

Adam Lambert was also in the Love’s Labour’s Lost performance staged by the UNL Johnny Carson School of Theatre in fall 2014. He presented “Boys Will Be Boys, Men Will Be Men: Masculinity and the Transition to Lancastrian Monarchy” at the History Graduate Student Association’s 10th Annual James A. Rawley Conference (March 2015).

Finally, Alicia Meyer graduated from the Department of English’s masters program. See her full entry below in the Graduate Student portion of the “News” section.

Phi Beta Kappa, 2015 New Members

Adam Lambert
Danielle Pringle
Nicholas Voboril

Our Revels for the Evening

The Three Henrys of Lincoln
An original play by Adam Lambert

Characters:
Dr. Alan Herbert
Martha, Dr. Herbert’s assistant
Ken Brance, first patient
Hannah Holgerson, second patient
Clyde Flouts, third patient
Terry, Clyde’s next door neighbor and ‘manservant’

**News from the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program**

*Being a faithful and true narration of events attended, honors received, papers given, and other academic activities, not only in our fair country but also across the world, by our marvelous faculty and students.*

**Faculty**

**Effie Athanassopoulos**
Department of Anthropology

Dr. Athanassopoulos has completed a monograph, *Landscape Archaeology and the Medieval Countryside: Results of the Nemea Valley Archaeological Project*, and it has been accepted for publication by the American School of Classical Studies Publications, Princeton, NJ; Hesperia Supplement.

**Andrea Bolland**
Department of Art & Art History

Since our last program, Dr. Bolland has published “Artifice and Stability in Late Mantegna,” in *Art History*, special issue *Andrea Mantegna: Making Art (History)*, Vol. 37, issue 2 (April 2014): 352-375.

**Ian Borden**
Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film

In fall 2014, Dr. Borden was elected to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the Association for Hispanic Classical Theatre (AHCT).

**Stephen Buhler**
Department of English

In March 2015, Dr. Buhler won the “Artistic Achievement Award - Literary Arts” from the City of Lincoln Mayor's Arts Awards. The award recognizes excellence and accomplishment in writing and literature. He also spoke recently on NET Nebraska’s series “All About Books,” discussing John Milton’s *Paradise Lost*. Finally, Dr. Buhler has an entry, “Jazz and Shakespeare,” in the forthcoming *Shakespeare Encyclopedia*, ed. Patricia Parker (Greenwood Press).

**Amy Burnett**
Department of History

Amy Burnett presented papers at the International Calvin Congress in Zurich in August 2014, at the Sixteenth Century Society and Conference in New Orleans in October 2014, and at the Frühneuzeit Interdisziplinär (FNI) meeting in Nashville in March 2015. She also gave a presentation on “Teaching the Religious Past” for the Theology and Ethics Workshop at the University of Chicago in April 2015. A book she co-edited with Kathleen Comerford and Karin Maag, *Politics, Gender, and Belief: The Long-Term*
Impact of the Reformation, Essays in Memory of Robert M. Kingdon, was published in December 2014.

Stephen Burnett
Department of Classics and Religious Studies


Dr. Burnett also presented papers at conferences in Basel, Switzerland, and in Frankfurt/Main and Erlangen (Germany), and at the Sixteenth Century Society Conference in New Orleans. He was awarded a research fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, where he will spend academic year 2015-16. He will be writing a book with the working title Luther’s Final Foes: Anti-Semitism and Identity in Luther’s 1543 Campaign against the Jews. He was also honored in April 2015 with a Humboldt Research Award, a recognition granted to no more than 100 scholars in all fields (sciences, social sciences and humanities) by the Humboldt Foundation in Germany. He will be spending fall semester 2016 in Germany to complete his research on the same project.

Rumiko Handa
College of Architecture

Dr. Handa has a new monograph—Allure of the Incomplete, Imperfect, and Impermanent: Designing and Appreciating Architecture as Nature—published this year by Routledge that examines architecture as incomplete, imperfect and impermanent. Buildings and rooms are often changed; the ‘afterlife’ of architecture is in fact the very ‘life’ of the building. The book looks at examples ranging from the Roman Coliseum to Japanese tearooms. UNL Today also has a press release on the book.

Mark Hinchman
College of Architecture

Dr. Hinchman has a monograph on Afro-French domestic architecture forthcoming, December 2015, from the University of Nebraska Press, Early Modern Cultural Studies series: Portrait of an Island: the Architecture and Material Culture of Gorée, Senegal, 1758-1837. He was named a Fellow of The International Quilt Study Center and Museum (Lincoln, NE) in May 2014. He is currently on leave to teach at Taylor’s University in Malaysia.

Kathy Johnson
University Libraries

Acting Director of the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program (Spring 2015)
Kathy Johnson has been happy to serve as Acting Director for Medieval and Renaissance Studies during spring 2015, while Dr. Carole Levin is away on a Fulbright. Her chapter on "A Checklist for Digital Humanities Scholarship," co-authored with Dr. Elizabeth Lorang, appeared in Digital Humanities in the Library: Challenges and Opportunities for Subject Specialists (Chicago: Association of College and Research Libraries, 2015), 83-102.

**Stephen Lahey**  
*Department of Classics and Religious Studies*  

**Carole Levin**  
*Department of History*  
**Director of the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program**  

**Nora Martin Peterson**  
*Department of Modern Languages & Literatures*  
This year, Dr. Peterson saw the publication of an co-authored interdisciplinary article titled “Tracing the Origins of Success: Implications for Successful Aging,” with Peter Martin, Iowa State University (The Gerontologist, 2015). She also presented at the Renaissance Society of America in Berlin a paper titled “Body Switching in Martin Guerre and the Heptaméron.” And last May, she gave an invited lecture at the University of Kansas (Lecture Series, Hall Center for the Humanities Gender and Early Modern Forum) titled “What is More Solid than the Body? Sprezzatura in French Courtly Handbooks.”

**Julia Schleck**  
*Department of English*  
In the fall, Julia Schleck published the essay “Stranger than fiction: early modern travel narratives and the anti-racist classroom,” in the collection Teaching Medieval and Early Modern Cross-Cultural Encounters across Disciplines and Eras, edited by Lynn Shutters
and Karina Attar (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014). She would like to thank Alicia Meyer and her (now graduated) UCARE student Kelsey Comfort for their research assistance and all the inspiring conversations that lead to the publication of this piece, as well as the successful launch of a new class on this topic. In the spring, she organized the panel “Women, Fire, and Dangerous Things: Alternate Histories of the Mughal Empire and the East India Company” for the Renaissance Society of America Annual Conference, held in Berlin, Germany. She also presented on this panel the paper “The Marital Problems of the British East India Company, 1610-1635.” Finally Dr. Schleck was awarded a UNL Teaching Council/ Parents Association Certificate of Recognition in January of 2015.

Kelly Stage
Department of English
Undergraduate Advisor for the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program

Dr. Stage co-hosted Q&A with Andrea Nichols for the NET Nebraska sneak preview screening on March 22 of the first episode of the BBC/Masterpiece series Wolf Hall about the life Thomas Cromwell, which is derived from Hilary Mantel’s historical novels Wolf Hall (2009) and Bring Up the Bodies (2012). Dr. Stage has been keeping very busy as the undergraduate advisor for the Medieval and Renaissance Studies program.

Alison Stewart
Department of Art & Art History


Her presentations in the past year include “Print Entrepreneur or Godless Painter. Why did Sebald Beham move from Nuremberg to Frankfurt in 1531?” Universität Trier, Trierer Arbeitsstelle für Künstlersozialgeschichte (TAK), May 14, 2014, in the series called “Workshop discussions” or Werkstattsgespräche. Next, she presented “Moving On: Exploring the signatures of one second generation Dürer pupil Sebald Beham,” in the session, What’s in a Name?: Monograms, Signatures and (Nick)names in the Early Modern Art World I, Names and Naming in Early Modern Germany, 7th Frühe Neuzeit Interdisziplinär (FNI) Conference (March 7, 2015). She also co-organized two sessions on Names and Naming at the FNI. A few weeks later, she presented “The Early Importance of the Frankfurt Fair: Sebald Beham Moves to Frankfurt,” Renaissance Society of America Conference (RSA) (March 27, 2015). In addition, she co-organized three sessions for the RSA on Frankfurt and Art in the Sixteenth Century. Lastly, on

**Graduate Students**

**Alyson Alvarez,**

*Department of History*, PhD student


**Holly Kizewski**

*Department of History*, PhD student

Holly was accepted to the October 24, 2104 Research Methods Workshop for Early-Career Graduate Students at the Newberry Library.

**Catherine Medici-Thiemann**

*Department of History*, PhD Candidate

Catherine has been traveling to complete her dissertation research. In June, she participated in the Mellon Summer Institute in English Paleography and did research at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC. Catherine spent January researching at Huntington Library in California where she held the North American Conference on British Studies Huntington Library Fellowship. This summer she will travel to England to complete her archival research at the British Library and the Kent History and Library Center with the support of the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Dissertation Fellowship she won last year and the John F. Stover Fellowship from the Department of History. Catherine also presented her paper, “So Noble a Friend: Lady Mary Sidney’s Favor and Patronage at Elizabeth’s Court,” as part of the Queen Elizabeth I Society at the South Central Renaissance Conference (March 2015). Her essay, “Mary Dudley Sidney and Her Dudley Siblings,” co-written with Carole Levin, will be published in the *Ashgate Research Companion on The Sidneys (1500-1700)*, Volume 1: Lives this summer. Her book chapter “More Than a Wife and Mother: Jane Dudley, the Woman Who Bequeathed a Parrot and Served Five Queens” is forthcoming from Ashgate’s Queenship and Power series in August 2015 in the collection *Scholars and Poets Talk About Queens* edited by Carole Levin with Christine Stewart-Nuñez.

**Alicia Meyer**

*Department of English*, MA graduate (May 2015)

Alicia presented “‘The Good Countess’: Elizabeth I, Lady Frances Walsingham Sidney Devereux Burke, and Difficult Husbands,” at the South Central Renaissance Conference (SCRC) (March 2015). She won the Francis Drake Travel Award from SCRC as well. She has finished and successfully defended her master’s thesis, “From England’s Bridewell to America’s Brides: Imprisoned Women, Shakespeare’s *Measure for
Measure, and Empire.” Alicia has been accepted to the University of Pennsylvania’s PhD program in English, with the Benjamin Franklin Fellowship. She will continue working on early modern women and imprisonment.

Andrea Nichols  
Department of History, PhD Candidate  
Graduate Assistant for the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program  
Andrea has had a few publications and presented at several conferences in the last year. In the summer of 2014, the Selected Proceedings of the Newberry Center for Renaissance Studies 2014 Multidisciplinary Graduate Student Conference (Vol 8) was published and is available online. Andrea was a contributing editor. Also in summer 2014, her co-authored book review with Dr. Carole Levin on Judith Richards’ Elizabeth I appeared in The Sixteenth Century Journal Summer 2014 (Vol XLV, No. 2). Andrea will also have an article “‘I was not I?’: Tracing Representations of Cleopatra in English Drama, 1592-1611” forthcoming from Ashgate’s Queenship and Power series in August 2015 in the collection Scholars and Poets Talk About Queens edited by Carole Levin with Christine Stewart-Nuñez.

She presented “Sisters, Mothers, Monsters: Early Modern Queens Regnant in the British Isles,” at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference (October 2014). Earlier in October, Andrea chaired the “Medieval Animals” session at the Texas Medieval Association (TEMA). In March, she presented “Scribbles and Bits: Reader Marginalia on Queens in English Histories,” at South Central Renaissance Conference, winning the Agnes Strickland Award for best graduate student paper. She also co-hosted Q&A with Dr. Kelly Stage for the NET Nebraska sneak preview screening on March 22 of the first episode of the BBC/Masterpiece series Wolf Hall about the life Thomas Cromwell, which is derived from Hilary Mantel’s historical novels Wolf Hall (2009) and Bring Up the Bodies (2012).

Andrea is spending much of her time in 2015 on finishing archival work for her dissertation. Thanks to the support of a Columbia University Libraries Research Fellowship, she visited NYC in January to work at their archives. Later this year, a Friends of the Princeton University Library research grant will send her to Princeton’s archives, while the 2015 UNL Medieval and Renaissance Studies Dissertation Fellowship will enable her to visit the Morgan Library and Museum in NYC. Funding from the UNL Department of History will enable Andrea to go to England for two months in May and June to work at the British Library, Guildhall Library, University of Cambridge, University of Oxford, and the University of Manchester’s John Rylands Library.

Paul Strauss  
Department of History, PhD Candidate  
Paul has been resident since May 2014 at the Herzog August Bibliothek in Wolfenbüttel, Germany, researching for his dissertation “Preaching on an ‘Unholy Trinity’: Muslims, Jews, and Christian Identity in Early Modern Germany.” He has been supported by a Fulbright Student Grant, a Schneider Foundation Fellowship, and a Paul Olson Award from the UNL Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program.
This year, he has presented at the Stipendiatenkolloquium at the Herzog August Bibliothek (“Muslims and Jews in Reformation Preaching”), the Renaissance Society of America conference in Berlin (“Fear, Conversion, and Consolation: Muslims and Jews in Johann Wild's Sermons”), and the Bayreuther Historische Kolloquium, “Toleranz und Pluralismus zwischen Antike und Spätaufklärung,” in Wolfenbüttel (“Attitudes Towards Muslims and Jews in the Sixteenth-Century”). His paper “Preaching the History of the Mahometisch Reich in Early Modern Germany” will be presented at the German Historical Institute in London in May 2015. His article “The Virgin Queen as Nurse of the Church: Manipulating an Image of Elizabeth I in Court Sermons” is forthcoming from Ashgate’s Queenship and Power series in August 2015 in the collection Scholars and Poets Talk About Queens edited by Carole Levin with Christine Stewart-Nuñez. He has also very recently accepted a fellowship offer from the Leibniz-Institute for European History in Mainz (August 2015 through March 2016).

**Undergraduate Students**

**Elizabeth Askren** received the Jayne Wade Anderson scholarship. It is a scholarship funded by the UNL Black Masque Chapter of the Mortar Board National Honor Society. Two underclassmen are selected for the award on the basis of “distinguished ability and achievement in scholarship, leadership, and service.” In December 2014, Elizabeth attended the Ninth Undergraduate Conference in Medieval and Early Modern Studies at Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. She gave a presentation on “Masculinity, Femininity, and Irene of Athens.” While nervous about attending her first conference, but she had a great experience, and she enjoyed meeting professors and students from several universities.
A Hearty Thanks to Our Sponsors!

The Department of English, the Institute for Ethnic Studies, and the Department of Classics & Religious Studies for supporting our March 12 talk by Dr. Dennis Britton.

The Johnny Carson School of Theater & Film for helping provide BOGO coupons and facilities for the pre-play talks for Love’s Labour’s Lost (fall 2014) and Medea (spring 2015).

A big thanks to the UNL Bookstore for donating gift cards to our contest winners.

For our October 1-3, 2015 Medieval and Renaissance Material Culture Conference celebrating twenty years of the major, a special thanks to the following sponsors:

HILDEGARD Center for the Arts

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

College of Arts & Sciences
Department of History
Department of Modern Languages & Literatures
Textiles, Merchandising & Fashion Design
Women & Gender Studies

Find the “University of Nebraska-Lincoln Medieval and Renaissance Studies” group on LinkedIn.

‘Like’ our page on Facebook, and see more of what we’re doing! https://www.facebook.com/UnlMedievalAndRenaissanceStudies

Of course, keep up with our Events calendar (and Events Archive page which has videos, news articles, and past End of Year Programs in .pdf), News, and other information on our website http://www.unl.edu/medren/

It is the policy of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln not to discriminate based upon age, race, ethnicity, color, national origin, gender-identity, sex, pregnancy, disability, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran’s status, marital status, religion or political affiliation.